



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 23rd May

Middle School Chess Club
Forms 4 & 5 Athletics Club
Former Pupil AGM 5:30pm

Tuesday 24th May

SMT Meeting 8.30am
Form 2 to Gunsgreen
Senior Choir
Kindergarten Café Afternoon 2pm-3pm
Tennis lessons 3:10pm – 7:00pm

Wednesday 25th May

Orchestra 8:00am
1st XI Cricket v Belhaven (A) 2:30pm-7pm
2nd XI Cricket v Belhaven (H) 2:30pm
U11A Cricket v Belhaven (H) 2:30pm
U11B Cricket v Belhaven (A) 2:30pm-7:00pm
U9A Kw. Cricket v Belhaven (H) 2:30pm

Wednesday 25th May (cont'd)

U9B Kw. Cricket v Belhaven (H) 2:30pm
1st Rounders Tri. (A) Cargilfield 2:30-6pm
2nd Rounders Tri. (A) Cargilfield 2:30pm-6pm
U11 Rounders v Cargilfield (H) 2:30pm
U10 Rounders Triangular (H) 2:30pm
U9A Rounders Loretto (A) 2:30pm-5:45pm
U9B Rounders v Cargilfield (H) 2:30pm

Thursday 26th May

Swimming lessons
Code Club 4:00 – 5:00pm
Tennis lessons 3:10pm – 7:00pm

Friday 27th May

Assembly with SSPCA 8:35am
Form 3 trip to the Hirsell Estate
Forms 6 – 8 Athletics Club
Junior Choir

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

With the athletics season well underway, Adam L competed in the U15 East of Scotland high jump at Grangemouth last Saturday. Adam jumped a personal best of 1.65m to win the competition, having cleared every height first time. We made something of this remarkable performance in assembly on Monday morning, by using metre rulers taped together and a piece of black tape around the relevant height. It brought home to the pupils just what standard Adam is at when highlighting that he can clear five Mrs Bells standing side-by-side!

We also congratulated Stephanie, Lucy B and Molly for representing the South of Scotland U14 hockey squad at the Inter-District competition, and then we celebrated a St. Mary's first. Mr P's Glenalmond Cricket 6s squad returned with the trophy, having defeated Loretto, Arbroath, Ardvreck and Cargilfield. Freddie, Lucas, George, Samuel, Adam L, Harris and Lachlan performed to the best of their abilities throughout the competition, and Mr P was rightly extremely proud of his boys. I then moved on to a more academic theme in congratulating Molly and Lucy R for achieving a UK Mathematics Challenge Gold standard,

placing them in the top 6% of 300,000 entries! Annabel E and Adam L achieved highly commended Silver awards and Harry, George GF, Harris and Abbie achieved a reputable Bronze standard. Dr Morgan is quietly satisfied with yet another strong performance from St. Mary's in this national competition.

Having celebrated this splendid list of achievements, I had the pleasure of welcoming back Dani and Martina, and for the first time Antonia from Germany. Dani has joined us during the summer term since Form 4, Martina has joined us for the second time and this is Antonia's first visit to St. Mary's. All three are making the most of their two-week visit to the school. It is a delight to have them with us.

Form 8 went straight from assembly to the Maths classroom before embarking upon their Common Entrance Mental Arithmetic examination. Their minds had been focused by calculating what 6% of 300,000 was during assembly, but rather worryingly, and in some ways pleasingly, it was a Form 7 who provided me with the answer! Well done Liam! Dr Morgan was pleased with the Form 8 paper. On Tuesday, Madame Syme facilitated the Common Entrance French Listening and Speaking examinations, and in her usual composed, calm and collected way, Madame Syme's process ran without a hitch. She was pleased with our pupils' performance.

The same day, Form 4 visited the Countryside Day at Springwood Park with Mrs Scott Aiton, Mrs Redmond and Mr Brown. They thoroughly enjoyed their day and please see the photographs on the website highlighting all the activities in which they were involved.

On Wednesday morning, Kindergarten had a pyjama party, which sounded great fun with fresh fruit, croissants, cereal and toast on offer.

