

**END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR:**

“Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path”. (Psalm 119:110)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Taking inspiration from the theme of the Year 6 Leavers' Mass this year, I thought this piece of scripture perfectly encapsulated where we all are at this time of year. After an incredibly busy final term, I know that all the staff are looking for a bit of '(sun)light on their paths' this summer, and I'm sure that there are many more pupils and parents feeling the same! We've travelled a long road, and probably feel like we need a little divine intervention to carry on over the finish line, and to come back firing on all cylinders in September!

It's been a wonderful year, and as a school family we've achieved so much: academically, socially and spiritually. On behalf of all the staff, I'd just like to say what a privilege it has been to see the progress all our children have made this year; their lights have shone brightly in so many different ways which, as always, has been a genuine pleasure and joy for us all. Thank you for all your efforts in supporting the school, and we all look forward to an even more successful year ahead. Have a restful, reinvigorating and safe Summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing you all back at school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

To our Year 6 leavers: we are so proud of each one of you; have a wonderful Summer break, filled with enthusiasm and optimism for what lies ahead. Remember, you are the brightest of lights, and wonderful examples of all we hope to achieve here at St Mary's. Good luck, God bless and be fulfilled in all you do!

Yours, as ever,

Mr J Wheatley  
Headteacher

**FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S FUNDRAISING:**

A big thank you to all the members of the Friends of St Mary's involved in selling raffle tickets and refreshments during our music showcase. We raised a grand total of £492 which will be added to the profit from the ticket sales for the shows (which we will release in due course).

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND E-SAFETY:**

Recently, we've dealt with a couple of issues relating to sharing of information relating to school via social media outlets (such as facebook and Instagram). In line with school policy, we would urge parents/carers to always use pre-existing channels for home-school communication (school news bulletins, the school website, phone and face-to-face conversations) rather than seeking information from other parents via social media. It is important that school are able to play a role in any of these issues and incidents, and from experience, discussion of school related issues via social media never leads to a positive outcome. I would urge any parents who feel as though discussions shared via social media (to which they have access) which are inappropriate in nature, to bring this information to school so that we are able to deal with individual issues directly. If you are unsure regarding what we ask as a school regarding social media, our Social Media Policy is available on the school website, or you could contact the school directly.

#### TERM DATES:

It has come to our attention over the past few weeks that there have been some websites displaying incorrect term dates for our school, which has led to some confusion over start and end dates for the summer term. I would urge you to always consult the term dates on the 'Parents' page of the school website (which has the correct term dates for 2016-17) rather than other websites (such as [www.myschoolholidays.com](http://www.myschoolholidays.com)), which are incorrect for next academic year.

#### PARENT SURVEY:

Thank you to those parents/carers who have already completed the 2016 parent views survey. The survey will only remain live for the next few days, so if you have yet to go online to offer your views, please take this opportunity to do so – it should only take about 5 minutes. The survey can be found on the 'Parents' page of our school website ([www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk](http://www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk)) or by using the following URL <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YNJCJSD>

Please note, the survey may only be completed once per ip address, so it may be useful to consult with partners/spouses/wider family before completing the survey.

#### AFTERNOON TEA TO RAISE MONEY FOR BALAMMA SATRAM INDIAN APPEAL:

Thank you to all those who came along to the afternoon tea event on Sunday. Funds raised from the sale of tickets and from the raffle exceeded all expectations, and will go to support the work of Fr Sarves and his team in India.

#### THE FIRST WEEK OF TERM (Wb/ 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER):

Monday 5<sup>TH</sup>:

- STAFF INSET – NO PUPILS IN SCHOOL

Tuesday 6<sup>TH</sup>:

- First day back for pupils.

Friday:

- No swimming for Y4.