



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Please could all parents/carers read the enclosed **staffing update** from Mr Wheatley.
- Please be reminded that we have the following assessment activities going on in school this week:
 - Y1 Phonics Screening
 - Y4 Multiplication Tables Check
 - Y6 NGRT Reading Assessments (for pupils moving to St Thomas More Catholic School)
- Please could all parents/carers read the enclosed event notes regarding our Sports Day and share with all who will be in attendance.
- We have a number of sporting events taking place this week:
 - Monday – Hoopstarz sessions for all pupils.
 - Tuesday – Sports Day.
 - Wednesday – ‘Wheelie Wednesday’ for Reception and KS1 pupils; pupils invited to bring their bike/scooter into school for some playground sessions (pupils must bring their own helmet and be able to put it on/take it off themselves).

Pupils only need to be in PE kit on Tuesday and their usual PE days.

- The Scholastic Book Fair will continue on Monday and Tuesday next week.
 - Please continue to pray for our Year 4 pupils who will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time in a parish celebration on Friday 13th June.
 - There are spaces in both Gymnastics sessions for our after-school club on Fridays. Please contact the school office for more information, or contact Georgia directly on 07896577832.
 - The Parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri *Gift for Life Summer Social* takes place from 2pm on Sunday 22nd June at St Mary’s Church Hall (and, weather permitting, the parish walled garden). There will be something for all ages - expect tea, cakes, scones, crafts, stalls, raffle, activities for the kids – including face painting, quizzes and a chance to chat!
There are sign-up sheets at the back of each of our parish churches and the group are keen to hear from anyone who may be able to volunteer their time to help out (giftforlife20@gmail.com). They would also welcome any donations of raffle prizes (including bottles) which can be taken to church or handed in to the school office.
 - There is a great opportunity for families to take part in the Saltwell Park *Park Run* on Sunday 22nd June. Please read the attached letter for more information.
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SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

STAFFING UPDATE:

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to share a staffing update for the coming academic year as well as news of transition activities that will be taking place before the end of term to help our pupils as they prepare to join their new classes.

Firstly, I am delighted to say that we have successfully recruited a new class teacher to join us in September. Mrs Rachel Smith will be bringing a wealth of teaching and leadership experience as our new Reception Class teacher. A former pupil and current parent of the school, she will be taking on the baton from Mrs Joyce, who will continue to oversee the Early Years, as she moves in to a new teaching role in Key Stage 1. We are really excited for Mrs Smith to join our staff team and know that she cannot wait to embark on this new chapter in her career.

With Mrs Smith's arrival, Mr Cockling, who has worked with us over the past four terms will be moving on to new adventures; we thank him for his hard work, commitment and friendship, and wish him every joy and success for the future.

With the outlined changes taking place, class teachers for the start of the Autumn Term will be as follows:

- Reception Class – Mrs Rachel Smith
- Year 1 – Mrs Nicola Sanderson
- Year 2 – Mrs Claire Joyce
- Year 3 – Miss Leigh-Anne Millican
- Year 4 – Miss Bethany Beadling
- Year 5 – Miss Lindsay Riddell
- Year 6 – Mr Michael Colling

We will be having a transition day for all pupils on Friday 4th July, during which they will spend time with their new class teacher, in their new classroom, laying the foundations for their new start in September. As well as being privileged enough to retain Miss Millican as their class teacher for the next academic year, our current Year 2 class will also benefit from moving into a newly refurbished KS2 classroom in September as part of an ongoing accessibility development project at school.

To support transition further, teachers will be taking responsibility for teaching a preparatory History unit to their new classes over the course of this half term as part of the school's move to a new humanities curriculum which will be rolled out from the start of the new academic year (more on this to follow in coming weeks). This will allow teachers to get to know pupils and establish new classroom routines in a more meaningful way to help pupils and teachers to really 'hit the ground running' in September.

There will be several opportunities over the coming weeks for you to come in to school and I know that the teaching staff will be available and keen to engage with you regarding your child's positive transition into their new class. I also look forward to being part of this conversation and to sharing in the joys of this time with you and your family.

Yours in Faithful Optimism,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

SPORTS DAY:

We are really looking forward to welcoming parents/carers, friends and family to our upcoming school Sports Day on Tuesday 10th June.

Arrangements for the day will be as follows:

- The Gateshead School Sports Partnership team will be helping to lead our Sports Day. The event aims to be a positive, inclusive event in which all pupils will take part in a friendly competition.
- For the day, pupils across school will be split into four 'houses' and will earn points for their team by taking part in a range of track and field events.
- On the day, pupils are asked to come into school as normal **in their full PE kit**. Pupils must have a filled water bottle in school.
- In the event of sunny weather, parents should apply suncream in advance of the school day and pupils should have a cap/sun hat as they will remain outside for the duration of the morning/afternoon session.
- KS2 events will be held in the morning – starting at approximately 9:30am and ending at around 12pm. Spectators can access the site from around 9:15am
- KS1 events will be held in the afternoon – starting at approximately 1:30pm and finishing at around 3pm. Spectators can access the site for the afternoon session from around 1:15pm.
- Friends and family are welcome to come and watch the events and help to provide a positive and supportive environment for all our competitors.
- **All pupils must remain in school for the duration of the school day and pupils will be dismissed as normal at 3:20pm** (this is a change in format from previous years).
- Lunch provision will be normal for all pupils.
- All spectators must leave the site between the morning and afternoon events.

Nb. In the event of adverse weather, a decision to postpone will be communicated via email at the earliest possible opportunity.

IMPORTANT – SPORTS DAY SCHOOL ACCESS AND PARKING:

School can be accessed via either the Duckpool Lane or Dockendale Lane entrances for each session.

Gates will remain open (and supervised) during the events.

Gates will be closed during the lunch break (12pm-1:15pm) and all spectators must leave the site during this time.

Please leave your car at home (where possible) to avoid unnecessary parking or access issues. We would recommend using the pay and display car park behind the arcade of shops in the centre of Whickham village if required.

Please do not double park or block access for neighbours of the school. Cars doing so will be asked to move and this may will cause disruption and delay to the event. Thank you.

SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to our school football team who bowed out of the Bishop's Cup competition with a valiant effort against All Saints and St Bede's Primary Schools on Tuesday and our girls' football team who finished their season with a long-awaited victory in the final round of play in the Blaydon and District League competition.

The teams have enjoyed fantastic seasons consistently demonstrating the values that we hold dear at St Mary's: determination, resilience, teamwork, respect and fair play. Well done to each member of the squads for the part they have played in thoroughly enjoyable seasons.

Well done, too, to our Y3 and 4 'Quad Kids' athletes who took part in a competition at Kingsmeadow School this week. The children demonstrated some individual and collective displays of sporting excellence and supported each other wonderfully showing a healthy competitive spirit no matter the outcome.