



SCHOOL UPDATES

WORLD BOOK DAY:

Well done to all the children who came in to school dressed as a character from a favourite book on World Book Day. We had a wonderful array of imaginative and creative costumes to admire on the day, which shows the support and dedication our pupils receive from their families and friends, and helped to make the day a real celebration of literature for the children and staff. On the day, we managed to raise £82.00, which will contribute to our Lenten fundraising. As a big well done for all their efforts, all the children will come home with a £1 book voucher to be spent on a range of titles, specially priced for World Book Day, over the coming weeks. We hope that our celebrations this week will inspire our pupils to continue 'doing something booky' each and every day, and to develop their own love of reading.

LENT 2017 – “We are God’s Microphone”:

This year, we will be in school for the full six weeks of Lent, which provides us with the perfect opportunity to ready ourselves for Easter through action, reflection and prayer. This year we will be raising funds for: The Home for Hope project for 'streetboys', Kasarani (Kenya) and St Cuthbert's Care, as well as supporting the Worswick Welcome project at St Andrew's RC Church, Newcastle.

In the coming week, we will be focusing on creative prayer opportunities, as a way of strengthening our own relationships with God – part of our Lenten challenge leading up to Easter. We will also begin collecting the canned/packet produce for our Worswick Welcome appeal, and will be asking to use the attached sponsor form to collect sponsors for a 40 minute sponsored activity the children will be participating in a few weeks' time (more information to follow in due course).

CAN/PACKET APPEAL FOR WORSWICK WELCOME W/C 13/03/17

For our Worswick Welcome appeal this year, we are asking pupils from the following classes to bring a can/packet of the following items to school by 17th March.

Reception:	Beans
Year 1:	Coffee
Year 2:	Tea
Year 3:	Sugar
Year 4:	Biscuits
Year 5:	Tinned Ham
Year 6:	Tinned Tuna

PARENTS' EVENING:

Please find enclosed in your child's blue bag a slip with an assigned date and time to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss current academic progress. If there are any issues with the date or time, please get in contact with school. *Please note, we have tried, as best as possible, to accommodate all requests received by the previously stated deadline of Thursday 2nd March, but may not be able to meet all parental preferences for date/time.*

MOBILE PHONES:

We have had a couple of incidents in school over the past week relating to the bringing in of mobile phones to school. Whereas we understand parents' desire – in certain circumstances – for their child to bring a mobile phone to school, we would ask parents to read and adhere to the attached school policy for the bringing in of mobile phones to school. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr Wheatley at school.

ROUTINES BEFORE THE START OF SCHOOL:

Please be reminded that pupils must be supervised by an adult if they are to arrive at school prior to 8:55am. We have become aware over the past week, that some pupils are walking/cycling to school 20/30 minutes early in order to play with their friends in the yard. Whereas we acknowledge parents' decisions to entrust older pupils (Y5 or 6) to walk/cycle safely to school without adult supervision, it is a concern that pupils are arriving on school grounds, unsupervised, for a substantial amount of time, until we take over the responsibility for their safety and care at 8:55am. If adults are unable to wait with their child until 8:55am, or indeed pupils in Y5/6 are unable to arrive independently at approximately 8:55am, there is breakfast club provision operated by Small Saints Out of School Club at St Mary's Church Hall; please contact Leanne Sanderson for more details on 07882421973.

REMINDERS

MOTHER'S DAY SALE:

Tuesday 21st March. After the success of our Mother's Day Sale last year we are asking for your support in providing suitable donations that you as mothers would like to receive from your child. Please bring your donations to the school office. Prices will range from 50p to £3 for a gift.

TERM DATES 2016-17:

As our school is used as a polling station, we are obliged to retain a date in May for local elections each year; we have been informed that there will be no elections in May this year, as such we will be taking this occasional day on Monday 5th June 2017.

This date is the first day of the Y5 C2C challenge (this will not affect the planning of the ride).

UPCOMING EVENTS

STRING ORCHESTRA:

Parents/Grandparents of our Year 4 pupils are invited to attend our String Orchestra Show on Monday 6th March at 2:30pm where our pupils will showcase their musical talents working together as an orchestra. All welcome.

INTRA-SCHOOL SPORTS COMPETITION:

As a way of ensuring that all pupils at St Mary's have the opportunity to take part in sporting competition, we will be holding an 'Intra-school' sports competition for all pupils on Friday 10th March. All pupils will need to bring in their full PE kit, and will be taking part in a friendly competition of multi-skill disciplines, led by sports leaders from the Gateshead Schools Sports Partnership. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity for all the pupils to develop sporting skills and to enjoy the benefits of sporting competition in a supportive and encouraging environment.

C2C RIDE:

There is a full day bike ride on Monday 6th March for pupils and parents taking part in the C2C challenge. We will be riding approximately 20km (mostly off road, with some small sections on minor roads) over the duration of the day (0900-1500). There will be hills! Both up and down! We have back packs for all the children but can we please ask that you dress appropriately for the weather. It is currently forecast for sunny spells, 4-7 C with approximately 10mph westerly winds. Synthetic layers are good, avoid cotton track suits and jeans. Sturdy trainers, gloves and water proofs too please. Please ensure all children have water bottles filled with water, no fizzy drinks or energy drinks. Children will also need a packed lunch and healthy snacks to keep them going. Parents are asked to bring money to buy their lunches at the venue where we are stopping for lunch. This way the venue will be happy to accommodate the children eating their packed lunches on the condition that the accompanying adults purchase lunches. It will cost approximately £5 per adult.

Thanks, Ben.

COMIC RELIEF:

We will be celebrating Comic Relief on Friday 24th March with an own-clothes day and school-wide, Twitter enabled joke competition – more information to follow after half-term! A suggested donation of £1 per family will go to the Comic Relief appeal.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S:

The next meeting for the Friends of St Mary's will be Thursday 9th March, 9:30am at School All welcome. If you are unable to make the meetings, you will be able to keep up-to-date with the goings on of the group by reading the 'Friends Blog' which can be found on the school website.

ADULT CHOIR:

All adults welcome, the next rehearsals are:

15th March

29th March

THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 06/03/17

- SUNDAY – 1st Holy Communion preparation Liturgy: 'Rite of Election for Holy Communion' (9:30am, St Mary's RC Church). *Please Note, this is for Year 4 pupils (not Year 3 as previously stated on an earlier Newsletter).*
- MONDAY - Y5 C2C All day ride.
Y4 String Orchestra Concert for parents/grandparents (2:30pm).
- THURSDAY - Y3 Forest School Session a.m.
Y4 Forest School Session p.m.
Y6 Badminton 1:00-2:00
- FRIDAY - Intra Schools Competition whole school all day (all children need their P.E. Kits).