



SCHOOL UPDATES

END OF TERM:

And so we find ourselves at the end of another incredibly successful, hugely rewarding and all-round exhausting school year! As ever, there have been so many achievements to celebrate: some small, some monumental, but the most special highlight for me has been witnessing how far each one of our remarkable pupils has come over the past three terms, as learners, and – more importantly – as people.

I have to congratulate all our pupils on their dedication to learning, and in particular, our Y6 pupils for attaining some wonderful outcomes in their KS2 SATs tests. Achieving 90% in Reading and 97% in Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling is no mean feat, and is testament to the endeavour, dedication and resilience of our pupils, staff and of course you as parents. We continue to learn and grow as a school community, celebrating our successes and responding where necessary to ensure that all our pupils receive the best possible provision to meet their learning needs – and we take these positives and points for development in to the new year as we continually strive to be the best that we can be.

What fills me with the most pride, however, is that – at St Mary's – we do not achieve these outcomes by limiting the wider experiences that our pupils benefit from: the experiences which truly enrich our pupils' learning experiences and give them all the platform to develop their own unique gifts and talents to the full. This year, more than any in recent memory, has brought with it a multitude of trips, projects, competitions and other opportunities including (and not limited to): Y5's participation in the 'Dippy' exhibition at the Great North Museum; the Y6 Fiver Challenge and Y5 Boardroom Challenge success; the incredible C2C challenge (in which over £5000 was raised for Meningitis Now); Y6's involvement in the Faith in Action award; our wonderful celebrations of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion with Y4 pupils and their families; our many class liturgies and celebrations of the Mass; Reception and Y5 participation in the 'Elmer Parade' for St Oswald's Hospice; whole-school participation in the Gateshead Fun Run; our wonderful Music Showcase; the school's achievement of the School Games Mark as acknowledgement of our commitment to ensuring all pupils in school are involved in sports, exercise and competition; our Friends Summer Family Picnic; Christmas plays, and so much more.

Of course, one of the real highlights of the year was our wonderful Diocesan Inspection report which underlined the school's commitment to developing the whole child as well as our commitment to Catholic Life, Collective Worship and of course the highest possible provision for Religious Education. Our shared Catholic Christian faith is what makes us distinct as a school, and we should all take immense pride in the outcomes of the inspection in highlighting what – as we already know – makes St Mary's such a unique family.

It is in this vein, that I must offer a sincere and heart-felt 'so long' to the members of our family who will be moving on to pastures new at the end of this term. Firstly, we say a huge thank you to Susan Cameron and Julia Fawzi who will be vacating their roles as Manager and Deputy of Duckpool Pre-school. They have, between them, given over 25 years of service to the children of Duckpool – the majority of whom have moved on to St Mary's School. Thanks to their dedication and care these children have gone on to make wonderful progress in their learning building on the most secure of foundations, knowing that they are loved and that they can achieve great things. We wish them well and look forward to hearing of their future exploits. We say goodbye too to Mrs Smith, who will be moving on from the pre-school, and to Miss Quinn who will be taking up a position at Duckpool after having served the pupils of St Mary's with great

enthusiasm this year. We thank them both for all they have done in contributing to the life of our wonderful school community.

And of course, I must also wish our amazing Y6 pupils well on their way. Each one of them has embodied what it means to be a St Mary's child: to be who God truly calls you to be, and in so doing, to set the world ablaze in many unique and amazing ways. We will – of course – miss them all, but I'm so excited for them as they take this next step in their school careers. We look forward to hearing of their continued successes in all they do and will keep them all in our thoughts and prayers throughout the new term.

Finally, a note of thanks for all the messages of support, encouragement and gratitude that we have received over recent weeks, and of course for the overwhelming generosity with which so many of you demonstrate your appreciation to our school staff at the end of the school year. Though it is clearly not why we do what we do, it is humbling to know how appreciated our efforts are, and we thank you all for the part that you have played, as partners, in helping us in our work with your child over the past year.

May God bless you all with a restful, revitalising, safe and happy Summer. I look forward to opening the doors once again on another year at St Mary's RC Primary School on Tuesday 3rd September.

Yours,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher



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END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENT:

KS1

	Reading % at Expected+	Writing % at Expected+	Maths % at Expected+	R,W&M % at Expected+	Science % at Expected+
SCHOOL	73%	73%	73%	67%	80%
NATIONAL	75%	69%	76%	65%	83%

(Teacher Assessment)

KS2

	Reading % at Expected+	Writing % at Expected+	Maths % at Expected+	R,W&M % at Expected+	GPS % at Expected+	Science % at Expected+
SCHOOL	90%	68%	97%	68%	97%	81%
NATIONAL	73%	78%	79%	65%	78%	82%

	Reading Average scaled score	Maths Average scaled score	GPS Average scaled score
SCHOOL	107	108	108
NATIONAL (2018)	105	104	106

	Reading Average progress	Writing Average progress	Maths Average progress
SCHOOL	+1.6	-4	+2.3
NATIONAL	0	0	0

Nb. Please note, that this data has not yet been validated, and is based on 'early-release' data produced by the Local Authority Consortium (comprising around 90% of Local Authorities). As such, data is liable to change.

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE:

Thank you for supporting the school in maintaining excellent levels of attendance this year.

CLASS	ANNUAL ATTENDANCE
Reception	97%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	97%
OVERALL	97%

REMINDERS

TERM DATES 2019/20:

	START	END	HALF-TERM
AUTUMN	3.9.19	20.12.19	21.10.19 – 25.10.19
<i>INSET</i>	2.9.19		
SPRING	7.1.20	3.4.20	17.2.20 – 21.2.20
<i>INSET</i>	6.1.20		
SUMMER	20.4.20	16.7.20	25.5.20 – 29.5.20
<i>INSET</i>	1.6.20, 17.7.20		

3 Inset Days + 1 Occasional Day

All pupils return to school on Tuesday 3rd September 2019.

FIRST WEEK OF NEW ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20 (2.9.19 – 6.9.19)

MONDAY – STAFF INSET (school closed to pupils).

TUESDAY – First day for pupils.

First Happy Feet session of the year.

THURSDAY – First Irish Dancing session of the year.

FRIDAY – NO GYMNASTICS.

Further term dates will be shared in the new year.