Prior to a busy fixture programme, Lucas completed his Listening and Speaking Spanish Common Entrance examination, and Miss Pariente was smiling even more than usual, which suggests he has fared very well so far. Fixtures took place in the afternoon, with pleasing results against Longridge; our second girls' rounders team drew with their firsts 13½ : 13½ which sounded like a very exciting game. Victory for all other St. Mary's teams took place, even for teams playing within restricted time matches, to allow the Longridge buses to get back to fulfil their drop-off commitments.

Congratulations to the victorious Dandylions rounders teams, which included Lucy B, Stephanie, Flora and Annabel.

This morning in assembly, for once there were spaces amongst the audience as Form 7 had already headed off on their fashion show and art gallery trip to Edinburgh, and Form 3 had headed to Dumfries to visit the Samye Ling Buddhist Monastery.

I took the opportunity to talk about my visit to Harrow School on Wednesday, which proved enlightening. I gave all pupils a background to the history of the school before talking about the Finch Room, a beautiful room donated to the school by parents of Second Lieutenant Finch, a 19½ year old Harrovian who was killed in the final week of the First World War. The wonderful oak-panelled room has, above the fireplace at one end, a portrait

painted of Second Lieutenant Finch with a picture light illuminating the face of this brave young man. His parents asked that the lamp remains on 24 hours a day. This has been the case ever since the room was completed in 1918, except during the Second World War, when blackout regulations meant the lamp had to be temporarily turned off. This is just one of many moving and inspiring historical stories attached to the school. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit, and was well looked after by the very busy staff.

We concluded assembly with Form 6 volunteering to sing "Will Ye Go Lassie Go {Wild Mountain Thyme}" with their rendition including harmony and melody, and quite frankly it brought a lump to the throat and was a wonderful way to finish off the morning's gathering of the school.

We have a team representing St. Mary's at this weekend's mixed doubles tennis competition at Belhaven Hill, and I wish our budding Wimbledon stars of the future all the very best.

Finally, Common Entrance and other exams are approaching, and I would urge all parents and teachers to find an appropriate level of encouragement in supporting our pupils from various year groups.

Enjoy the weekend.

RECEPTION CLASS VISIT BIGGAR PUPPET THEATRE



On Monday Reception class went to Biggar Puppet Theatre with Mrs Currie, Mrs Forbes and Lesley Kerr. We watched a terrific puppet show called "Pips and Panda Meet the Toothfairy".

The theatre was beautiful inside and we really enjoyed the show and singing along with all the songs.

Afterwards we had a lovely picnic lunch provided by Chef then we played Hide 'n' Seek in the garden. We had lots of fun. On the way home we sang the songs and one or two of us had a wee nap!

Thank you Mrs Forbes and Lesley for coming with us.

Mrs Currie

ROTARY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The deadline for the above competition is 31st May. Competition details were emailed last month but it is attached again now for any budding photographers.

SUMMER SPORTS TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS

The above photographs are now on display in the vestibule of the Hamilton Building. Please return any orders by *Friday 3rd June*.

Individual and sibling photograph orders are being uplifted by a courier on *Tuesday 24th May*.

Whole School Photograph

This has now been uploaded to the Tempest Website. Please use the following link and log on details: Go to: www.tempest-groups.co.uk School name **Melrose St Marys School**, and password is **440052**. **Orders are placed directly and online with Tempest.**

PUPIL COUNCIL

A plea for old hockey sticks; please can you donate any old hockey sticks to the Pupil Council.

Mrs Runciman

KINDERGARTEN CHARITY PYJAMA MORNING

On Wednesday morning we arrived to Kindergarten in our pyjamas as we had fun dancing and playing with our friends. For breakfast we enjoyed eating fresh fruit, croissants, cereal and toast. The morning was extended to the afternoon as the children did not want to take their pyjamas off! Outdoor play in our pyjamas was very exciting.



Kindergarten's new washing line

TUESDAY 24TH MAY
KINDERGARTEN
AFTERNOON TEA
2.00pm – 3.00pm

Continuing to raise funds, the children at Kindergarten will be hosting an Afternoon Tea. This will involve the children taking your orders and serving summer drinks and

food. A date to look forward to, please come along.....all welcome!



