



SCHOOL UPDATES

THE END OF ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR:

Dear Parents, Carers and all members of the St Mary's family,

So we find ourselves, once again, at the tail-end of another incredibly successful school year. Looking back over the past 10 months, as a school community, we have notched up some impressive achievements, including (but certainly not limited to):

- re-accreditation at Level 1 of the Rights Respecting Schools Award;
- reaching regional finals in a number of sports including the finals of the Northern Cross, Northern Finals of the National League Under 11s Trophy and regional finals of the KS2 Hi-5 Netball;
- opening our inaugural – and highly successful – *Great Exhibition of St Mary's*;
- celebrating 30 of our young people receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time;
- completing the second year of our Y5 C2C challenge (raising over £5000 for the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity on the way!).

Once again, it has been a real privilege to be part of the learning, laughter and life of St Mary's, and I would like to thank each one of you for playing your own part in the successes of the year. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to extend sincere thanks for all the wonderful cards, gifts and messages with which we have been inundated over the last week. Clearly, reward and recognition is not our main aim, but we are all eternally grateful for these extremely generous and thoughtful gestures. Thank you!

Of course, it is with a mixture of sadness and excitement with which we bid *adieu* to our current Year 6 class, each of whom has exceeded all expectations throughout their seven years with us: blossoming in to remarkable young men and women, living life to the full and achieving excellence. We wish them well in making a seamless transition to life at secondary school safe in the knowledge that their new teachers will have the firmest of foundations on which to continue to build. I am, personally, so proud of each and every one of them, and I look forward to hearing of their continued successes in the future.

I wish you all a safe, restful and revitalizing Summer break, and I look forward to welcoming you all back at the start of our next academic year on Tuesday 4th September. And finally, a prayer for friends moving on and for those returning in six weeks' time, using the words of a well-known celtic blessing:

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rain fall softly on your fields;
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

God bless,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

CHANGES TO THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY:

As you will be aware, we have been trialing new start/end of day routines over the past five days. I would like to thank you for your co-operation with the changes, and for continuing to consider the safety and well-being of all our pupils arriving at/leaving school in the morning and afternoon. I have received some varied feedback throughout the week, which will prove invaluable in best deciding how to proceed, and would like to thank those parents/carers who have taken the time to express both positive and constructive thoughts on the new arrangements; I can assure you that all feedback received will be taken in to consideration by the Governing Body of the school as we consider how to proceed in the new school year.

In order that we may continue to 'trial' the new arrangements, and gather useful feedback with regards its effectiveness, we will be continuing with the present arrangements (clarified below) at the start of term, and until further notice. I would welcome any continued feedback – positive or otherwise – to be sent in writing to the school office or by email to stmarysrcprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk.

Many thanks,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

REMINDER – ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE START/END OF THE SCHOOL DAY:

From Tuesday 4th September the following proposed arrangements will be in place for all pupils:

- School gates and doors to be opened at 8:40am. Parents/Carers to bring pupils in to the school yard from this time; pupils to go straight in to school via the relevant Key Stage entrance.
- Pupils will no longer line up in their classes, but **must still remain under adult supervision until they reach the school yard** unless they are in Y5/6 and have the permission of their parents to travel part of the journey themselves. Small Saints OSC breakfast club provision will operate as normal.
- Pupils will go straight to class and complete independent learning tasks until registration at 8:55am under the supervision of their class teacher.
- A bell will ring at 8:55am for registration. Pupils must be in class by 8:55am as doors will close at this time. Any child arriving after this time will have to enter school via the Main Entrance and will be classed as 'late'. Pupils entering via the Main Entrance must sign in via the school electronic Inentry system.
- Gates will be locked at 9:15am (*gates may remain open for certain community events such as Class Liturgies and Mass*).
- At the end of the school day, class teachers will continue to line up children in Reception – Year 2, before handover to their designated adult; pupils in KS2 will come out of school to find their designated adult under the supervision of their class teacher.

Exception for Reception and Year 5

Pupils in Y5 and Reception Class will still line up on the yellow line for the first half term of the new school year; their class teachers will be outside to collect and supervise the children from 8:50am.

Car Park

Over the Summer, the parish car park will be marked with bays, pedestrian access and a no park zone. This will limit the numbers of cars able to use the car park before and after school. As such, in consultation with the Diocese and Parish Priest, a decision has been made to stop cars entering/leaving the car park between the following times:

- 8:45am – 9:10am
- 3:05pm – 3:30pm

Cars wishing to use the car park will need to be in situ before/ will only be able to leave after these arranged times.

