



SCHOOL UPDATES

HALF TERM:

We hope that everyone enjoys a safe and restful half term break. We look forward to seeing all pupils back in school on Monday 25th February.

SPORTS UPDATE:

Well done to our Y5 and 6 swimmers who represented the school at the Gateshead swimming gala at Haven Point, South Shields. The pupils performed remarkably well on the day in the face of some stiff competition bringing home a range of medals for their efforts! The boys team (Kayden, Andrew, James and Paddy – Y6) won bronze in the relay, Darcey (Y6) won bronze in the freestyle and Andrew (Y6) won gold in the backstroke) – quite some achievement considering that there were over 30 schools represented from across Gateshead and South Tyneside!

Well done too to our Y5/6 pupils who competed in the Gateshead basketball finals on Thursday. The team came third overall displaying some incredible skills on the night and representing the school impeccably. Huge congratulations to all these pupils, in what continues to be a very successful year of sport at St Mary's.

LITURGY UPDATE:

Thank you to all those who managed to attend our Y1/6 and Y4 Class Liturgies this week. The pupils, who were all involved in planning and delivering the liturgies, did a wonderful job in leading these special celebrations of the Word. Through prayer, song, drama and dance, our pupils challenged us 'be Christ's love' in our world today – a way for us all to help fulfil the Mission of the Church. We look forward to sharing in more of these special community services after half term.

We also celebrated the 'Rite of Election for Holy Communion' during Mass at St Mary's RC Church last week with our Y4 pupils and their families. The pupils, parents and catechists stated their intention to work together in preparing the children to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in June and lit a class candle to symbolise that – throughout their catechesis – they will focus on Christ's words and actions in preparing themselves to partake in His Eucharist. We continue to pray for them: that they may have open minds and hearts to answer God's call to share in his body. Amen.

LENT 2019:

This year, our Y6 pupils will be helping to plan, organise and deliver a programme of events throughout the six weeks of Lent as part of their work towards achieving the Faith in Action Award – an award designed by the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) to give young people the platform to become full and active contributors and leaders in the Church. This plan will incorporate the Lenten focuses of almsgiving, self-giving and prayer, and will involve all members of our community. We will share the finalised plan with you after the half-term break, and look forward to kick-starting a fruitful and invigorating Lent with Mass on Ash Wednesday at St Mary's RC Church (9:30am on Wednesday 6th March) – all welcome!

KS1&2 FILM NIGHTS:

We ended the half term with a bit of a treat for our pupils: popcorn, hot dogs and a film – what better!?
Thanks to staff for putting in a 'double-shift' and helping to raise £320 for the School Fund.

ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	1.3	0	98.7
YEAR 1	0.7	0	99.3
YEAR 2	1.3	0	98.7
YEAR 3	0	0	100
YEAR 4	0	0	100
YEAR 5	0.7	0	99.3
YEAR 6	4.2	0	95.8
AVERAGE	1.2	0	98.8

A huge well done for a great week of attendance at school – especially for Lower Key Stage 2 with Years 3 and 4 maintaining 100% so far!

REMINDERS

PARENTS' EVENING:

Thank you to all those who have signed up for appointments for our Parents Evenings next half term. Appointments must be made via the eschools system, so please get in contact with Mrs Noble in the school office if you are having trouble with this. At present, we still have 32 pupils across school not yet assigned an appointment time, and the booking system will close at 12pm on Monday 25th February.

SKIPPING ROPES:

Following the success of their skipping workshops, Y2 and 4 have the opportunity to purchase a skipping rope in order to continue developing their skills at home. These can be purchased for £5 each by sending in money in a clearly labelled envelope.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIKING BEN:

Our mate 'Biking' Ben will be in school the week after half term delivering sessions in KS2. Here's what the children have to look forward to:

DAY	SESSION	WHO FOR	EQUIPMENT REQUIRED
Monday 25 th February	Turbo Maths	Years 3 and 4	None
Tuesday 26 th February	Turbo Maths	Years 5 and 6	None
Wednesday 27 th February	Bike Set-up Skills C2C local ride (1-3pm)	C2C group (pupils only) C2C group – including parents	Pupils involved to come to school in riding gear (appropriate lightweight, warm layers, a helmet, water bottle and a small rucksack).
Thursday 28 th February	Healthy Heart Session Puncture repair session	Year 6 Year 5	Bikes or scooters needed. None
Friday 1 st March	Healthy Heart Session	Year 3 and 4	Bikes or scooters needed.

Y6 BOOSTER:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to cancel the Maths Booster session for Y6 pupils on the Tuesday 26th February. Pupils will be provided with work to complete at home around a specific topic.

FRIENDS DATES:

The next meeting of the Friends of St Mary's will be at 9am on 7th March. The Friends will also be holding a Coffee Morning to raise funds for the school's Lenten appeal at 9am on 15th March. All welcome!

DIARY DATES (25.2.19 – 1.3.19)

Biking Ben sessions all week (see timetable above).

TUESDAY –

Bishop's Cup 2nd round (pupils involved will receive a letter).

FRIDAY –

Y6 Challenge Morning at St Thomas More (pupils involved will receive a letter).

