



SCHOOL UPDATES AND REMINDERS

KS2 SATs WEEK:

A huge well done to our Y6 pupils who completed their end of Key Stage assessments in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, Reading and Maths this week. The pupils approached the week with admirable calm, confidence and maturity, and they should all hold their heads high knowing that they have given each assessment their absolute best on the day. We are thoroughly proud of them all and look forward to sharing the opportunities of the remaining school year with them all.

Y4 TENNIS SUCCESS:

A huge well done to our Y4 tennis aces who brought home silver medals from their competition at Blaydon tennis club this week. The team competed with great skill and determination and were even praised by staff from another school for their excellent manners and attitude – a fantastic example of everything we encourage from our pupils when we take part in sporting events!

ACTIVITIES FORTNIGHT:

For the next two weeks, pupils across school will be taking part in a number of different activities to promote sport and physical activity.

Pupils should come into school in a sports kit each day. We know that pupils will not have enough PE kit to last the two weeks, and even though the weather forecast is looking good, we certainly wouldn't expect the washing machine to be working full-time to ensure children have a fresh PE t-shirt each day! As such, pupils can wear any combination of PE kit, school polo shirts and, if required, other appropriate sports kit over the course of the fortnight.

All pupils should, however, wear their yellow PE t-shirt and royal blue shorts for their participation in the Gateshead Fun Run on Friday 27th May.

Timetable of activities for activities fortnight:

DATE	ACTIVITY
Monday 16 th May	Whole school skipping
Tuesday 17 th May	Football (KS2) and Games (KS1)
Wednesday 18 th May	Daily Mile
Thursday 19 th May	School Games Day
Friday 20 th May	Golf Fun Day
Monday 23 rd May	Happy Feet Dance (KS1)
Tuesday 24 th May	Y4 activity morning at Whickham Thorns Y5 Cricket Festival
Wednesday 25 th May	Y5 activity morning at Whickham Thorns Reception – Year 3 bring your own bike/scooter sessions
Thursday 26 th May	Netball (KS2) and multi-skills (KS1)
Friday 27 th May	Whole school Fun Run; all pupils to be in school for 8:15am

END OF DAY ROUTINES:

Following a small number of incidents in recent weeks, we would like to remind all parents and care-givers the following reminders about the end of day routines at school to ensure safety and good order as pupils are dismissed:

- All pupils must be collected by a trusted adult *unless* we have prior written consent that a pupil is to leave school independently (school's expectation is that this would only be from Y5).
- Parents must inform school via phone (0191 4205828) or email (stmarysrcprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk) to inform us of any change of routine (eg. A change of expected trusted adult collecting a child) with as much notice as possible so that school staff are fully briefed and aware of the change.
- If you are going to be late to collect your child, please advise school at the earliest possible opportunity. Pupils will be kept under supervision in school and should be collected via the main entrance. Repeat instances of late pick-ups are tracked and acted upon by school leaders.
- Please assist school staff by moving towards your child at the point of collection and acknowledging that you are there to collect them. Pupils should not have to travel a long distance to meet their parent/care-giver as this increases the chances of something going wrong with the handover of responsibility from school to home. Please ensure that all adults entrusted with the responsibility of collection are made aware of this.
- Please remind your child of these arrangements and ensure that they know exactly who is picking them up each day before they come to school.
- In terms of safeguarding, please also ensure that your child knows that they should never leave school without their trusted adult, and if things do not go to plan (eg. They lose sight of their parent/care-giver), that they go back to the school gate and seek support from the nearest trusted adult. It is good practice to talk through these scenarios in a positive a reassuring way with your child so that they do not panic if this should ever occur.

If you would like to discuss any of the above information, please contact the school office to make an appointment with a school leader.

'ONEPLUSONE' RESOURCE FOR PARENTS:

We have been asked by Gateshead's Early Help and Children's Social Care team to share information about some free online resources to support parents to encourage and maintain healthy relationships at home. You will find three flyers directing you to online resources for three different parenting support programmes which you can access at your own convenience and work through at your own pace. Alternatively, you can follow this link to sign up: www.oneplusone.org.uk/parent-resources-for-england. If you would like to discuss anything relating to this information, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Mr Wheatley at school.

SCHOOL CHANGE OF NAME:

As you will be aware, our school formally became an academy as part of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust on 1st May 2022. Officially, the school is now called St Mary's Catholic Primary School. This name correctly reflects the mission of our school to serve the Catholic Church, in its fullness, and of course the children and families of our parish and wider Diocese, and all Diocesan schools will undergo the same name change as part of the academisation process.

There will be an intentionally gradual phasing in of this new official title and reference to our new partnership so as to not give the impression that we are in any way losing our identity or history of which we are all, so rightly, very proud. Although we are officially losing the reference to the 'Roman rite' in our school name, please do not worry that this will bring about any changes to our Religious Education or worship, as it will not.

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE:

We would ask you to continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia, and for world leaders, that a swift and peaceful end to this conflict may be reached immediately:

*Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.*

*We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.*

*We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.*

*May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.*

Amen.

Should you wish to make a personal financial donation to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (part of the UK Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal), you can do so online at www.cafod.org.uk/Ukraine.

REMINDER – LIVING WITH COVID ONGOING GUIDANCE:

With the Government moving to their 'Living with Covid' strategy, it is important that we provide families with the latest information regarding managing children's absence.

There is now an assumption that testing will not occur as PCR tests are not routinely available and LFD tests are no longer free of charge. Consequently, the management of children who may be unwell is to be the same as with any other respiratory illness.

What do I do if my child is unwell?

As with a cold virus, if your child is unwell, you have to make a judgement about whether they are able to come into school. If a child has a temperature (37.8 or above), they should not be in school until the temperature has reduced.

If a child is under the weather, has a runny nose etc. this does not mean they should be absent from school as they may be more than able to manage the day. However, if a child is clearly too unwell to be in, we know families will make the decision to keep a child at home for the minimum amount of time required to recover.

If we believe that your child is too unwell to be in school, we will contact you to collect your child as normal.

Other infectious illnesses – such as sickness and diarrhea – should continue to be treated as normal (ie. 48 hours absence after last bout of illness).

What if I have tested my child and they have Covid-19?

As there is still some access to LFD tests in the short term, some children may be identified as having Covid-19. If this is the case, the child will need to be at home for three days after the test result or symptoms.

