



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS FOR NEXT WEEK:

- Our school Sports Day will take place on Friday 23rd June (9:15am-11:45am KS2; 1pm-2pm EYFS and KS1). Please read the below information regarding the day **including the important note about School access and parking**.
- Please see the below information and attached documents relating to school uniform. All orders for new school uniform from our uniform supplier must be made by 14th July to ensure delivery before the start of the new school year.
- Please read the below invitation from the Friends of St Mary's.
- School will be closed to all pupils for Staff Inset on Monday 17th July.

SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Well done to our Year 4 pupils who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in a wonderful celebration of the Mass at St Mary's RC Church this week. We continue to pray for these pupils as well as their classmates who have supported them on their journey. We hope that they continue to feel the same joy and excitement they experienced this week by answering the call to share in Christ's Eucharistic feast as often as possible.

Pupils have been invited to attend one of our weekend Masses in the Parish in their First Holy Communion dress, so that we can acknowledge and celebrate this special occasion with our wider Parish family.

SPORTS UPDATE:

The sporting accolades keep on coming at St Mary's!

This week, pupils in Years 5 and 6 brought home silver medals from their mini tennis event at Whickham School, our Years 5 and 6 netballers brought back both silver and gold from a St Thomas More cluster netball competition and our girls' football team ended their season in second place following a thrilling finals night which saw the girls playing their best football of the season! Each team represented the school wonderfully demonstrating all the sporting values we hold dear at St Mary's, and we are so proud of all their achievements. Well done to all the pupils, and the staff, for their remarkable efforts.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Please see attached this year's uniform list from our school uniform supplier, Mick Martin, as well as a copy of the school's Uniform Policy and Dress Code.

Please note that pupils are only expected to have items in the 'essential' uniform list; other non-essentials and uniform staples can be purchased from a variety of high street retailers.

All orders for new school uniform from our uniform supplier must be made by 14th July to ensure delivery before the start of the new school year.

It is important that pupils' uniform – including shoes – is in line with the school's policy. To avoid unnecessary upset or confusion, please ensure that purchases for new school items are made with close

reference to the attached policy. You can always contact the school in advance of making any purchase if you have any particular questions.

Please also note that pupils are expected to adhere to the school's dress code for the duration of the school year.

At St Mary's, we are committed to ensuring that no pupils or their families will be affected adversely by the school's uniform expectations. Please contact Mr Wheatley for a confidential chat if you have any concerns about the purchase of school uniform for your child.

REMINDER – SPORTS DAY:

We are really looking forward to welcoming parents/carers, friends and family to our upcoming school Sports day on Friday 23rd 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 take 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 into 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 watch 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) to not disrupt the KS1 events.
- KS1 pupils (and any remaining siblings in school) may be taken at the end of the KS1 events.

Nb. In the event of adverse weather, a decision to postpone will be communicated via email at the earliest possible opportunity.

IMPORTANT – SPORTS DAY SCHOOL ACCESS AND PARKING:

School can be accessed via either the Duckpool Lane or Dockendale Lane entrances on the morning. Gates will be left open throughout the event and will be supervised throughout the lunch break.

Please try to leave your car at home to avoid unnecessary parking or access issues.

Please do not attempt to park in the Parish car park. This is particularly important as there is a funeral taking place at 10am in St Mary's Church and parking in the Parish car park will be required for those

attending the funeral. Access for the hearse will also be required so please do not double park on Dockendale Lane.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S:

The Friends of St Mary's, our version of a traditional 'PTA', aims to give parents, carers, grandparents, friends and family the opportunity to play an active role in the life of the school and to help to ensure that all pupils benefit from the absolute best throughout their Primary School years.

Due to an extended hiatus – in no small part due to the Covid pandemic – our Friends group needs 'fresh blood'. The school is planning a re-launch of the group in the Autumn Term, so over the coming weeks, we will be encouraging those keen to find out more about the work of the group to register their interest.

There is absolutely no expectation that anyone who shows interest must commit to attendance at Friends meetings or events; our vision is that all members of our community have something to offer, and no matter how big or small, the Friends of St Mary's should be the platform for your contribution. The group is a totally inclusive group, open to all.

REMINDER – EXPLORE THE CURRICULUM EXHIBITION:

We will be opening our doors for an end of year celebration of the pupils' learning. 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

REMINDER – INSET DAY:

Please be reminded that school will be closed to pupils on Monday 17th July 2023 for Staff Inset. This is the only remaining Inset day planned for the current academic year.