



SCHOOL UPDATES

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

A wonderfully spiritual and moving celebration of the Eucharist was shared by all present last Saturday, as 30 of our young people received the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. A huge thank you must go to all who helped to prepare the children in any way for the celebration, in particular the families present, as well as Mrs McTernan and our parish Catechists, who have lead the sacramental preparation programme this year. We look forward to sharing in the continued active participation of these pupils in the Church, and extend a universal welcome to attend Mass at St Mary's RC Church at 9:30am every Sunday, and in so doing, continue to support each child on their own faith journey.

MUSIC SHOWCASE – TICKETS:

Thank you for returning your request slips for tickets to this year's Musical Showcase. As we have now received all orders, we will allocate tickets as per the pre-explained procedure next week. Following this, a note will go out to parents that tickets can be collected and paid for at the school office; we will also then put any spare tickets up for general sale.

A polite reminder: As with previous years, there is an expectation that all pupils will be involved in both shows (Tuesday 18th July, 2-4pm, and Wednesday 19th July, 4-6pm). In the event of an exceptional circumstance that would prevent your child from being involved in the performances, we would ask that parents/carers inform school as soon as possible, so that teachers may plan around this from the outset.

ST MARY'S MARKET:

On Thursday 29th June, pupils in Year 6 will be taking part in the inaugural St Mary's market – part of their 'Fiver Challenge' project. The market will be held from 3-3:30pm, and parents/grandparents are encouraged to bring along some cash to participate in the event; for your information, each of the 9 participating groups has produced a flyer to advertise what they will be selling on the day (attached), and funds raised will be donated to a charitable cause at the end of the project.

Year 6 parents will also be participating in the event with their weekly cake stall – please be generous – and pupils who need to leave at 3:15pm can of course do so.

Pupils attending after-school clubs may bring a small amount of money at parents'/carers' discretion to spend at the market (if supervised by an adult leading the club).

POETRY COMPETITION:

A huge well done to Alexa and Michael in Year 5 who competed this week in a cluster poetry competition held at St Philip's school. The pupils, who as part of the National Curriculum are called to learn various forms of verse off by heart, performed two chosen poems to a panel made up of teachers from competing schools as well as a local poet/author. Both pupils performed their chosen pieces incredibly well – so much so that Alexa was crowned overall champion for 2017! Well done to both pupils for their attitude and commitment to this project, and for representing the school so wonderfully!

DIOCESAN PRIMARY FESTIVAL:

This week, Year 6 spent a somewhat wet, but certainly inspiring, day of worship, reflection and retreat – along with other Year 6 pupils from across the Diocese – led by the Youth Ministry Team at the Emmaus Village in Consett. The pupils threw themselves in to the day, which focused on the theme: ‘Razed’; throughout the day, the congregation was challenged to consider the challenges we all face to do what’s right and just in our lives, and how to let God’s light be seen in what we do and say. A huge well done to the pupils, whose enjoyment, positivity and reflectiveness was inspirational for all present, for their participation in the day.

SPORTING UPDATES:

Well done to the pupils in Year 6 who represented the school admirably in the Final of the Bishop’s Cup – a diocesan-wide football competition. The team, who fought tooth and nail throughout a challenging finals night, came third overall – which is quite some achievement! We’d like to congratulate the team on what has been a successful season, and to wish them well as they progress on to their respective secondary schools, where they will hopefully continue in their sporting success.

Congratulations too to the Y4/5 Hi-5 Netball squad for their continued successes in the Gateshead league; the team currently sit in third place overall, and have one more night of fixtures before the end of the season.

200 CLUB:

Please see below the winners of the Friends of St. Mary’s 200 Club draw.

MAY 2017

| PRIZE | NUMBER | WINNER |
|-------|--------|------------|
| £50 | 139 | M Kebell |
| £25 | 31 | V. Dixon |
| £15 | 165 | K. Fawcett |
| £10 | 27 | S Crinnion |

REMINDERS

SUPERVISION BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL:

A polite reminder to parents/carers dropping off/picking up pupils before and at the end of the school day, that pupils must be kept under close supervision. We have received reports of a number of incidences in which pupils are putting themselves or others at risk (eg. pupils climbing fencing; pupils removing large sticks and logs from the Forest School area; pupils swinging on football posts). Whereas we enjoy and encourage the social aspect of ‘the yard’, and do not wish to ever ‘chase’ families away from school (!!), we would advise close supervision of children and regular reinforcement of what is/isn’t allowed on school grounds from parents/carers.

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.

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.

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

SPORTS DAY:

We will be celebrating our school Sports Day on Friday 7th July. Weather permitting(!), we will be beginning with KS2 (Years 3 -6) events at 9:15am until lunchtime, and KS1 events at 1:15 until around 2:30pm. As with previous years, we would like to invite friends and family (both KS1 and 2) to join us over lunch (from 12pm) for a family picnic on the school field. Throughout the day, our wonderful Friends of St Mary's group will be selling a range of refreshments for pupils and adults including fresh scones, strawberries and cream, tea/coffee and snacks for the kids. All proceeds will go to support learning and recreational opportunities for pupils in school.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S SUMMER PICNIC:

The Friends of St Mary's will be running our annual Summer family picnic on Monday 17th July from 3:15pm (straight after school). We look forward to seeing parents, grandparents, carers and children at our summer picnic again this year. There will be another Engineering Extravaganza and a 'Sweet Surprise' pop-up stall which will be selling a range of goodies, so all you need to bring is yourselves and a picnic. If you wish to attend the picnic, please complete the reply slip (attached last week) and return to school to give us a rough idea on numbers in preparation for the event. We look forward to seeing you all there. *For those children who normally attend after-school club on a Monday, Leanne and the team will be taking the children along to join in the fun.*

THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 26/06/17

WEDNESDAY –

Y6 Bus Induction Day (all pupils involved).

Y5 Hi 5 Netball at Kingsmeadow School (pupils involved have already received a letter with specific details about the event).

THURSDAY –

Whole School Mass (St Peter & St Paul).

Reception & Y1 visit to Theatre Royal 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' (pupils will be back before the end of the school day).

St Mary's Market (please bring along some money to support the project!).

FRIDAY –

Athletics Festival at Gateshead Stadium (pupils involved have already received a letter with specific details about the event).

