



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 29th February

Forms 5, 6 & 7 Tutor/Parent Meetings
5:10pm

Tuesday 1st March

SMT Meeting 8.30am
Forms 3 & 4 Tutor/Parent Meetings 4:15pm

Wednesday 2nd March

U11 Rugby v Cargilfield (A) 2:30pm
~~U9A Football v Longridge (H) 2:30pm TBC~~
~~U9B Football v Longridge (H) 2:30pm TBC~~
1st Netball Tournament at Ardvreck
1:00pm
2nd Netball Triangular with Loretto &
Cargilfield (A) Cargilfield 2:30pm

Wednesday 2nd March (cont'd)

U11 Netball Tournament at Ardvreck 1:00pm
U11B Netball v Loretto (H) 2:30pm
U10 Netball v Loretto (H) 2:30pm
U9A Netball v Loretto (A) 2:30pm
U9B Netball v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

Thursday 3rd March

Edinburgh Music Festival - pm
Forms 3 & 4 Tutor/Parent Meetings 4:15pm
Form 5 Maths Fun Day, Merchiston

Friday 4th March

Saturday 5th March

FP Dinner, The Townhouse, 7:00pm

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

My last two Monday morning assemblies have both paid tribute to notable Scottish people. On Monday 15th February, I spoke of a number of Scottish inventors, and how life would be very different without these ingenious, inspiring and determined people. We welcomed Nicole to Form 2, and congratulated Lucy R on her successful Academic Scholarship to Loretto, Freddie H on his Sports Scholarship (Cricket) to Loretto, and Cameron W for gaining a Performing Arts Scholarship to Riley House, Strathallan. Our support of scholars attempting various scholarships continues, and was part of the reason why I was unable to conclude last week with my usual update.

The Pupil Council gave a most interesting assembly highlighting road safety matters around the campus. They have called upon their fellow pupils to produce artwork, which will be

displayed on the drive to vehicles entering our school. I am grateful to the Pupil Council for its vital support of the road safety messages we are keen to impart.

Squad cross country took place last Friday afternoon, and well done to all pupils who gave their best, irrespective of finishing position.

The Scot I paid tribute to at the beginning of this week was Captain Eric Melrose "Winkle" Brown, the Royal Navy's most decorated pilot, who had died the day before. A veteran who was born in Leith, Captain Brown flew 487 different types of aircraft, and was the first naval pilot to land a jet on an aircraft carrier, the first of 2407 deck landings successfully completed in his lifetime, a world record. I set the pupils the task of finding out why Captain Brown's middle name was Melrose, but up to this point, to no avail.

During Monday morning, the Care Inspectorate representative, Mr Iain Lamb, arrived to carry out an unannounced inspection of our boarding provision. Mr Mill and Mrs Bell gave him a guided tour of the boarding house, and provided him with paperwork and documentation that supports our boarding processes. Mr Lamb returned on Wednesday to immerse himself in the boarding house routine, and left on Wednesday evening, leaving me with the headline "children have a fantastic time when they board at St. Mary's." We are grateful to Mr Lamb, who offered some advice whilst recognising the ethos that underpins the boarding experience. Fixtures had also taken place on Wednesday, and you can read various reports on the website as usual.

As a very busy week draws to a close, we were treated to a brilliant assembly about the different methods of communication used in today's world. Mrs Scott Aiton and her Form 4 enlightened us on the many different methods we use to communicate in a 1:1 situation and over distance. Whilst the assembly was a great reminder to us about how we communicate, it also included some valuable lessons. Thanks go to Form 4 for their presentation.

Form 5 headed to a music workshop put on by Kelso Music Society, and I have already received feedback from a member of the Music Society about the super contribution St. Mary's pupils made to the morning. This afternoon we have two pupils, Eliza and Maria, attending a string orchestra day at Kilgraston, and we look forward to hearing how that has gone.

Good luck to our girls who are competing in the George Watson's hockey tournament on Saturday, and to our cross country runners, who will be representing St. Mary's in the IAPS cross country championships at John Muir Country Park. A busy weekend for some.

HM

WORLD BOOK DAY AND TRAVELLING BOOKS

World Book Day is next week on Thursday 3rd March and all children have been given a book token in their Brown Envelopes today.

To coincide with World Book Day, we have Travelling Books at school this week. Children will be taken to visit the book fair with their Form Tutors to choose a book. If you are happy with their choice, please return payment to their Form Tutor no later than Thursday 3rd March. Any cheques may be made payable to St Mary's School. World Book Day tokens may be used as part payment.

This is a great opportunity for us to earn money to top up the library or add to class libraries as we earn 60% commission from the book company.

Miss Renwick

Pre-Prep World Book Day

To help us celebrate World Book Day Forms 1 & 2 are going to read their favourite stories to the children in Reception on Thursday afternoon. Please could we ask children to bring in their chosen book on Thursday morning, making sure it has their name inside it. We are looking forward to finding out which books appear!

Miss Renwick & Mrs Kirkness

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



It's all been too exhausting at Kindergarten!

Mrs L Berni



MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Edinburgh Competition Festival of Music

Pupils taking part in this event will be leaving school after lunch on Thursday, 3rd March. They will return to school at approx. 6.30pm and will be accompanied by Miss McRae and Mrs Harvey.

Props

I'm looking for some old blankets and a few sets of trouser braces as props for 'Annie'. If you can help, please let me know.

Miss McRae

FORM 1 AND 2 AUTHOR VISIT

On Tuesday we were invited to Melrose Primary school for an exciting author visit.

Lari Don is a full time children's writer and storyteller. She lives in Edinburgh with her children and two cats.

She read her new book, 'The Tale of Tam Linn', and spoke about the illustrator who had drawn the wonderful pictures. She told us one of her cats was named after the character Tam Linn. The story is a magical adaptation of the traditional Scottish fairy tale of a boy called Tam Linn, who had been stolen by the fairies. The story captured the children's imagination.

Lari then told us a story about a purple headed monster which we have created on the computer so look out for them. She gave us ideas for writing our own stories called 'An Impossible Task'.

Lari was wonderful with the children and we all came away feeling inspired to read and write.

Miss Renwick and Mrs Kirkness

SWIMMING CAPS – REMINDER

Swimming caps for the *summer term* should now be your child's SQUAD COLOUR:

Douglas – red

Home – blue

Percy – green

Scott – yellow

Caps can be bought in Aitken and Niven, in sports shops or from your local pool.

Thank you

Mrs Bell, Mr Purvis and Mr Mill

