



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 9th March

U11A & B Netball Training with Lauder PS (H) 1:40pm

U11 Squad Football 1:40pm

Tuesday 10th March

SMT meeting 8:30am

Parent/child "See Me" afternoon in Kindergarten 2:00pm-3:00pm

Wednesday 11th March

1st XV Rugby v Earlston HS (H) 2:30pm

U11 Rugby v Clifton Hall (A) 2:30pm

U10 Rugby v Clifton Hall (A) 2:30pm

Junior Squad Football 2:15pm

1st Netball Triangular with Fettes & Craigclowan (A) at Fettes **2:00pm**
2nd Netball v Fettes (A) 2:00pm

Wednesday 11th March (cont'd)

U11A Netball Triangular with Fettes and Craigclowan (H) 2:15pm

U11B Netball Triangular v Fettes U11B and St. Mary's U10 (H) 3:00pm

U10 Netball **Triangular v Fettes U11B & St. Mary's U11B (H) 3:00pm**

U9 Netball v Fettes (H) 2:15pm

Thursday 12th March

Parents Evening Form 8 - 5:10pm

Friday 13th March

Full rehearsal 'The Keymaster' Forms 6, 7 & 8

Saturday 14th March

U13 & U11A Hockey Tournament at Kilgraston depart St. Mary's at 07.30am

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

For many pupils and one or two staff, the last fortnight will have blended into one. The reason for this is that we had Mr Purvis and Mrs Bell's hockey team playing in the P7 hockey tournament at George Watson's College last Saturday, and 36 runners representing St. Mary's at the IAPS Cross Country Championship at John Muir Country Park last Sunday. Pupil commitment to both these events was outstanding, and though tired on Monday morning, St. Mary's participants can be hugely proud of how they represented the school over the weekend. Please see reports on individual and team performances on the website, but a special mention goes to the U14 Girls' cross-country team for winning the U14 trophy.

It was a pleasure welcoming senior pupils from Melrose Primary School to take part in our games sessions on Monday afternoon, and well done to the staff for offering their specialist coaching to larger games groups than normal.

Monday evening brought about the Forms 5, 6 and 7 Form Tutor meetings with parents, and we hope the Form Tutors' input on how your children are doing proved informative and constructive.

Tuesday evening proved a busy evening at St. Mary's too, with Forms 3 and 4 Form Teacher/parent meetings and the Order of St. John's Fashion Show which, for those of you who attended, included Mr Brown and Angus as two of the models (I was too busy to take part!).



Wednesday proved a busy fixtures day, with a mixed bag of results and Dandy Lion netball trials. Congratulations to those girls selected.

World Book Day took place on Thursday, and many of you will have been under pressure from your children as they selected books from our travelling book shop, located in the Sanderson Building. Following Miss Renwick and Miss Simpson's request for art work depicting pupils' favourite book characters, I am pleased to see a procession of wonderful drawings heading in their direction to mark the occasion.

Dr Morgan and Mr Brown headed off to Merchiston to enter a team in the P5 Maths Fun Day. We are very pleased to see that of the eight teams included in this tournament from the prep school world, St. Mary's has finished in the highest position. Dr Morgan has included a more detailed report later in the .mail. Thursday evening saw the conclusion of Forms 3 and 4 Form Teacher meetings with parents, which I believe have gone very well.

This morning, Mr David Knapman, Rector of Dollar Academy, and his wife Brigitte visited and held an Assembly with the school. Mr Knapman discussed the importance of trust in his Assembly, and relayed the tale of his currant cake eating exploits as a small boy. We were hugely grateful to Mr and Mrs Knapman for continuing with their visit after Assembly and meeting with parents, staff and pupils, before being given a guided tour of the school by one of Dollar's most distinguished FPs, Mrs Fiona Bell!

This afternoon I have had the privilege of welcoming the first six girls ever to attend St. Mary's back to the school, approximately 40 years on from their start date. They are: Julie Hogg, Jacqui Campbell (Sharp), Julie Fairington (Evans), Louise Hickey (Scott), Henrietta Gimlette (Smyly) and Ann Wright (Amos).

I expect they will recognise a few changes around the place, but hopefully the strength of ethos remains the same. They will dine with other FPs at the Townhouse on Saturday evening to complete their trip down memory lane.

