



SCHOOL UPDATES

MUSIC SHOWCASE – TICKETS:

Tickets for this year's musical showcases have now been allocated and are ready for payment and collection at the school office.

We're happy to report that we were able to give up to three tickets to everyone who returned their order form by the specified date.

We were also able to allocate all tickets requested for Tuesday's show.

Wednesday's tickets did sell out before all additional requests were catered for, however we do still have around 30 tickets for our first show (Tuesday 18th July, 2-4pm) for general sale for those wishing to purchase extras. These will be available on a first come, first served basis.

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 STRINGS AND DRUM CONCERT:

As part of our Creative Arts week this year, we will be hosting a free concert showcasing the talents of our peripatetic musicians (violin and guitar), our Y4 St Mary's Strings orchestra, and our Y3 Djembe drummers. An open invite is extended to all parents/carers, family and friends of the school to join us on Thursday 20th July, at 2pm, in the marquee (soon to be erected on the school field!). We look forward to seeing you there, and sharing our musical prowess with you all!

UPDATES REGARDING OPENING/CLOSING OF SCHOOL GATES:

After reviewing routines for opening and closing of school grounds, it has been decided that school gates will not be opened until 8:30am each morning (both at the side and rear of school). As such, parents/carers dropping off at the Small Saints breakfast club should be reminded to use the church car park at the rear of school. School gates will be opened at 3pm in the afternoon, and will be locked at 3:30pm. This is in part to prevent members of the public using school grounds as a thoroughfare, and to safeguard pupils attending after-school clubs. School gates will be opened for collection following after-school clubs by the Site Manager.

As requested in previous Bulletins, please could parents/carers ensure that pupils keep out of our Forest School area, and away from the Early Years 'mud kitchen' area on the school field, before and after school. 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 at all times and would like to remind you (and those who collect pupils after school) that from now on the Site Manager will be locking the gates slightly more promptly than you may have been used to in recent weeks. Thanks as ever for your continued support.

SPORTING UPDATES:

Well done to the Year 5 Hi-5 Netball squad who competed this week in their final league fixtures of the season. The team represented the school excellently over the past few weeks, and Mrs Joyce is incredibly impressed with how the team's skills have developed game on game

A huge good luck to all pupils representing St Mary's at the Gateshead Athletics festival tomorrow. We'll report on their success in next week's News Bulletin.

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.

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

LIFESAVING SESSION FOR YEAR 4:

Next week is National Water Safety Week. As such, Year 4 will be taking part in a lifesaving session during their usual lesson time on Friday 7th July. Along with their usual swimwear, pupils should bring a t-shirt and a pair of shorts to swim in. Pupils will also be asked – unless for medical reasons – to refrain from wearing swimming goggles.

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 : 03/07/17

TUESDAY – Rainbows trip to the Discovery Museum (pupils involved have already received a letter with details about the trip).

KS2 SATs results to be sent out to parents of pupils in Y6.

WEDNESDAY – KS1 'Outdoor and Adventurous' at Gibside (pupils involved have already received a letter with details about this activity).

THURSDAY – Y5 Forest School Session (am).

Y6 Forest School Session (pm).

FRIDAY – Sports Day.

Last Gymnastics session of the year.

