



SCHOOL UPDATES

A BIG WEEK:

I would like to say a very special well done to all pupils for their exceptional behavior and attitude during our Ofsted inspection this week. Our special visitor, who spent the day with us on Tuesday, was suitably impressed by our remarkable pupils, and wished me to offer her thanks for making her feel so welcome during her visit. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all those parents/carers who were moved to offer such positive feedback via the Ofsted Parent View, and through numerous emails, letters and tweets received in school; your confidence in the school fills me with pride, and shows just what a strong family we have here at St Mary's. We will of course share the outcomes of the inspection in the coming weeks.

I would also like to say a huge congratulations to all our Year 6 pupils who this week received their end of Key Stage 2 SATs results. The pupils have worked incredibly hard all year, and the results they have attained are testament to the determination, positivity and resilience with which they have approached their learning over the past seven years. We are all incredibly proud of each and every one of them for all their achievements, and more importantly, of the remarkable young people they have become throughout their time with us.

I look forward to now enjoying with you all the final two weeks of this academic year which promise to be a celebration of all that is so special about St Mary's!

Many thanks, as ever, for your continued support,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

SPORTS DAY:

As you will have already read in the letter sent home on Wednesday 5th July, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's Sports Day. As such, the day will be a normal Friday in school; Year 4 will now be taking part in their life-saving session on the day, so will need a pair of shorts and a t-shirt along with their usual swimming kit. Please note that all pupils will still need to bring a packed lunch to school.

TRANSITION DAY:

On Thursday, all pupils will be spending the morning in the class they will be moving to in September. The morning will give them the chance to experience a little of what they've got to look forward to next year, and will give their new teacher an opportunity to begin getting to know them at close-quarters. Pupils in Y6 who will be attending St Thomas More will spend the day at their new school; they will make their own way to and from the school via the scholar's bus, or the other means of transport parents/carers intend them to take in September, and will need to wear their St Mary's school uniform for the day.

Pupils attending other secondary schools in September can come in to school as normal.

VISITING ARTISTS:

Next week, pupils across the school will have the opportunity to work alongside a variety of artists in preparation for our end of term Arts showcase. Pupils in Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 will be taking part in a range of sessions with visiting artists in school on Tuesday and Wednesday; pupils in Reception and Year 4 will continue working with our 'in-house artists' (ie. our teachers!) to produce an array of works which will be displayed within the marquee throughout our Creative Arts Week.

In order to give the children a high quality experience, we are politely requesting a donation of £2 per pupil/family for those in Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 to be made to help cover some of the cost of our visiting artists and materials for the sessions. We would ask for the money to be sent in to school in a clearly labelled envelope. Thank you in advance for your help with this matter.

YEARS 5 AND 6 HEALTH TALK:

On Monday 10th July, pupils in Years 5 and 6 will be receiving a Health Talk from our School Nurse. The talk will look at issues around growing up (such as puberty), and will offer the children a chance to ask any questions they would like of a health professional in this area. The girls will also bring home some information to discuss with adults, should they wish, about the specific changes that will affect them. If any parent/carer would like to discuss the content with the school nurse, you can get in contact with the team on 0191 4971548. Alternatively, you could ring school for a chat with Mr Wheatley who would be happy to discuss the content of the session.

REMINDERS

MUSIC SHOWCASE – TICKETS:

Please could we request that all tickets are collected and paid for from the school office by Tuesday 11th July 2017. Uncollected tickets will be put up for general sale following this date.

A polite reminder: As with previous years, there is an expectation that all pupils will be involved in both shows (Tuesday 18th July, 2-4pm, and Wednesday 19th July, 4-6pm). In the event of an exceptional circumstance that would prevent your child from being involved in the performances, we would ask that parents/carers inform school as soon as possible, so that teachers may plan around this from the outset.

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.

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

LIFESAVING SESSION FOR YEAR 4:

This week is National Water Safety Week. As such, Year 4 will be taking part in a lifesaving session during their usual lesson time on Friday 7th July. Along with their usual swimwear, pupils should bring a t-shirt and a pair of shorts to swim in. Pupils will also be asked – unless for medical reasons – to refrain from wearing swimming goggles.

ST MARY'S STRINGS AND DRUM CONCERT:

As part of our Creative Arts week this year, we will be hosting a free concert showcasing the talents of our peripatetic musicians (violin and guitar), our Y4 St Mary's Strings orchestra, and our Y3 Djembe drummers. An open invite is extended to all parents/carers, family and friends of the school to join us on Thursday 20th July, at 2pm, in the marquee (soon to be erected on the school field!). We look forward to seeing you there, and sharing our musical prowess with you all!

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SUMMER PICNIC:

The Friends of St Mary's will be running our annual Summer family picnic on Monday 17th July from 3:15pm (straight after school). We look forward to seeing parents, grandparents, carers and children at our summer picnic again this year. There will be another Engineering Extravaganza and a 'Sweet Surprise' pop-up stall which will be selling a range of goodies, so all you need to bring is yourselves and a picnic. If you wish to attend the picnic, please complete the reply slip (attached last week) and return to school to give us a rough idea on numbers in preparation for the event. We look forward to seeing you all there. *For those children who normally attend after-school club on a Monday, Leanne and the team will be taking the children along to join in the fun.*

THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 10/07/17

- MONDAY – Y4 visit to the Oriental Museum.
Y5/6 Health Talk.
- TUESDAY – More Than Dance retreat day for Y6.
- WEDNESDAY – Friends Meeting (9am).
Y6 Cluster Leaver's Mass.
Y5 Kwik Cricket Tournament (all pupils to come to school in full PE Kit, with a tracksuit over the top, to bring a packed lunch and water bottle, and to be prepared for all weather – suncream/ sun hat/ waterproofs etc).
- THURSDAY – Transition Day.
- FRIDAY – School Council Trip to South Shields Surf School (pupils involved have received information about this trip already).