

**IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:**

- Please come along to your child's 'Explore the Curriculum' session this week (see below for a reminder of the date and time of each session).
- Pupils in Y4 **do not** need their string instruments on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.  
*Small group lessons will continue as normal.*
- Reception Class and Year 1 will have a *Muddy Monsters* forest school session in school on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Pupils will need to come to school in appropriate warm outdoor clothing and footwear, and should bring a full change of clothes and indoor shoes to change in to.
- Y3 will be enjoying an in-school session delivered by the Gateshead Library Service on Tuesday entitled, *My Voice Matters*. This session is free of charge.
- REMINDER – Please complete the following registration of interest if your child would like to be considered for a new multi-sport after-school club being run by *Buchanan's Football for All Ltd* starting after February half-term: <https://forms.office.com/e/5NZu6QBSAA>.

**SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS****EXPLORE THE CURRICULUM:**

Please come along to our 'Explore the Curriculum Sessions' this week. At the event, you will have the opportunity to review your child's learning with them and we will be telling you a little bit more about our Mathematics curriculum.

The sessions will be held at the following times:

CLASS	DATE
Reception	2:15pm Wed 7.2.24
Year 1	2:15pm Thursday 8.2.24
Year 2	2:15pm Tuesday 6.2.24
Year 3	9:15am Thursday 8.2.24
Year 4	9:15am Tuesday 6.2.24
Year 5	9:15am Friday 9.2.24
Year 6	2:15pm Monday 5.2.24

If you are unable to attend the session, you can contact the school office to arrange an alternative time to come in to school to look at your child's books with them.

**SCHOOL OFFICE UPDATE:**

Thank you for continuing to bear with us as we manage the school office during this interim period.

I am pleased to say that we have recruited two new personnel: new Senior Office Administrator (full-time) and new School Business Manager (part-time) who will be taking up post in due course.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:**

Thank you to all our St Mary's friends and family who attended and contributed to our recent coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. So far, we have managed to raise £210, but there is still time to donate on our JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/friends-of-st-marys-catholic-primary-school-macmillan-jan2024>.

#### SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to all the Year 1 pupils who took part in the multi-sports event at St Thomas More this week. The pupils had a fantastic time and represented the school brilliantly. A wonderful early taste of sporting action for our pupils with plenty more opportunities like this to come as they progress through school.

#### OUTDOOR LEARNING WITH 'MUDDY MONSTERS':

It was lovely to see our Y2 and 3 pupils taking their learning outdoors with a fun outdoor 'forest school' session with Phil from *Muddy Monsters* on Friday. Pupils regularly tell us that they love their outdoor learning sessions, so it was wonderful to see them exploring a range of open-ended activities and developing their creativity, problem solving and independence in our fantastic school grounds and having a whale of a time doing so! Reception class and Year 1 will be looking forward to their turn this week.

#### GATESHEAD DANCE FESTIVAL:

Parents/carers of pupils who attend the *Happy Feet* after-school club may now purchase tickets for the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival which will be held at the Glasshouse International Centre for Music (formerly Sage Gateshead).

**St Mary's pupils will be performing at the show on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 2-4pm ONLY.**

Tickets can be purchased here: <https://theglasshouseicm.org/whats-on/gateshead-schools-dance-festival-2024/>.

**Please note:** This is webpage through which parents/carers can purchase tickets directly for the event, so **do not forward or share this link.**

Please also be advised of the following:

- Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are strictly limited, so please act quickly to avoid disappointment.
- To maximise ticket availability for as many parents/carers as possible, organisers are stipulating a purchase limit of 2 tickets per child in the first instance. This is reflected by purchase limits in place on the Glasshouse International Centre for Music website.
- Tickets are priced at £8.00 (standard rate) and £5.50 (concessions – under 16s, 60+ and unwaged).
- E-tickets are now in place as standard for this event – e-tickets will be emailed directly to those making a purchase.