



SCHOOL UPDATES

KS1 AND KS2 SATS:

A massive well done to all our pupils in Years 2 and 6 for their efforts this week. It's been a calm and purposeful week which is credit to the children, their teachers and of course our parents and wider community. Thank you for helping your children to be so well prepared for this week, and we look forward to sharing in the continuing successes of the year with you all.

RE-ARRANGED LEARN TO RIDE SESSION:

Our pupils in Reception and Y1 who took part in the 'Learn to Ride' session with Biking Ben this week had an amazing time developing their skills on two wheels with some incredible results. These sessions provide an incredible start to a cycling journey at St Mary's which will hopefully help to foster a life-long love of cycling and might even inspire some of our children to take part in our 150 miles coast to coast ride in Year 5...

C2C 2019:

And speaking of which, the Y5 pupils and parents taking part in this year's 'coast to coast' challenge are nearing the final stages of their preparations for their 4 day ride from Whitehaven to Tynemouth in June. Countless hours on the saddle have been racked-up with some grueling sessions of climbs and ever-further distances covered. As has been the tradition over the past two years, our C2C group have selected a charity to support as part of their journey; we will be letting you know how you can raise money for the group's chosen charity in our News Bulletin next week, so make sure you keep an eye out for that!

A SPECIAL VISITOR IN RECEPTION CLASS:

If you've been following the developments in the Early Years on Twitter this week, you'll know that our pupils in Reception Class have been writing letters to a special visitor who will be spending time at St Mary's over the next term. Our patchwork pal made himself known during our celebration assembly as pupils found out that we will be taking part in this year's Elmer Great North Parade in support of St Oswald's Hospice (<https://www.stoswaldsuk.org/elmers-great-north-parade.aspx>). Our Reception and Y5 Buddies will be helping our Elmer to feel at home at St Mary's: where all are welcomed, valued and loved. You can keep up with our Elmer journey via our Twitter feed (@whickhamstmarys).

ST MARY'S FOR 'CLEAN AIR':

As a Rights Respecting School, we are supporting an ongoing campaigns for clean air. Air pollution is a major public health concern. It affects us all, but the risks are greater for older people and children. Your views are needed on ways to clean up the air and make our area a healthier place to be. You can share your own view by taking part in a major consultation about air pollution in the North East before Friday 17th May at www.breathe-cleanair.com.

REMINDERS

GATESHEAD FUN RUN:

On Friday 24th May, all pupils in Reception Class, Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be taking part in the Gateshead Fun Run. **Pupils must be in school for 8:15am as buses will be leaving promptly at 8:30am. Pupils must also have a packed lunch on the day.**

PUNCTUALITY:

A plea to all parents/carers to ensure that pupils are in school **before the bell rings at 8:55am**. Pupils should not be arriving after this time regularly, and extra effort should be made by parents/carers to ensure that this is not the case.

PARKING:

A continuing reminder that **no vehicles should stop on either the zig-zag lines, cobbled entrance to school or speed table on Duckpool Lane outside of school** – even if pupils are being ‘dropped off’ to walk independently in to school (Years 5 and 6). Please find a safe and suitable place to park, and show consideration for the safety of pedestrians and other road users, and for our neighbours. Thank you.

RETURNING SCHOOL KIT:

Please could all parents/carers ensure that school kit borrowed by pupils is cleaned and returned to school promptly following any participation in school events. In particular, we are missing a number of school hoodies; these are all clearly marked ‘St Mary’s’ on the label. Please could you ensure that these are returned to school for further use. Many thanks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTIVITY WEEK:

Next week, pupils across school will be taking part in a range of activities to encourage active participation in sports and exercise. Pupils can look forward to taking part in the following:

Monday – Tri-golf competition.

Tuesday – Cycle and scoot day.

(pupils are able to bring in bikes or scooters for sessions during the day; helmets essential).

Wednesday – Basketball fun day.

Thursday – Happy Feet danceathon.

Friday – Gateshead Fun Run.

Pupils must wear their school uniform as normal Monday to Thursday, but have their PE kit and trainers in school each day; PE kits will be sent home on Thursday so that pupils can come to school in their kit on Friday for participation in the Fun Run.

NSPCC ‘SPEAK OUT STAY SAFE’ WORKSHOPS:

Pupils in KS1 and 2 will take part in a ‘Speak Out Stay Safe’ workshop delivered by the NSPCC on Thursday. The content of the workshops is age-appropriate, and will cover a range of basic safeguarding top-tips. You can find out more here: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe/>.

FILM NIGHT CANCELLED:

Unfortunately, we have taken the decision to cancel the previously advertised KS1 and 2 Film Nights scheduled for Monday 20th and Wednesday 22nd May due to a number of clashes in what is a very busy week! Apologies to all who were looking forward to these events.

Nb. Tennis will remain cancelled on Monday 20th May in spite of this change.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS:

The school will once again be used as a polling station for the upcoming European elections on Thursday 23rd May. School will once again be open as usual. Pupils who have already selected a school meal will receive a packed lunch prepared by the kitchen. All other pupils must bring their own packed lunch.

THE WEEK AHEAD (20.5.19 – 24.5.19)

MONDAY –

Y6 depart for residential visit to Knock Christian Centre (approx. 9:30am).

KS1 Film Night – CANCELLED.

NO TENNIS.

TUESDAY –

Y5 Bikeability.

WEDNESDAY –

More Than Dance retreat day for pupils in Y4.

C2C all day ride (8:30am – 3:30pm).

KS2 Film Night – CANCELLED.

THURSDAY –

European elections; school open as usual.

KS1 and 2 NSPCC Workshops.

FRIDAY –

Gateshead Fun Run – **all pupils must be in school in full PE kit and trainers by 8:15am.**

Y6 pupils return from Knock Christian Centre (approx. 12pm – text and Twitter messages will be sent to keep parents updated).

