



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 7th September

Syllabus Evening - Forms 6-8; 5:15pm

Tuesday 8th September

SMT 8:30am

Tour of Britain Cycle Race - **Pre-Prep finish at 4pm**

Syllabus Evening - F1/F2; 6:00pm

Wednesday 9th September

1st XV Rugby v Merchiston (A) 2:30pm

U11A Rugby Festival @ Merchiston 2:00pm

U9A Rugby training Merchiston (H) 2:30pm

U9B Rugby training Merchiston (H) 2:30pm

Wednesday 9th September (cont'd)

1st Hockey v Loretto (H) 2:45pm

2nd Hockey v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

U11 Hockey v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

U10 Hockey v Loretto (H) 2:45pm

U9/8 Hockey training Loretto (H) 2:00pm

Thursday 10th September

Friday 11th September

1st XV Rugby v Fettes(H) 1:40pm

An evening with Elizabeth 1st, 7:00pm

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Welcome back! With 22 new starters in the Prep and Pre-Prep, there was a buzz of anticipation around the place on Monday morning. Pupils new and current arrived looking smart, well-rested and raring to go. Form Tutors were delighted with how the essential form time went, before our first Assembly of the academic year. I asked the school to join me in welcoming Mrs Mwara Stuart, Head of Science; Mrs Jo Scott Aiton, Form 4 Teacher; Miss Irene Pariente, Classroom Assistant and Mr Rowan Williams, Graduate Assistant/Lab Technician. We are delighted to welcome all four members of staff who have already added a great deal to the staff common room.

It has become a tradition for me to remind pupils of the need to be kind and considerate, whilst working hard at all they do and remembering their manners. Form 8 have already set a very good tone throughout a busy week, during which all pupils settled into their new timetable.

This morning's Assembly involved an elaborate draw for Squad Singing songs. As ever, excitement levels rose as pupils drew squad song choices which were as follows: Douglas

“Islands in the Stream”, Home “Pretty Woman”, Scott “I will Survive” and Percy “Take A Chance On Me”. I reminded the assembled of the need to remain calm and composed as the competitive temperature rises in the lead-up to the competition. I asked the pupils to make sure the staff followed this advice!

On Wednesday 9th September, Queen Elizabeth II becomes Britain’s longest reigning monarch, and to celebrate, she is coming to officially open the new Borders railway line. It would appear that only primary and secondary schools in towns along the route have been included in plans to welcome the Queen and her accompanying dignitaries. We are working on being part of the very special day for the Scottish Borders, but given the security implications, this is not proving straightforward. All the same, it is an exciting day for the school, and for the Borders community as a whole.

Finally, I have some exciting news with which to finish off the week. Mrs Sarah Fresle is expecting her first baby, and aims to begin her maternity leave next term. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Mr and Mrs Fresle on their exciting news. Enjoy a restful weekend.

HM

SAFETY IN THE CAR PARK

Please ensure designated walkways are used; children should never cross the car park area. Bicycles and scooters must not be ridden across the school car park.

SCHOOL COATS

We have had a delivery of the new school coats and more are due at the end of September. The delayed arrival of the new stock is with Kukri - children may wear their old green coats until the new ones arrive. Apologies for the delay – we will notify you as soon as the new coats arrive.

TOUR OF BRITAIN

Next Tuesday the Tour of Britain passes through Melrose at roughly 2:57pm. We will be supporting this event from 2:45pm – 3:15pm. To that end and because of road closures, Pre-Prep pick up will be 4:00pm

REMINDER

Late room pick up is at **3.55pm** BEFORE picking up elder siblings. Late room will be in Kindergarten every day.

SMT

BOARDING

Could parents please let the school office know if they want to book a boarding package for their children.

If confirmation is not sent, a charge of £25 per night will be assumed.

Mr Mill

FORM 6 – MERCHISTON SCIENCE DAY

Form 6 have been invited to attend the Merchiston Science Day on Thursday, 8th October 2015. Dr Morgan and I will be taking all Form 6 pupils to this event. We will leave sharp at 8.30 am and will return by lunchtime.

Miss McRae

POLITE NOTICE

May we remind you that children should not climb on or over the roof of the play house in the Pre-Prep park.