Parking/Dropping-Off

I would ask – in the interest of pupils' safety, that nobody attempts to park/drop-off on any of the yellow lines or no-stop zones on Duckpool Lane. Similarly, cars should not be parked dangerously near to junctions, or double-park on any of the adjoining streets to Duckpool Lane. **It is the responsibility of all road users to ensure the safety of our children** – please take this in to the most serious consideration when planning your journey to/from school each day.



AWARDS GALORE (PART 1) – ARTSMARK:

It is with great pleasure that we're able to announce that St Mary's has been accredited with the Artsmark Silver award, as recognition of our commitment to ensuring provision in the Arts for all pupils, and indeed our wider community. Here is a snippet from the feedback:

"You have made some well-planned steps forward in your Arts provision, including the mapping of the Art & Design curriculum, increases in trips and clubs, improvements in music provision and the development of some CPD for staff. With Arts Award registration completed, it will be good to offer this to all pupils. You might extend the role of your Art Ambassadors and look at developing pupil ownership and responsibility across the Arts. Further partnerships with arts organisations to develop CPD will allow you to develop your offer in Drama, Dance & Digital Media, and as you explore ways in which arts-based approaches can support cross-curricular work, you will see increasing impact on outcomes for the pupils."

We're incredibly pleased with this achievement, and will now display our Artsmark accreditation logo with great pride! We hope to share in the near future of our journey towards being a 'Gold' accredited school, and look forward to the learning and opportunities along the way!

AWARDS GALORE (PART 2) – INVESTORS IN PEOPLE:

It is also with huge pride that we are able to inform you that the school has also been re-accredited as an Investors in People 'Gold' organisation. This accreditation recognises the school's effectiveness at: leading and inspiring its workforce; supporting, recognising and rewarding success; building capacity and delivering continuous and sustainable success. Here are a few highlights from the report:

"Leaders are recognised in the school as being passionate about delivering the work of the school."

"People described how leaders are approachable, supportive and positive role models, who encourage everyone throughout the school to work towards the philosophy of excellence."

"As a Catholic school, people undoubtedly recognise the value base for the school and have welcomed reaccreditation for Rights Respecting Level One, moving to working towards Level 2."

"People are very supportive of each other and work both individually and collectively to role model the RESPECT code in school"

"In addition, the school (staff and pupils) have a great passion for the community and have actively raised monies for a number of charities, as well as providing support in other ways such as visiting the homeless and providing Christmas lunch for senior citizens."

Once again, this goes to demonstrate our commitment to achieving excellence for all member of our school family, and we are immensely proud to have been recognised for our hard work and dedication, and thank you for playing your part in making our school such a wonderful place to work!

200 CLUB:

Here are the winners of this month's 200 Club:

PRIZE	NUMBER	WINNER
£50	63	S Thompson
£25	41	A Gregory-Smith
£15	104	K Recchia
£10	73	E Jones

Thank you for your continued support of the school by participating in the Friends of St Mary's 200 Club.

SIMS AGORA PAYMENTS:

We have been made aware that there is an issue with the update to our SIMS Agora payment system. At present, it is not allowing payment of outstanding balances. Please don't worry about this; we have been assured that it will be rectified over the Summer, and balances can be settled in the new year. For Y6 leavers (without a sibling still at school), we would be happy to take a cash payment at the school office. Thank you for your patience with this matter.

TERM DATES 2018/19:

All pupils will return to school for the start of the new school year on **Tuesday 4th September**.

We will send out Term dates in the new year, but one key date for the diary is our **Curriculum Open-evening which will be held on Monday 24th September at 5pm**. On this evening, you will get a chance to hear more about the year ahead from your child's class teacher – so it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible.

A reminder of next year's term dates (2 Inset days TBC):

	START	END	HALF-TERM
AUTUMN	3.9.18	21.12.18	22.10.18 – 26.10.18
<i>INSET</i>	3.9.18		
SPRING	7.1.19	5.4.19	18.2.19 – 22.2.19
<i>INSET</i>	TBC		
SUMMER	23.4.19	19.7.19	27.5.19 – 31.5.19
<i>INSET</i>	May Bank Holiday 6.5.19		

THE FIRST WEEK OF 2018/19 (3.9.18 – 7.9.18)

MONDAY –

INSET DAY

TUESDAY –

All pupils in school for start of new school year

FRIDAY –

Whole school Mass, 10am at St Mary's RC Church (all welcome)

(There will be no afternoon clubs or swimming sessions on the first week back)