



SCHOOL UPDATES

COAST 2 COAST CHALLENGE 2017:

This week, 12 cycling superstars from Y5 – supported admirably by their parents, family members and teachers, have been completing their Coast to Coast ride, from Whitehaven to Tynemouth, raising money along the way for their chosen charity the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. The group have battled against the British 'Summer' to complete an amazing feat demonstrating incredible skill, determination and sheer enthusiasm with aplomb. At the time of writing, the group has raised £2198 – obliterating their original target of £500! Mr Colling, who has completed the ride with the group has been keeping us updated via the schools Twitter feed, and with a daily blog which can be enjoyed here: <http://www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk/c2c-2017>. We couldn't be more proud of each member of the team, and congratulate each one on being part of St Mary's history as the inaugural Coast to Coast pioneers! Special thanks also goes to Ben Tweedie ('Biking Ben') for preparing the group for the ride, and for instilling in the children (and adults) a love of cycling that I'm sure will stay with them throughout their lives.

There's still time to donate for our chosen charity

(<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whickhamstmarys>), so please be as generous as possible.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Please continue to pray for our Y4 pupils, who will be receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time at St Mary's RC Church on Saturday 17th June 2017, 10am. Please feel free to come along to join us in this wonderful celebration. Pupils are also encouraged to attend one of our parish Masses on Sunday 18th June, and are invited to wear their First Communion dress if they wish.

WORLD FAITH WEEK – ISLAM:

Next week, all pupils will be taking part in our World Faith Week, during which they will be learning about Islam. As a Rights-Respecting school, it is vital that our pupils learn about the rich-tapestry of our multi-cultural society, and pupils will engage in a range of learning opportunities about Muslim beliefs and customs.

YEAR 6 FIVER CHALLENGE:

Finally getting over the challenge of the end of Key Stage SATs, Year 6 have been turning their talents to a more entrepreneurial project this term; the class will be taking part in the 'Fiver Challenge', a project run by the charity 'Young Enterprise', in which all pupils are loaned £5 and challenged to make it grow! The pupils have been split into teams, and are taking part in weekly challenges focusing on areas such as brand identity, budget planning and innovation. The pupils will be taking part in our first ever 'St Mary's Marketplace' on 29th June, at which pupils and parents will be invited to buy the products/services etc dreamed-up by our young entrepreneurs. Money raised will be donated to a chosen charity, and more information will be sent out in coming weeks explaining how you can get involved in the project.

Further to this, Year 6 pupils and parents will also be running a cake stall each Friday evening after school between now and the end of term, raising funds towards their end of year festivities.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Please find enclosed a uniform list for September 2017 orders. The deadline for guaranteed delivery for September is July 7th. An optional addition of a St Mary's hoodie will be available for PE and sporting activities; pupils will be able to wear this year-round for outdoor PE sessions, and when representing the school.

SCHOOL BUS – SEPTEMBER 2017:

Due to the low uptake of the scholars' bus service in recent years, there will no longer be an evening school collection from September 2017. Please find attached a note regarding the change in service.

REMINDERS

NEW INTAKE:

Parents of pupils who will be starting in Reception class in September 2017 have now been informed if they have received a place at school. If there are any prospective parents, new to the area or seeking alternative school provision for their child, who would like to visit the school, or discuss places at St Mary's with Mr Wheatley (especially for Reception 2017), please contact the school office to make an appointment. Please spread the word to family or friends who may be interested in this.

A reminder that there will be new intake information sessions for Reception 2017 on Wednesday 14th June and for Duckpool Pre-school on Thursday 15th June, both starting at 5:30pm with a tour around each setting, and then a short presentation beginning at 6pm in the school hall.

SUMMER TERM CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS:

The Curriculum Overviews for each class will be available to download and view on the curriculum page of the school website (<http://www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk/curriculum.html>). On the overviews, you will see the curriculum content and extended learning opportunities that your child will cover/have this term.

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS:

As a school we are currently collecting Active Kids vouchers (available from Sainsbury's) in order to purchase sporting resources for school. If you – or someone you know – shops at Sainsbury's, we would be very grateful if you could collect and send the vouchers in to school; they will be greatly received, and will go towards continuing to provide excellent sporting opportunities for all at St Mary's. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSIC SHOWCASES:

Next week, there will be information sent home regarding tickets and other essentials (costumes etc) for the music showcases taking place on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th July.

YEAR 6 GIBSIDE TRANSITION DAY:

As we are sharing transport with another feeder school on the day, all Year 6 pupils going to St Thomas More in September must be in school at 8:30am on Friday 16th June for their transition day to Gibside. Pupils will need to be dressed appropriately for a day of outdoor activity (whatever the weather) and need to bring a packed lunch. We hope to return for approximately 4:30pm, but will keep parents informed of arrival times via our Twitter feed (available on the front page of our website) on the day.

Those pupils transitioning to another secondary school will still be in school as normal on the day.

THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 12/06/17

World Faith Week – Islam

TUESDAY - Year 4 1st Holy Communion Preparation Liturgy in school (for pupils and Catechists).

WEDNESDAY - Y4 and 6 Athletics (full PE kit needed).

Y5/6 Orienteering (pupils involved have already received a separate letter).

New intake evening for Reception 2017 (5:30 for 6pm).

THURSDAY - Y1 and 2 Forest School sessions.

Y4 Tennis at Blaydon Tennis Club (pupils involved have already received a separate letter).

New intake evening for Duckpool Pre-school 2017 (5:30 for 6pm).

FRIDAY - Y6 St Thomas More Transition Day at Gibside.

SATURDAY – 1st Holy Communions (10am, St Mary's RC Church – families to be seated for 9:45am).