



SCHOOL UPDATES

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

This week, as part of our Lenten almsgiving, we will be collecting canned/packet produce which will be donated to the Worswick Welcome – a project to support the homeless and needy of Newcastle and Gateshead, run from St Andrew’s RC Church, Worswick Street, Newcastle. This year, we are asking pupils from the following classes to bring a can/packet of the following items to school by **Friday 17th March**. The school’s ‘Mini-Vinnies’ will be delivering our donation in the coming weeks.

Reception:	Beans/Peas
Year 1:	Coffee
Year 2:	Tea
Year 3:	Sugar
Year 4:	Biscuits (wrapped e.g. Twix/Kit-Kat/Penguin)
Year 5:	Tinned Ham
Year 6:	Tinned Tuna

PARENTS’ EVENING:

You will now have received a set time to meet with your child’s class teacher, for a review of their academic progress and targets, on Monday or Tuesday next week. If you are unaware of your time for whatever reason, please get in contact with the school office.

As with the Autumn Term, your child’s books will be available to look through in the School Hall prior to your assigned appointment time; we would ask that parents/carers make their way to the seating area outside their child’s classroom approximately 5 minutes prior to their appointment time.

As you will be aware, the appointments are designed to be a short, focused discussion about your child’s progress and targets in English and Maths. If, as a parent, you feel that you require a more in depth discussion about other important issues (behaviour, friendships, homework etc), please get in contact with the school office to make an additional appointment with your child’s class teacher, or a senior leader at school.

Y4 STRING ORCHESTRA:

Well done to all the pupils in Y4 who took part in our inaugural String Orchestra concert on Monday. The show, which was very well attended, allowed the pupils to demonstrate the amazing progress they have all made since the start of the year: holding their instruments and bows correctly, plucking and bowing open notes, reading musical score and playing as part of a musical ensemble, conducted by our two wonderful teachers. Henry Edwards (Head of the music service in Gateshead), who was in attendance at the concert, spoke very highly of the progress that he had seen since the start of the year, which was lovely to hear. It shows that we’ve unearthed a few musical maestros this year – and we hope that this will encourage many of our pupils to continue learning their chosen instrument next year.

C2C:

Our group of pupils, parents (and a teacher!) taking part in the Coast to Coast bike ride in June participated in their first major ride (20km) on Monday. All participants completed the ride – and managed to tackle a fairly serious climb at the end of the day with impressive success. Thoughts do go to the group however, as Ben informed them upon their return that the grueling climb completed on Monday will be replicated by a

climb, of a similar incline, for over 4 miles on one of their ride days in June! Obviously, we'll be behind the group 100% in attempting this feat! More to follow in the coming weeks of the group's continued preparations.

HI-5 NETBALL – COUNTY FINALS:

Congratulations to the school Y5/6 Hi-5 Netball team, who have qualified for the county finals to take place in the coming weeks. The team have showed great skill and determination over the past two rounds, and we wish them all the luck in the world for the final!

100 CLUB:

Please find attached, a letter from the Friends of St Mary's regarding the 100 Club, which raises funds for the school. *Please could all 100 Club participants ensure that annual payments have been made; if you no longer require a number, please inform school, who will pass the information on to the Friends group.*

100 CLUB WINNERS – JANUARY:

1. No. 81 Mr Wheatley £50
2. No. 77 Mandy Oswell £25
3. No. 69 Jaime Cuddeford £15
4. No. 50 Mrs Norman £10

Nb. Mr Wheatley promises to buy something nice for Mrs Wheatley from his winnings!

WISH TOKENS

Thank you to all those members of our St Mary's family who helped support our local HCPT group by collecting Wish Tokens. The group actually came third top, with a total of 58,944 tokens, and have received a cheque for £707.85; better still, we have had some very generous private donations, making our Grand Total £2100, which will be a tremendous help to HCPT Group 41. Thanks again to all who helped.

Bill Cookson (Grandad of James Cookson).

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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTRA-SCHOOL COMPETITION:

Tomorrow (Friday 10/3/17), all pupils in school will be taking part in an intra-school sports competition. It will be a brilliant day, during which pupils will be encouraged and guided to develop and hone sporting skills, and to take part in a sporting competition in a positive and fair way, demonstrating all the values which underpin sporting excellence.

For the session, all pupils will need:

- Full PE kit.
- Suitable footwear (ideally laced trainers); *please don't rush out to buy new footwear however – KS1 pupils may take part in school plimssoles if they do not own a suitable pair of trainers.*

We will be holding a special sporting assembly on Monday to celebrate the successes of the day.

C2C RIDE:

A reminder that there will be an after-school ride on Monday 13th March, from 3:15-5pm. *As it is Parents' Evening, Mr Colling will not be taking part in the ride, so if any of the parents who have committed to the ride are no longer able to take part, please let us know as soon as possible.*

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.

ADULT CHOIR:

All adults welcome, the next rehearsals are:
15th March and 29th March.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S:

The next meeting for the Friends of St Mary's will be Thursday 4th May, 9am at school. All welcome!

THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 13/03/17

MONDAY -	Parents' Evening 1 (TENNIS CANCELLED)
TUESDAY -	Parents' Evening 2 (HAPPY FEET CANCELLED)
WEDNESDAY -	Y6 Maths Booster
THURSDAY -	Y6 Trip to Great North Museum (All pupils to bring a packed lunch for the trip). Y3/Y4 Quicksticks Hockey at Whickham School (pupils involved will receive a separate letter with all the details). Y6 Badminton (whole class – full PE kit required). School Football at Fellside (pupils involved will receive a separate letter with all the details).
FRIDAY -	Gateshead FC Football Session – Lunchtime (school football team; full kit required) 1 of 2