Later on in this newsletter you will see two photographs of the same coin presented to the school by Althea Dundas-Bekker of Arniston House. The timing of this gift to the school could not be better, as Form 5 are currently studying Scottish Wars of Independence Part 1, which involved the ferocious Edward I of England. The coin found at Arniston is 800 years old, and on closer inspection depicts Edward I in the centre. Thank you to Mrs Dundas-Bekker for helping bring this time to life with such an appropriate gift.

Finally, congratulations go to a number of pupils for their successful scholarship attempts. Results known so far:

Cameron L – Academic Scholarship to Loretto

Ellen C – Academic Exhibition Award and Sports Scholarship to Loretto

Sophie M – Sports Scholarships to Loretto and Fettes

Charlotte J – All Rounder Scholarship to Strathallan

Sasha N – Sports Scholarship to Kilgraston

Georgina Pringle – Sports Scholarship to Oundle and a pass of Phase 1 of the Academic Scholarship process to Oundle.

Georgie N – Sports Scholarship to Queen Margaret's, York

Naomi M – Academic Scholarship to Sedbergh

MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

The Keymaster

1. Tickets are still available from the school office. Those already ordered will be on their way imminently! Our Wednesday evening performance will support Columba 1400, a most worthy cause. Your support will be greatly appreciated.
2. **Costumes.** I would be most grateful if you could ensure that all costume items, as per letter last Friday, are in school by *Monday, March 9th*.
3. Please find arrangements for show week in brown envelopes today. If you have any queries please do drop in to see me or contact me on kmcrae@stmarysmelrose.org.uk

Miss McRae



800 years old Edward 1st coin found at Arniston House.

MATHS FUN DAY AT MERCHISTON

Oliver, Isla, Antony, Rowan and Iona from Form 5 along with Maria and Eliza from Form 4 competed in the Merchiston Maths Day on Thursday. I'm pleased to report that both our teams got stuck into all the challenges of the day and in the final results we came 8th and 11th out of 31 teams.



I'm also proud to report that the positive team working adopted by our pupils was commented on by several of the other staff helpers at the event – very well done everyone!

To give you a flavour of how tricky some of the challenges were, here is one of the opening puzzles:

“Twice four and twenty blackbirds are sitting in a field. If one seventh are shot, how many will be left in the field?” (answers on a postcard to Dr Morgan)

Dr Morgan and Mr Brown

FORM 5

Congratulations to Jessica who topped the leader board in our class **Sumdog** competition this week. There were some fabulous scores and a great effort from everyone. Keep practising – remember, your house unveiling is only a few days away!

Please remember to access the **Spelling City** website where you will find lists of your spelling words. There are a number of games and activities to help you. Spelling practice should be done every day in order to help you to learn the rules and specific words.

Miss Wight

NATIONAL SCHOOLS' EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION – ARENA EVENT

At Ian Stark's Equestrian Centre, Kelso, Saturday 7th March

The very best of luck to Sasha N and Ellen C who are representing St. Mary's at the above event.

Mr Purvis
SQUAD NETBALL



Winning Squad were Home who won all their games. In second place were Scott and third equal place were Douglas and Percy. High standard of netball was played and well done all.

Mrs F K Bell and Mr I Purvis

WORLD BOOK DAY IN PRE-PREP

To celebrate World Book Day we welcomed Norman Given to St Mary's. He read *The Gruffalo's Child* by Julia Donaldson and told some other exciting stories. The children really enjoyed listening to his entertaining way of storytelling.

Thank you to all the children in pre-prep who entered the 'design your favourite character from a book' competition. We look forward to finding out who has been successful.



Mrs Currie, Miss Renwick and Mrs Fresle

MISSING

Green shorts – Georgia L

FOR SALE



Astro Hockey boots – Size 4

Bought for £30 – will sell for £25. Never worn as too small.

If interested, please see Mrs Bell.

SCHOOL SHOP

Thinking ahead – please bring any outgrown cricket kit, shirts, jumpers, long/shorts, shoes (especially shorts – these are no longer manufactured). Please text Lorna on 07976 292509 if you would like to have a look in the school shop.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

Dates for your diary:

Friday 13th March: Mr Harvey has agreed to let pupils wear red clothing and a red nose on Friday. They must pay £1 for this privilege. No face paints or masks please.



18th March: after the matinee performance of The Keymaster, Cake Sale in the Sanderson Building. All contributions of cakes, buns, jams, sweets etc etc will be most welcome!

23rd April: pot luck lunch at Torwoodlee: Please come!

1st May: Mr Morris's last quiz (in aid of Columba 1400); tickets will shortly be available from the office, £10 per person to include supper.