Many thanks for you co-operation.

SMT

MISSING KIT

Flynn – missing tracksuit top (at the end of the summer term)

Adam L – missing school coat which went missing at the end of last term. It is clearly named and is not at school. Please could parents check at home.

Skort – named Salvesen/Nisbet but belongs to Eugenia

Sophie E shorts – named

MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Middle School Production

Advance notice that rehearsals for the Middle School production will take place after the mid-term break on a **Tuesday afternoon between 4.15 and 5.30pm**. While all pupils will be involved in the production, they will not always be needed for rehearsals. A rehearsal schedule will be published ahead of the mid-term break for your information. If you have any queries, please do drop in to see me or contact me on kmcrae@stmarysmelrose.org.uk

Responsible Use of ICT

All pupils will have a responsible use of ICT form in their brown envelope this week. The full document will be attached to today's mail and is also available on the Parent Zone of the

school website. I would be most grateful if parents could discuss this document with their children and countersign the sheet in the brown envelope. This should be returned to form tutors **no later than Friday, September 11th**. In the case of very young children, parents may sign on their behalf. This will also be a focus in ICT lessons over the coming weeks. Many thanks for your support.

Code Club

There will be no Code Club this term. We hope to be able to offer this again in the future so please do watch this space!

Instrumental lessons

Lessons begin week commencing Monday, September 7th. Tutors will contact you individually regarding billing. Please note that this year we will be offering some tuition in partnership with Merlin Music, Melrose, in the first instance for woodwind. All lessons will however take place at St. Mary's and timetables will be overseen by Miss McRae.

Clic Sargent Nativity Play

I am planning to take members of the Junior Choir to perform at the Clic Sargent Nativity on Tuesday, December 9th at Greenend Farm, St Boswells. Please save the date in your diary!

Ms McRae

KINDERGARTEN

Lots of smiles in Kindergarten



Mrs Berni

ANY ONE INTERESTED IN CYCLING

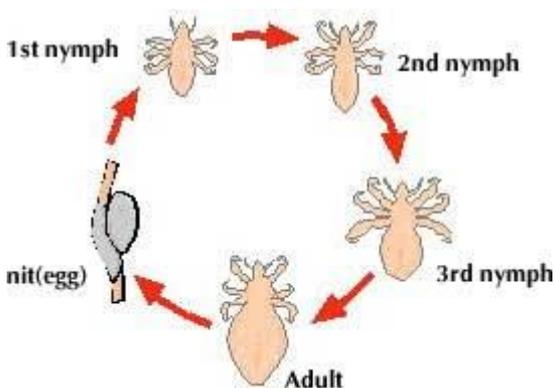
Scottish Borders Annual Schools XC Racing

This year' Inter School Borders MTB Race is being held at Bowhill, near Selkirk on the Saturday 26th September.

For all regular racers this is a chance to try out a new course and for all those that haven't raced it is a chance to take part in a grass roots type event with prizes for the first 3 boys and girls in each age group (school year P3 and above). Entry to the race is £3.50 and it also gets you and the rider and any support crew (family) access to Bowhill Estate (and the adventure playground) so you could have a really cheap family day out.

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/136306/Scottish-Borders-Annual-Schools-XC-race>

HEAD LICE



We have a couple of cases in the Middle School.

Please could all parents check their children's hair for head lice. Head lice are a perennial problem in schools and regular combing through with a "nitty gritty" comb and shampooing is the only way to deal with them.

Thank you
SMT

BANG GOES THE BORDERS – SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2015

The poster features a dark blue background with various scientific and technological icons. At the top left, it says 'f /BangGoesTheBorders'. Below that, it reads 'Over 30 HANDS-ON activities and workshops'. The main title 'BANG GOES THE BORDERS' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the title, it says 'SCIENCE @ ST MARY'S' and 'www.bgtb.org'. At the bottom, it says 'Saturday September 19th' and '10am - 4pm St. Mary's School, Melrose'. On the right side, there is a logo for 'Rathbones' and 'HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY'. The text 'We're EXPLORING with possibilities!' is written in a stylized font. The poster also features a hand holding a smartphone, a jellyfish, and a flower.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

AGM - 8.30 a.m. Wednesday, 9th September

The AGM will take place next Wednesday at 8.30 a.m. in the dining room. All new and current parents are invited to join the Friends' committee or simply to attend the meeting and find out more about our fundraising and upcoming events. Coffee will be provided.

