



SCHOOL UPDATES

START OF THE SUMMER TERM:

I can't quite believe that it's this time of the year already, but we find ourselves at the outset of our final Term of this school year. As you'll see from the attached diary dates, it's going to be another jam-packed Summer Term at St Mary's; among many other opportunities and experiences, we have a Year 6 residential, Year 5 Coast to Coast cycle ride, whole-school musical showcases, KS1 and 2 sports days and First Holy Communions in Year 4 to look forward to. It is at this time of year – when we reflect on the journey that we have been on since the start of September – that we see just how far our pupils have come, and can really celebrate the wonderful progress they have all made, and this makes for a very uplifting time to be in school.

As with the start of any new term, I would ask that a concerted effort is made by all to ensure that we all pull together to meet the highest possible standards in punctuality and attendance; it is so important that pupils are in school by 9am, ready to learn and able to make the progress they are capable of, and that absences are kept to an absolute minimum (ie. only when pupils are so unwell that they are unable to make it through a day at school). I would also like to thank you in advance for supporting our high standards in behaviour and presentation, and trust that continued open channels of communication will help us all to enjoy a positive and fruitful Term.

I look forward to you being able to share in the successes of the upcoming Term with us all here at St Mary's and would urge you to continue keeping an eye on our weekly News Bulletin, school website (www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk) and school Twitter feed (@whickhamstmarys) for regular updates.

Warmest Regards,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

TERM DATES:

Please find attached the current dates for the upcoming Term. Please keep an eye on the weekly News Bulletin (which can always be found in the 'News' blog on the school website) for updates and changes to the termly dates.

GENERAL ELECTION – DATE CHANGE:

The first date change of the Term is a fairly significant one. Though we had been informed last Term that we were not going to be used as a polling station this academic year, we have now all learned that there will indeed be a General Election this year.

As such, we will need to make the following alterations to ensure that pupils are in school for the required number of days this year:

School will now be open as normal on Monday 5th June, but will be closed on Thursday 8th June.

NEW INTAKE:

Parents of pupils who will be starting in Reception class in September 2017 have now been informed if they have received a place at school. If there are any prospective parents, new to the area or seeking alternative school provision for their child, who would like to visit the school, or discuss places at St Mary's with Mr Wheatley (especially for Reception 2017), please contact the school office to make an appointment. Please spread the word to family or friends who may be interested in this.

LENTEN FUNDRAISING UPDATES:

Thank you to those families who have continued to send in sponsor money for our Lenten fundraising. The current total stands at £627.10; funds raised will go to support St Cuthbert's Care and the Ukweli Home for Hope charities.

REMINDERS

SUMMER UNIFORM:

As we hopefully move towards lighter and brighter days, pupils may now come to school in summer uniform (i.e. summer dresses and shorts). Please be reminded that sandals/open toe shoes should not be worn for school.

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS:

As a school we are currently collecting Active Kids vouchers (available from Sainsbury's) in order to purchase sporting resources for school. If you – or someone you know – shops at Sainsbury's, we would be very grateful if you could collect and send the vouchers in to school; they will be greatly received, and will go towards continuing to provide excellent sporting opportunities for all at St Mary's. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 : 01/05/17

MONDAY –	MAY BANK HOLIDAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
TUESDAY –	Y5 Cycling Proficiency – Week 2 3:15-5:00 C2C Local Ride 3:45 Bishop's Cup at St. Mary's
THURSDAY –	9:00 Friends Meeting Y1 Forest School a.m. Y2 Forest School p.m. 1:00-3:00 Y3 Rugby League – (selected pupils)
FRIDAY –	C2C Full bike ride