



**FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

SMT Meeting 8:30am

Full Cast Rehearsal Middle School,  
'Porridge' - 4:00-5:30pm

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

**U13A Football v Longridge (H) 2:00pm**

**U13B Football v Longridge (H) 2:00pm**

U11A Football v Clifton Hall (A) 2.30pm

U11B Football v Clifton Hall (A) 2.30pm

U9A Rugby v Cargilfield (A) 2:30pm

U9B Rugby v Cargilfield (A) 2:30pm

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January (cont'd)**

1st Netball v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

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

U11A Netball v Loretto (H) 2:15pm

U11B Netball v Loretto (H) 2:15pm

U10 Netball v Loretto (H) 3:00pm

U9/8 Netball v Loretto (H) 3:00pm

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

Code Club for Forms 4 and 5, 4:00-5:00pm

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

**NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER**

As we concluded last term, your generosity at the Carol Service raised £600 for Sense Scotland, a charity working with people who have communication support needs. On behalf of the Charity, can I thank you for your donations.

During a very wet Christmas holiday, Mr Bell was grateful to Crop Services, who lent him some extremely powerful pressure hoses with which to clean the tennis courts. Mr Bell and Mr Mill spent three days slowly but surely cleaning from the east side to the west side of the all-weather area. The amount of dirt removed by the pressure hoses was quite staggering and huge thanks go to Crop Services, Mr Bell and Mr Mill for making this play area much safer, and your children's training shoes will grip the now clean surface much more efficiently.

Last weekend, we welcomed the arrival of Emily Reynolds and Matthew Jones, this year's GAP students from All Saints Anglican School on the Gold Coast. We have been very impressed by how Emily and Matt have picked up from where Bocky and Callum left off.

Despite the contrast in weather from the temperatures they left behind, the two have been very busy and are enjoying getting to know their new surroundings. As a staff, we welcomed them to St. Mary's on Monday and during the day, staff prepared for the term ahead with some useful inset provided by Middle School Curriculum Co-ordinator Mrs Runciman, on formative assessment. Though we work very closely as a staff, the opportunity to share good practice, often proves invaluable and my thanks go to Mrs Runciman for her informative presentation.

Mrs Kirkness embarked upon her temporary role as Form 2 teacher and her vast experience has led to the smooth transition for the pupils, whilst Mrs Fresle still awaits the arrival of her baby. Mrs Wright has assumed full control of Form 3, a position in which her experience will also provide a seamless transition from the role she was previously sharing with Mrs Kirkness.

This morning I belatedly handed out Sumdog Top 10 Place certificates to Maria, Mhairi and Lara, and the winning class certificate to a proud Form Teacher Mr Mill. I then spoke of the focus on two productions this term, and acknowledged that, whether pupils feel comfortable on stage or not, they all have a very important role to play, no matter how big or small their roles may be. I recounted tales from former pupils of Eyemouth Primary School who spoke very fondly of their school performance memories recorded by cine camera in the 60s and early 70s. These people were featured in a programme aired on national television earlier this week about fond memories.

Though it has been a 4 day week, your children may justifiably appear tired. This I put down to early starts in dark mornings, but also hard work whilst adjusting once again to the busy school routine. Well done them.

Have a good weekend.

#### **NEWS FROM THE BOARDING HOUSE**

Due to boarding becoming more and more popular, could parents please ensure their child is booked in to board a couple of days before, as bed space is very limited. If your child is boarding and needs medicine to be administered, please could you make sure a medical sheet is completed. All children must have slippers and dressing gowns.

Many thanks  
Mr R E Mill

#### **MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL REHEARSAL CHANGE** – please note that the rehearsal on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January will begin at *3pm and finish at 4.30pm*. Pick up will be from the Sanderson building at 4.30pm.

## Porridge Props

We are looking for the following items for our production. If you can help, please email me on [kmcrae@stmarysmelrose.org.uk](mailto:kmcrae@stmarysmelrose.org.uk) or drop in to see me.

- 2 pairs of rollerskates or rollerboots (size 4)
- 1 canvas satchel
- 6 toy plastic axes

Code Club resumes on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January from 4-5pm. Pupils in Forms 4 and 5 are welcome. Please let Ms Birdsall know if your son/daughter would like to attend.

Miss McRae

## **FRENCH TRIP JUNE 2016**

### REMINDER

A gentle reminder, that the final payment of £300 for the Dinard visit was due before Christmas. Many thanks to all who have completed their payments. Any outstanding payments should be made to the St. Mary's School account please.

Merci beaucoup!

Madame Syme

**New Year - New Challenge!**



The British Council reported recently that learning the basics of another language is both realistic and attainable and that while not everyone will become a fluent linguist, the aspiration for EVERYONE to have 1000 words in another language is perfectly achievable.

To this end the British Council is encouraging people to take the 1000 word challenge through the following website:

[www.speaktothefuture.org/1000-words-challenge](http://www.speaktothefuture.org/1000-words-challenge)

This could be an interesting New Year Challenge for pupils and parents alike. The Speak to the Future's Campaign Director stated that they are not expecting fluency, but if everyone were capable of 1000 words in a new language, social attitudes and economic prospects would be significantly enhanced: young people would be better prepared for the challenges of globalisation and our cultural and intellectual levels would be raised.

Madame Syme and Madame Hutchison have both registered through this link and started to try out their own 1000 word challenges. Please encourage your children to have a go. They

could take their own challenge or you could choose to do this together - younger pupils might find this helpful. We will be demonstrating the challenge in class next week, but if you would like to get started now you can register by logging on to the following website:

[www.vocabexpress.com/speaktothefuture](http://www.vocabexpress.com/speaktothefuture)

Bonne chance et bonne année!

Madame Syme et Madame Hutchison

## **KINDERGARTEN**

Music time!

This morning the children in Kindergarten enjoyed experimenting with the keyboards during a music lesson with Miss McRae.



Fun in the snow!



Mrs L Berni

## **MISSING**

Amelie G's base layer – lost at the end of last term

## **FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S**

Next Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, Friends Meeting in the Dining Room at 8:30am.

A welcome back coffee morning for all parents will be held week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016; date to be confirmed next week.