



**FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

SMT Meeting 8:30am

Full Cast Rehearsal Middle School,

'Porridge' - **3:00-4:30pm**

Robin Pyper, Merchiston F7 Talk 4:00pm

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

1st Rugby v Merchiston (H) 2:30pm

U11A Rugby v Merchiston (H) 2:30pm

U11B Rugby v Merchiston (H) 2:30pm

U9A Rugby v Merchiston (H) 2:30pm

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January (cont'd)**

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

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

U11 Netball v Cargilfield (H) 3:00pm

U10 Netball v Cargilfield (H) 3:00pm

U9A Netball v Cargilfield (H) 2:15pm

U9B Netball v Cargilfield (H) 2:15pm

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Scottish Prep Schools Ski Champ. Glenshee

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

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

Full Cast Rehearsal all day, *Porridge*

**NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER**

Having got lost in the Yair Forest with my trusted companion Oscar last Saturday afternoon, I was grateful to be standing in front of the school delivering my assembly on Monday morning. At one point during my adventure, my head torch beamed at Oscar's reflective eyes, which were accompanied by a further, much larger three pairs of eyes on the darkened forest track close behind him. It is amazing what tricks the mind plays when such surprises occur, but judging by the speed of the departure of the unidentified pairs of eyes, I suspect we had been joined temporarily by some roe deer. However, the point of the assembly was to remind pupils not to panic and to think logically in such circumstances. Having left the house at 1:30pm, Oscar and I staggered back to my car at 7:00pm. The following day I showed the same determination when darning my sock, which, much to their delight, I proudly showed off to the pupils on Monday morning.

We had heard over the weekend that Chef had been taken unwell, and following some significant surgery on Sunday, he is making a steady recovery. Mrs Harvey and I visited Chef on Wednesday, and passed on everyone's best wishes.

Meanwhile, his ever-loyal team have rallied and are getting on with the business of feeding the St. Mary's "army". Pam Gordon's daughter, Emma, has stepped in to lend a hand.

Middle School rehearsals of 'Porridge' are ongoing, and Miss McRae seems relatively pleased with the progress. A busy fixture programme on Wednesday, which included some netball, rugby and football, resulted in a mixed set of scores. Please see individual match reports on the website.

This morning we were treated to a splendid assembly by Form 5 on St Kilda, Britain's most north-westerly outpost. Pupils gave a documentary-style presentation, which was fascinating and well delivered. I then awarded book tokens to Freyja, Ed and Iona W, as well as ABRSM certificates to Dicken, Jessica W and Willa for Grade 1 singing, and Georgia for Grade 2 singing. Well done to one and all.

Finally, can I thank you for wrapping your children up warmly when bringing them into school. Touch wood, we appear to be keeping winter bugs at bay so far this term, and well done to Mr Bell for keeping the roads and paths safe.

Have a good weekend.

## **MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT**

### **Porridge**

- Ticket order forms and letters with rehearsal arrangements are in F3/4/5 brown envelopes today. Payment should be included when ticket order forms are returned to the office.
- The rehearsal on **Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January will run from 3 – 4.30pm**. Pick up is from the Sanderson building at 4.30pm. Prep will still be available until 5pm as usual.

Miss McRae

## **PARENT/TUTOR MEETINGS**

A reminder, that parent tutor meetings begin the week commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February (see the school calendar).

## **REGISTRATION TIME**

The official registration time at school is 8:25am in a morning. Please ensure your child is in school prior to this.

All Form Teachers

## **SCHOOLSHAPE**

Forms 3, 4, 5 all have a German task to complete online for Monday 18th January. Any problems, please email [lhutchison@stmarysmelrose.org.uk](mailto:lhutchison@stmarysmelrose.org.uk)

Frau Hutchison

## SCHOOLSHAPE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

It was with great pleasure that I was able to announce the winners of the Form 6 Schoolshape Christmas Challenge yesterday. Form 6 pupils had submitted their recordings of the French carol *Douce Nuit, Sainte Nuit* via the Schoolshape online language lab during the holiday. This made for some very entertaining listening, especially since they were given the option to include friends, family and musical(!) instruments.



Worth a special mention were Isla, Freya and Mr D with lovely instrumental backing, Ollie, who managed to sing whilst playing the fiddle and Hamish and Mr R for a very interesting approach to the whole task! However, after much deliberation I chose four winners:

- Dicken, for a beautiful solo
- Fergus and the H family singers
- Rowan and the M family drummers
- Lucy, for a very expressive solo

Félicitations à tous!

I will now have to start thinking about an Easter challenge...

Bon weekend!

Madame Syme

## MISSING

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

## FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

*Coffee Morning*

Invitation to all parents - Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 - 8.30 a.m. in the Dining Room

The Friends' Committee would love to welcome all parents for a cup of coffee and a chat after drop off. It's a chance to catch up and, particularly for newer parents, to get to meet a few more people.

*Winter Wonderland - last term*

Not only was this a great fun event that the children enjoyed very much, it was also a fundraising event and we're delighted that just over £500 was raised towards our charitable funds.