



## SCHOOL UPDATES

### YEAR 3 TRIP TO NEWCASTLE UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATION:

Our Year 3 class had an amazing trip to the United Hebrew Congregation Synagogue earlier this week. The pupils had a wonderful time putting their learning from our 'World Faith Week' last term in to practice, and represented the school impeccably demonstrating eagerness to learn, enthusiasm and respect. Speaking to the pupils, certain highlights included having the opportunity to wear the *Tallit* and hold the *Torah*, opening the curtain and unveiling the *Ark*, and finding out that Harry Potter is Jewish! You can see a collection of photos from the day on our school Twitter feed (@whickhamstmarys).

### 'DIPPY' SCHOOLS PROJECT:

This week, our Y5 pupils have been working with a visiting artist to produce a banner which will be displayed in the Great North Museum throughout the upcoming 'Dippy the Diplodocus' exhibition. The pupils were challenged to put in a bid to take part in the project focusing on natural history, and were chosen out of a number of entries from a number of schools across the North East. Our pupils, inspired by their learning during our Rights Respecting week last term, decided to focus on the theme of 'clean air', and have produced designs depicting some of the ways in which we as a school try to have a positive impact on our local community and wider world. We look forward to seeing the finished banner on display from May.

### SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to our Y5 and 6 5-a-side footballers who produced some wonderfully skilful team football in coming 2<sup>nd</sup> place at a tournament held at Thorpe Academy this week. The tournament provided a great opportunity for the players to keep themselves sharp before the 7-a-side league resumes in Spring.

### ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	2.7	0	97.3
YEAR 1	4.1	0	95.9
YEAR 2	4	0	96
YEAR 3	2.6	0	97.4
YEAR 4	2.6	0	97.4
YEAR 5	4	0	96
YEAR 6	0	0	100
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97.1</b>

Well done to Year 6 for maintaining 100% attendance this week!

### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S 'THIRSTY THURSDAYS':

Our Friends group will resume their 'Thirsty Thursdays' this week selling hot chocolate (50p) and cake (£1 for both) on the school yard at the end of the day in order to raise money for school.

## REMINDERS

### ADMISSIONS TO DUCKPOOL PRE-SCHOOL 2019-20:

A note to say that letters for admission to Duckpool Pre-school for children who will have their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 are currently being sent out. If you – or someone you know – would like to register your interest, please contact Susan Cameron, Pre-school Manager, on 0191 4881137/ [duckpoolpreschool@gatedu.org](mailto:duckpoolpreschool@gatedu.org). The Pre-school has 24 places and will be offering 30 free hours for those who qualify.

### PLACES AVAILABLE – PLEASE CONSIDER (FAMILY LEARNING – MATHS MATTERS):

As previously advertised, Claire Law, from the Gateshead Family Learning Team will be delivering a 6 week Maths course for parents of pupils in Years 3 to 6. The course will look at a variety of numeracy methods (ie. how we do things 'nowadays'!) in a relaxed environment to support you in helping with your child's ongoing development in mathematics. If you would like to register your interest, please get in contact with Mrs Noble in the school office, or you can find out more by getting in contact with Claire Law on 0191 4338678/ [claire.law@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:claire.law@gateshead.gov.uk).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHANGE OF MASS DATES:

For your information, this year, we will be attending Mass on Ash Wednesday (6<sup>th</sup> April) with the Parish memorial Mass being held at St Mary's Church (9:30am). As such, we will no longer be having whole school Mass on St David's Day (Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April).

## DIARY DATES (28.1.19 – 1.2.19)

WEDNESDAY –

Y2 Skipping Workshop (all pupils require full PE kit and trainers).

Y5/6 Mini-Basketball (pupils involved will receive a letter).

THURSDAY –

Family Learning – 'Maths Matters' 2 of 6.