An Evening with Elizabeth I - 7 p.m. Friday, 11th September

Elizabethan Historian Lesley Smith returns to St Mary's for an evening of pure entertainment as Elizabeth I. Following Ms. Smith's previous visit in a hilarious portrayal of Mary Queen of Scots, entwining history and comedy, this promises to be another social evening of fact and fun. Tickets are available from Julie in the school office - £12 to include wine and nibbles. Please come and support the event.

OPERATION CALAIS APPEAL

Mrs Mulholland and her children are helping out on the Operation Calais appeal which involves sending aid to refugees. They have made up small drawstring shoulder bags filled with various items that will help refugees. There is a horse box leaving from Peebles at the end of next week and they are looking for it to be full before making the trip. Mrs Mulholland is collecting any made up bags or any items people wish to donate from the list below. She is willing to travel to collect items or people can hand them to her at the school by 4pm next Thursday.

The list below, is mainly camping equipment, and the drawstring bags include a pair of gloves, pair of socks, pair of old shoes, toothbrush and toothpaste, bar of soap, face cloth, hairbrush, plasters, Paracetamol, note pad and pen, picture dictionary and a toy if for child. Anything will be gratefully received. Each bag will go direct to a refugee.

Other equipment needed.... there is no room left for clothes!

Mens socks and underwear

Tents (always make room for a tent)

Sleeping bags and blankets

Small to Medium mens waterproof trousers.

Wind up torches and candles

Medical supplies such as bandages, plasters, over the counter medicines (Paracetamol/ Ibuprofen)

Tarpaulins/ ground sheets and rope (used to build shelter)

Fold down water carriers

Cooking pots and utensils

Tin openers.

(Basically what you would need if you were wild camping in winter)

Saturday, September 19th from 10am to 4 pm

****Information and How to Volunteer****



If you've spotted the posters around school, you will know that "Bang Goes the Borders" Science Day will soon be upon us. There will be a poster in your child's brown envelope – please feel free to ask for more if you have ideas on where they could be displayed. For those of you unfamiliar with BGTB, it is a free, open-to-the-public science festival held at St Mary's School. This will be our fifth year and we hope to match last year's audience of around 1200 visitors. We hope many of you will join us with your children on Saturday, September 19th from 10am to 4 pm.

The programme for 2015 is a mix of firm favourites such as Zoolab and Sedburgh Explosions, with a batch of new scientists from schools and universities all over the UK demonstrating app design, seashore life and cool physics. If you've ever wanted to understand the science behind chocolate, play with supercomputers or solve a crime scene with DNA, then BGTB won't disappoint. Most experiments and demonstrations are geared towards children aged 5-13 years old, though adults find the day highly entertaining as well. Mr. Sinclair (aka Chef) will be running a Science Cafe all day in the school cafeteria, although there will be no biological experiments in the kitchen!!

Please tell all your friends about the event and encourage them to come along - we have a Facebook page which will be carrying details of the workshops over the next fortnight. As has now become traditional, we will be distributing 500 free goodie bags full of science themed gifts and this year we've got a fantastic treasure chest of bugs, pens, science cards and other souvenirs to share out. First come, first served.

In order to make this event a success, we have always relied heavily on volunteers from the school community - teachers as well as parents. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible to stay for half a day or more - to help at the information desk, in classrooms, to act as tea lady/man, set up, tidying up, and to deal with general questions and running about on the day. Our aim is to timetable volunteers so that they can spend some of the day watching demonstrations too.

We would be most grateful if you could please contact Rebecca Fraser on raecleugh@btinternet.com over the next few days if you are able to help on Saturday 19th September at any time between 8am and 6pm.

Many thanks,

The BGTB Team - Sara Shinton, Mwara Stuart, Kirsty McRae, Wendy Salvesen, Rebecca Fraser
www.facebook.com/BangGoesTheBorders www.bgtb.org