



SCHOOL UPDATES

DIOCESAN INSPECTION:

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is with great pride that I can now formally share with you the outcome of our most recent Diocesan Inspection. We are delighted to say that the school has once more been rated 'Outstanding' in all areas of the Section 48 inspection framework, and I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our pupils, staff, governors, and of course our families and wider parish community, for the part that you have all played in achieving this fantastic outcome.

I have enclosed a copy of the full report for you to read at your leisure – I can assure you it will be worth your time! The inspection process was incredibly affirming for us all, and as ever, our pupils shone throughout – demonstrating the very best of what we are at St Mary's. As a steward of this special community, it is wonderful for me to know that a visiting colleague has instantly recognised the many strengths of the school's Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship, making comment that, "prayer and spirituality are at the heart of the school community, helping pupils to develop their understanding of God's love for them," "excellent relationships are a strength of the school," and that, "staff know their pupils well and consistently teach lessons that engage and enthuse pupils."

We should, of course, take a few moments to congratulate one another at this moment of celebration; however, we know that we must continue striving to be the best we can – to be who God has called us all to be – in order to progress and develop as a Catholic community of faith and learning, and we look forward to the shared challenges that this brings for us all in the coming weeks and months.

In Christ's name, we give thanks!

Mr J Wheatley  
Headteacher

#### TRANSITION MORNING:

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, all pupils will be spending the morning in their new class – in preparation for September 2019. So as to avoid confusion (especially for our Y2 pupils), all pupils will begin the day in their current class (for registration) before then moving through the school.

In anticipation of the morning, we can confirm that the class teachers for the upcoming year are:

Reception Class – Mrs Joyce.

Year 1 – Mrs McTernan.

Year 2 – Mrs Pomeroy.

Year 3 – Mrs Recchia.

Year 4 – Mrs Sanderson.

Year 5 – Miss Millican.

Year 6 – Mr Colling.

Pupils in Y6 who will be attending St Thomas More Catholic School, will spend the day at their new school. Pupils must wear their full St Mary's school uniform and make their own way there and back (either by taking the scholars' bus, or by other means).

#### PERFORMANCE POETRY IN Y5:

A massive well done to Daniel and Gracie from Y5 for taking part in the Gateshead Catholic Primaries poetry recital this week. Both children had to learn and recite two poems in front of peers from a number of local primary schools, and they did a wonderful job – representing the school impeccably with their effort, good manners and enthusiasm.

#### Y1 AND 2 LITURGIES:

Thank you to all those who came along to our Y1 and 2 class liturgies this week. Both provided a well-appreciated, momentary space for peace, reflection and worship at the end of a busy day and showcased how far our pupils have come as prayer leaders throughout their time in KS1. We look forward to sharing more class liturgies with you all in the Autumn Term.

#### REMINDERS

##### SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Please can all parents/carers ensure that pupils continue to wear full school uniform throughout the final few weeks of the term. In particular, black trainers should not be worn as school shoes. If – due to particular circumstance – a child is unable to wear school shoes on a certain day, a parent/carer must get in contact with school to explain the reasons why. It is not acceptable for this to continue for a number of days without explanation.

##### Y6 LEAVERS CAKE STALL:

Y6 pupils and parents will be continue to hold a cake and sweet stall each Friday after school to raise funds for their end of school year book.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Y5 PEN PAL MEET:

On Thursday afternoon (4<sup>th</sup> July), our Y5 class will be meeting the pen pals (from St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas RC Primary, Stella) they have been writing to all year. They will be welcoming their *correspondants* for an afternoon of 'french-themed' challenges (involving lots of newspaper!). The pupils are looking forward to sharing their developing language skills with one another, and to enjoying an afternoon with new-found friends.

### FRENCH DAY:

Pupils across school will be enjoying a languages day on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July. Pupils in Y6 will be running a 'Café' for the rest of the school, showcasing their spoken language, and there will be a range of activities celebrating French language and culture going on throughout the day. On the day, pupils may come in their own clothes – preferably on a 'French theme' (eg. red, white and blue); please don't go and buy anything new – it's just an opportunity to enter in to the spirit of things on the day.

*Nb. Y6 will have some special 'costume' requirements (Mrs Innerdale will share this with the pupils in class).*

### MUSIC SHOWCASE:

As a way to celebrate the progress of all our pupils who have been learning an instrument this year, we will be holding a Music Showcase in the school hall at 2pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – all welcome (no tickets necessary)! Performing at the show, we will have:

- Y3 djembe (whole class)
- Y4 string orchestra (whole class)
- Small group violinists
- Small group guitarists

*Nb. If there are any pupils who play a musical instrument **outside of school**, and would like to showcase their talents, there will be an opportunity to play for the rest of the school in one of our Celebration Assemblies before the end of term. If any child would like to do this – and has the required proficiency to perform a piece of music in front an audience – we would ask that a parent/carer rings school to let us know.*

### FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC:

As a way of coming together to celebrate the end of another successful year at St Mary's, we will once again be holding our Friends Summer Family Picnic on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July (3:15-5:15pm). Please come along and join us for a fun-filled afternoon of music, games, penalty shoot-out competition, tug-of-war, the infamous stocks (which *unlucky* teacher will we be throwing sponges at this year!?) and many more fun activities.

### Y6 FIVER CHALLENGE 2019:

This year, our Y6 pupils will be once again taking part in the Young Enterprise 'Fiver Challenge' through which pupils each loan £5 to set up their own business – with the aim of making their investment 'grow' as much as possible. This year, the pupils will be raising money for St Oswald's Hospice – as part of the 'Elmer Parade' that the school is taking part in. Y6 will be running a 'Marketplace' event at the end of the school day on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July (to coincide with the Friends Family Picnic); at the event, there will be a number of stalls selling various wares – so please bring along some cash to support both our pupils and an amazing local charity. Thank you!

THE WEEK AHEAD (1.7.19 – 5.7.19)

- MONDAY – Y5/6 Mini-Tennis (pupils involved will receive a letter).
- TUESDAY – Y1 visit to Blue Reef Aquarium.
- WEDNESDAY – Whole-school transition morning (Y6 pupils at St Thomas More).  
'Outdoor and Adventurous' festival for pupils in Y2 (pupils involved will receive a letter).  
Hi-5 Netball at St Thomas More (pupils involved will receive a letter).
- THURSDAY – Friends of St Mary's meeting (9am in school – all welcome).  
Y5 pen pal meet afternoon.
- FRIDAY – Y6 Rugby League tournament at Gateshead Stadium (all pupils involved).  
**NO GYMNASTICS.**  
Dippy celebration event for Y5 families at the Great North Museum (those who have registered interest will receive confirmation of tickets by Wednesday).

