



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS FOR NEXT WEEK:

- School will be subject to a partial closure on 5.7.23 and 7.7.23 due to NEU strike action.
- Explore the Curriculum Exhibition dates have been updated. We look forward to seeing many of you in school over the coming weeks for these events.
- Staffing arrangements for academic year 2023/24 outlined below.
- Strings Concert – 2:15pm on 13.7.23.
- French Day – whole school non-uniform day 13.7.23.
- REMINDER: School will be closed to all pupils for Staff Inset on Monday 17th July.

SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

NEU INDUSTRIAL STRIKE ACTION:

The school will be subject to a partial closure on Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July. An email has been sent to all parents explaining the impact on their child's class. Please contact the school office as a matter of urgency if you have not received this communication.

EXPLORE THE CURRICULUM EXHIBITION:

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school next week for a celebration of the pupils' learning this year. The dates and times of our Explore the Curriculum Exhibition events are as follows:

| DATE/TIME | CLASS |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 4.7.23 9:10am | Year 3 |
| 4.7.23 2:30pm | Year 5 |
| 5.7.23 9:10am | Year 1 |
| 12.7.23 2:30pm* | Year 2 |
| 6.7.23 9:10am | Reception |
| 6.7.23 2:30pm | Year 4 |
| 18.7.23 2:30pm* | Year 6 |

* The start times of the re-arranged exhibitions are still 2:30pm; apologies for the error in the recent letter sent out regarding the NEU strikes.

Nb. It is ok for siblings who are due to be off school on 5.7.23 to attend the Year 1 Exhibition with their parent/carer if required.

STAFFING FOR 2023/24:

I am pleased to inform you that staffing arrangements are in place for the upcoming academic year. Pupils will spend a 'transition morning' in their new classes, with their new class teacher, on Wednesday 12th July.

We are delighted to have retained Miss Riddell who will continue teaching in Year 5 for the next academic year, as well as to welcome Miss Carolan who will be new to the school and teaching in Year 3 and Mrs Shenton who will be filling our vacant Teaching Assistant's position in Reception Class. We look forward to seeing these new members of our staff team in school very soon; we know that you will help to make them feel welcome.

Teaching staff for September 2023/24:

| CLASS | TEACHER |
|-----------|---------------|
| Reception | Mrs Joyce |
| Year 1 | Mrs Sanderson |
| Year 2 | Miss Millican |
| Year 3 | Miss Carolan |
| Year 4 | Mrs Ledger |
| Year 5 | Miss Riddell |
| Year 6 | Mr Colling |

STRINGS CONCERT:

Pupils in Year 4 and all pupils receiving small group violin tuition with Mrs Cuggy, will be putting on an end of year concert for family and friends at 2:15pm on Thursday 13th July – all welcome.

FRENCH DAY:

We will be celebrating our last day of the current academic year with Mrs Innerdale, our French teacher, by taking part in our annual French day: a celebration of our pupils' language learning this year.

On the day, pupils may come to school in their own clothes (optional 'French-inspired clothing').

Our Year 6 pupils will once again open the doors of 'Le Petit Café Sainte-Marie', serving a mid-morning snack to all pupils across school. Pupils will be encouraged (not compelled) to try some traditional French breakfast foods, and we will ensure that dietary requirements are catered for.

If you would like to discuss any of this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office.

SPORTS UPDATE 1:

Well done to our Years 3 and 4 athletes who represented the school on a fun night of friendly competition at St Thomas More's annual 'Quad Kids' event. The soggy weather didn't dampen our spirits, and the pupils ran, threw and jumped with great skill and determination – and had a great time taking part. The evening was made all the more special as some of our past pupils were also in attendance helping out St Thomas More staff with the organisation of the event; and a wonderful job they did too!

SPORTS UPDATE 2:

A truly remarkable season of sport came to a fitting climax on Friday with a hugely successful turnout at the Gateshead Schools Athletics Festival held annually at the Gateshead International Stadium.

From numerous qualifying events for Semi-Finals and Finals, our athletes eventually brought home two bronze medals in sprint events (Albie Duncan and Liam Wood) and gold in the girls' howler throw (Sienna Coakley-Clark) and Year 6 boys' 50m sprint (Harvey Fedyne). These amazing achievements were the icing on the cake from a day of wonderful attitude, commitment, team spirit, resilience and skill from our St Mary's squad, and we couldn't be any prouder of them all.

We will now enjoy a bit of a break from sporting competition but look forward to an equally successful 2023/24 campaign!

GATESHEAD #INSPIRE WINNERS – TEAM OF THE YEAR:

It is with great pride that we can also now announce that, as an acknowledgement of their success on a national stage, our school football team has been awarded the accolade of Gateshead Schools Sports Partnership #INSPIRE Team of the Year. Mr Colling, Mrs Joyce and the team will now attend the upcoming GSSP Awards evening to receive the award; another amazing memory for the showreel of what has been an unforgettable season.

CELEBRATE OUR NHS TURNING 75 AT SALTWELL JUNIOR PARKRUN:

We have been asked to share the following information about an upcoming event which may be of interest to you:

As part of the NHS75 celebration, the NHS are teaming up with Gateshead Junior Parkrun at Saltwell Park on Sunday 9 July at 9am.

If you would like to take part, you can sign up for parkrun is free by visiting <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register>.

The run starts at the bowling green in the park, and if you're new to Parkrun, it is advisable to turn up 10-15 minutes early to find out what to do.

More info about events across the region here: <https://blog.parkrun.com/uk/2023/02/02/parkrun-for-the-nhs-celebrating-the-nhss-75th-anniversary/>

REMINDER – INSET DAY:

Please be reminded that school will be closed to pupils on Monday 17th July 2023 for Staff Inset. This is the only remaining Inset day planned for the current academic year.

REMINDER – TERM DATES 2023-24:

Term dates can be found on the school website: [Term Dates - St Mary's Catholic Primary School \(whickhamstmarys.org.uk\)](http://whickhamstmarys.org.uk).

Please see below the dates for next academic year – including 4 out of 5 Inset days planned for the year (1 further Inset date will be communicated in the new year).

| | START | END | HALF-TERM |
|--------|---|--|-------------------|
| AUTUMN | 4.9.23 (first day for pupils 5.9.23) | 22.12.23 | 23.10.23-27.10.23 |
| INSET | 4.9.23 | | |
| SPRING | 8.1.24 (pupils return on 9.1.24) | 28.3.24 | 12.2.24-16.2.24 |
| INSET | 8.1.24 | | |
| SUMMER | 15.4.24 | 23.7.24 (last day for pupils 19.7.24) | 27.5.24-31.5.23 |
| INSET | 22.7.24, 23.7.24 | | |

REMINDER – VACANCY AT DUCKPOOL PRE-SCHOOL:

The Directors of Duckpool Pre-school are currently seeking to recruit a suitable replacement for Mrs Solomon. Full details of the vacancy can be found here: [Pre-School Deputy Manager - Duckpool Pre-School CIC - North East Jobs](#).

For an informal discussion on this exciting opportunity please feel free to contact Duckpool Pre-school Manager, Jacqueline Sordy on 0191 4881137

Interviews will be held week commencing 10th July 2023.