Mrs Berni

BOARDING

Could all boarders PLEASE MAKE SURE they have shower gel or soap and a dressing gown and slippers if they are planning on boarding! All boarding items are listed in the boarding handbook.

Mr Mill

PREP SCHOOL (F3-8) SWIMMING GALA, THURSDAY 16th JUNE – *Advance Notice*

Please bring your children directly to Galashiels Swimming Pool at **8.45 am**. Pre-prep go directly to school as usual. Please do not bring food for your children to the swimming pool but do ensure they have had a good breakfast! We will provide water and 'Dextrosol' tablets for all swimmers and there will be a snack on return to school. Many thanks.

Please note that all boarders and bus pupils will be transported by us.

Mrs Bell, Mr Purvis

SCIENCE NEWS



This week F7 have embarked on a global experiment on UV protection, run by the Royal Society of Chemistry, called Mission Starlight. Pupils around the world are being asked to investigate how we can block harmful UV radiation, the aim being to use what we learn to design a space suit that will protect astronauts in space. Astronauts are at high risk from UV light because they live and work outside of the Earth's protective ozone layer.

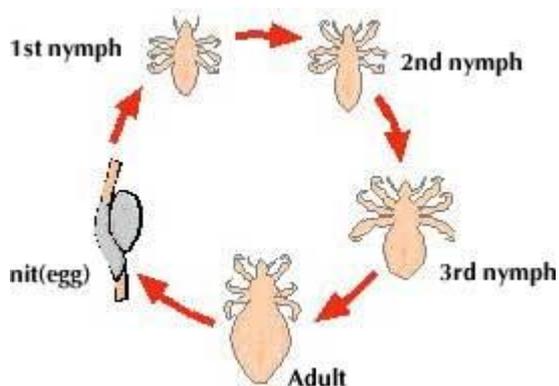
This project holds a special meaning for St Mary's pupils because of our connection to Dr Jim Reilly, who has talked to us about how harmful radiation can be for astronauts.

You can find out more about Mission Starlight and see our results at:

<http://www.rsc.org/learn-chemistry/collections/experimentation/collaborative-chemistry/mission-starlight-global-experiment-on-uv-protection>

(more photographs are available on the website)

HEAD LICE



Please advise if you have recently treated your child for head lice.

Thank you, SMT

We have a number of cases of Head Lice in the Middle School.

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

Remember that all bedding, any material that the child's head has been in contact with, car head rests etc should also be washed or treated to prevent re-infestation taking place

FORM 2 ANIMAL PRESENTATIONS

Form 2 had a fun filled morning on Wednesday when they had to present their animal talks to each other. I filmed them on the iPad and we are looking forward to watching them next week. The talks were amazing and all very different with super facts, props and demonstrations.

They did a fantastic job. Well done Form 2!

Mrs Kirkness



MISSING

Caeden's school coat – it is named.

MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Cello lessons

From September 2016 we will be able to offer cello as an option for instrumental lessons. The school do not have a supply of instruments; however, hire can be arranged through Stringers in Edinburgh. If you think your son/daughter may be interested in cello lessons, please let me know asap. Mrs Davis will be happy to hold a trial session for those who may be interested.

Miss McRae

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

Swish! - Tuesday, 24th May, 8.30 – 5.00

Come Swish With Us on Tuesday for a great chance to renew your wardrobe. Thank you to everyone who has already dropped off the lovely items that you wish to Swish! This is their chance to be reloved. Please bring any last items to fill the rails on Monday. Then join us in the Morrison Hall on Tuesday, tickets £10, and claim the clothes, shoes and accessories that your heart desires! (See poster for more details.)

Summer Fair - Friday 17th June, 2.00 pm

Jam and chutney-makers, your talents are needed! We're looking for home-made goodies for our Plant and Produce stall, as well as garden plants and veg. Also sought: children's clothes, toys and gifts for the Children's stand and Tombola. Bountiful baking would also be wonderful for the refreshment stand nearer the time. Please leave any items and gift prizes for the stalls in the Hamilton Building Foyer by Wednesday, 8th June at the latest or contact clairebriggs3@gmail.com. Many thanks!