



SCHOOL UPDATES

PARENTS' APPOINTMENTS:

Thank you to all those who attended their child's Parents' Evening appointment this week. Turnout was absolutely fantastic, and it was lovely to receive so much positive feedback about how well children have settled in to their new classes. We would love to receive any feedback regarding how we keep parents/carers informed about pupils' ongoing attainment, progress and targets; if you have a spare minute or two, please follow this link (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WD3QB8X>) to complete a very short survey which will help us to continually review practice at St Mary's. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	0.7	0	99.3
YEAR 1	0.7	0	99.3
YEAR 2	1	0	99
YEAR 3	0	0	100
YEAR 4	1.3	0	98.7
YEAR 5	1.4	0	98.6
YEAR 6	1	0	99
AVERAGE	0.9	0	99.1

A huge well done to everyone for an excellent week of attendance – especially Year 3 for achieving 100% attendance so far this week!

NORTHERN CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL:

There are still tickets available for the NCBF2018 Gala Day, which will be held on Saturday 17th November (10am – 5pm) at Gateshead Central Library and The Shipley Art Gallery. Tickets are free, and can be obtained at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ncbf-gala-day-2018-tickets-51541204129> and more information can be found at www.northernchildrensbookfestival.org.uk. The programme is aimed at children from 4-13 and will feature a number of interactive family sessions with award winning authors, illustrators, artists and story-tellers including Vivian French MBE, Steve Skidmore, Sophie Anderson, Guy Bass, Ross Montgomery, Alan Windram, Dominic Wilcox from Little Inventors, Simon Bartram and Liz Million.

SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to our pupils in Y2 who represented the school so well in our St Thomas More cluster multi-skills event this week. As ever, the pupils excelled demonstrating sporting excellence, fair play, enjoyment and respect for all.

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROMOTION WEEK:

'Biking' Ben will be in school next week working with children across school in a range of sessions. Below, you will find a timetable of activities that the children can participate in. Please note, all sessions are optional, but pupils will need their own bike or scooter to take part. We require all consent forms to be returned for all sessions by **Friday 9th November**.

DAY	ACTIVITY	WHO?	WHAT?
Monday	Dr Bike session	Years 4, 5 and 6	Pupils to bring in bikes for a free 'health-check'. Minor adjustments will be made by Ben where needed to make the bikes 'roadworthy' – and recommendations will be given for any significant works that would need to be undertaken.
Tuesday	Scooter Skills	Y1 (2 groups)	Pupils to bring in scooters and helmets. To be left in the bike shelters on the school yard.
	Bike Skills	Y5 (1 group)	Pupils to bring in bikes and helmets; pupils will also need a change of clothes for the session. To be left in the bike shelters on the school yard.
Wednesday	'Bikers' Breakfast'	For all who arrive by bicycle, scooter or on foot on this day	All pupils invited to have breakfast in school (free of charge) from 8:15 – 8:45am.
	Bike Skills	Y4 (2 groups)	Pupils to bring in bikes and helmets; pupils will also need a change of clothes for the session. To be left in the bike shelters on the school yard.
Thursday	Bike Skills	Y6 (2 groups)	Pupils to bring in bikes and helmets; pupils will also need a change of clothes for the session. To be left in the bike shelters on the school yard.
	Scooter Skills	Y3 (2 groups)	Pupils to bring in scooters and helmets. To be left in the bike shelters on the school yard.
Friday	Scooter Skills	Y2 (2 groups)	Pupils to bring in scooters and helmets. To be left in the bike shelters on the school yard.
	Bike Skills	Y5 (1 group)	Pupils to bring in bikes and helmets; pupils will also need a change of clothes for the session. To be left in the bike shelters on the school yard.

Nb. Pupils in Y5 will be told which day to bring their bike if they would like to take part in the sessions.

REMINDERS

FLU VACCINATION:

Flu vaccinations for pupils will be administered in school on Tuesday 13th November (for all pupils whose parents/carers completed and returned the consent form by 6.11.18). Please note that we are not permitted to receive any more consent forms for the flu vaccination programme at school. If you have any queries, please contact the community immunisation team on 0191 2834564.

SHOEBOXES:

We are in need of many more shoebox gifts for our annual Operation Christmas Child collection. If you wish to take part and support this wonderful appeal, please pack and send your shoebox in to school by **Friday 16th November**. Please remember to wrap and secure your box (with an elastic band), label the box to say who it has been packed for (ie. gender and age group), and if possible, include the payment for shipping as requested in the packing instructions. If you have mislaid the original information, these can be found online at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox/>. Many thanks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RECEPTION AND Y5 CLASS LITURGY:

Please come along to Reception and Year 5's first class liturgy of the year on Thursday 15th November (2:30pm in the school hall). The pupils will lead us in a short moment of prayer and worship celebrating their first term as Buddies, and it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible. All welcome!

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE:

Please could all pupils representing the school by taking part in the Remembrance Day parade on Sunday 11th November meet Mr Wheatley on School Street (adjacent to the old Front Street school) at 10:15am. Pupils should be collected from the Cenotaph following the service of remembrance (approximately 11:15am). Many thanks.

CHILDREN IN NEED:

As a school, we will be raising money for Children in Need on Friday 16th November. Pupils will be invited to come in to school in their own clothes (with a 'spotty' theme), and to donate £1 towards the cause (to be paid on the day). The pupil council will also be raising money by selling some Children in Need themed items during the wk/12th November. Items will be priced between £1 and £2.50, and pupils who would like to buy items should bring a sensible amount of money in a clearly labelled envelope or purse/wallet.

DIARY DATES (12.11.18 – 16.11.18)

MONDAY –

Y2 Forest School session (pupils to come in to school in appropriate warm/dry clothing with a change of shoes and clothes where needed).

TUESDAY –

Flu Vaccination programme in school.

WEDNESDAY –

Chatterbooks session 3/6.

Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics (pupils involved will receive a letter).

THURSDAY –

Family Learning – Early Maths 2/5.

National League Trophy Under-11 girls football competition at Gateshead Stadium (pupils involved will receive a letter).

Y5 and Reception Class Liturgy (2:30pm in the school hall; all welcome).

FRIDAY –

Children in Need.