



### IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS FOR NEXT WEEK:

- Please make a note of your child's end of year Explore the Curriculum Exhibition – an opportunity to come into school and celebrate the achievements of your child and their classmates before the end of term.
- Y5 trip to the Discovery Museum on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Pupils need to be in school uniform and will require a packed lunch for the day.
- Mrs Cuggy will not be in school on Thursday. Small group violinists will need to bring their instruments on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June for a catch-up lesson.
- We say goodbye to Mrs Gardner at the end of the school year – please see the note below.

---

### SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

#### EXPLORE THE CURRICULUM EXHIBITION:

It has been an amazingly successful year at St Mary's in so many ways, and we will be opening our doors for an end of year celebration of pupils' learning before the end of the Summer Term. Please make a note of the planned dates/times for your child. More information will follow in due course.

DATE/TIME	CLASS
4.7.23 9:10am	Year 3
4.7.23 2:30pm	Year 5
5.7.23 9:10am	Year 1
5.7.23 2:30pm	Year 2
6.7.23 9:10am	Reception
6.7.23 2:30pm	Year 4
7.7.23 9:10am	Year 6

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Please pray for our Year 4 pupils who will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in a special celebration of the Mass at St Mary's RC Church on Tuesday evening.

#### SPORTS UPDATE – PART 1:

It has been a huge week for sports at St Mary's.

As many of you will have seen on the school's Twitter feed, our school football team had an amazing day out in Leicester as they represented the school and Durham Football Association at the National Finals of the English Schools Football Association Primary Schools Cup at the King Power Stadium.

The national final saw the team playing among the top 8 Under 11 primary school teams in the country – quite a remarkable achievement considering many of the opposition came from primary schools with two or three times as many pupils.

The team played some incredible football, demonstrated wonderful camaraderie, effort and fair play, and though falling short in the group round (with a draw and two losses), are absolute champions in our eyes.

You can watch the coverage back on the ESFA YouTube channel – with some fantastic play, two great goals, and some amazing tackles and saves to savour. Follow these links (using the indicative timings) to relive all the action:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2erf1Fvgpn8> (Match 1 from the start)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THfZ7pMoog> (Match 2 from around 1hr 19mins)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBP43iqK3TA> (Match 3 from around 2hrs 15mins)

#### SPORTS UPDATE – PART 2:

Following the success of the footballers, our Y6 netball team – who had themselves conquered all across two stages earlier in the season – travelled to the *Beacon of Light* in Sunderland to take part in the County Finals. The team, coached by Mrs Joyce, have had a stellar, unbeaten season, and finished their campaign with aplomb as undefeated County Champions following 8 matches on the day and a fiercely contested final against Portobello Primary.

The team demonstrated amazing skills, resilience and teamwork representing the school impeccably. We are so proud of their achievement – a first in St Mary's history – and look forward to seeing what these amazing athletes may go on to achieve in the future.

#### SPORTS UPDATE – PART 3:

Barely a week goes by without St Mary's pupils taking part in a sports event hosted by the Gateshead Schools Sports Partnership – and this week was no exception, with 20 pupils from Year 3 participating in a 'Quad Kids' event at Kingsmeadow School. For as much as the national and county finals were hugely exciting, it was equally rewarding to hear of the successes of our Year 3 pupils at this event – which goes to show the importance of our participation in sporting competition across the year. As ever, the pupils did an amazing job representing the school and we are all so proud of their efforts.

#### GIFT FOR LIFE SUMMER SOCIAL:

Please come along to the parish's Summer social event which has been organised by the Gift for Life group. At the event, which aims to give all members of our parish an opportunity to come together and raise money for some amazing causes (locally and globally), there will be all manner of baked goods and refreshments for sale, a raffle with some incredible prizes, games for all the family, a quiz and much more.

The event kicks off at 2pm and visitors may use the school playground for parking if required.

*If there are any older children in attendance who would like to help lead a game or activity on the day, please make yourself known to one of the Gift for Life organisers on arrival.*

#### STAFFING UPDATE:

It is with heavy hearts that we write to inform you that Mrs Gardner will be leaving school at the end of the year. Mrs Gardner, who has been a valued member of our staff team over the past nine years, has been successful in securing a teaching position in a Catholic school in Stockton – which will significantly reduce her daily commute from Yarm! Mrs Gardner has been a wonderful servant of the school and will be missed by all. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role, and in the newly found time she will no longer spend sitting in her car in traffic on the A1!

We are currently recruiting to find a replacement for Mrs Gardner for the start of the new academic year.

## REMINDER – SPORTS DAY:

We are really looking forward to welcoming parents/carers, friends and family to our upcoming school Sports day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Arrangements for the day will be as follows:

- This year, the Gateshead School Sports Partnership will be helping to lead our Sports Day. The event aims to be a positive, inclusive event in which all pupils will enjoyment by taking part in a friendly competition.
- For the day, pupils across school will be split into four 'houses' and will earn points for their team by taking part in a range of track and field events.
- On the day, pupils are asked to come in to school as normal in their full PE kit. Pupils must have a filled water bottle in school.
- In the event of sunny weather, parents should apply suncream in advance of the school day and pupils should have a cap/sun hat as they will remain outside for the duration of the morning/afternoon session.
- KS2 events will be held in the morning – starting at approximately 9:15am and ending at around 11:45am.
- KS1 events will be held in the afternoon – starting at approximately 1pm and finishing at around 2pm.
- Friends and family are welcome to come and spectate the events and help to provide a positive and supportive environment for all our competitors. We would like to invite parents/carers, friends and family to join us for a picnic on the school field following the KS2 morning events.
- KS2 pupils may be taken home following their event or remain in school as normal until the end of the school day – if required.
- KS2 pupils remaining on the school site will be kept in school under supervision of school staff throughout the KS1 events (even if they have a parent/family member in attendance) so as to not disrupt the KS1 events.
- KS1 pupils (and any remaining siblings in school) may be taken at the end of the KS1 events.
- There will be some refreshments for sale on the morning with the proceeds going to support the school. There will be a meeting for parents/carers who are interested in helping out on the morning at **9am on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June (revised date)**.