

ST. MARY'S
SCHOOL
MELROSE



stmarys.mail

The weekly newsletter of St Mary's School

Edition No. 9

4th November 2016

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 7th November

Staff inset 5:15pm

Tuesday 8th November

SMT meeting 8:30am

Middle School Rehearsal 4:00-5:30pm

Wednesday 9th November

Orchestra 8:00am

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

~~U11A Rugby v Compass (A) 2:45pm~~

U11B Rugby v Compass (A) 2:45pm

U9A Rugby Tri. Merchiston & Ardvreck
(A) Merchiston 2:30pm

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

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

Wednesday 9th November (cont'd)

U11 Hockey v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

U11/10 Hockey v Loretto (H) 2:45pm (T'bank)

U10 Hockey v Loretto (H) 2:45pm (T'bank)

U9A Hockey v Loretto (H) 2pm (T'bank)

U9B Hockey v Loretto (H) 2pm

Thursday 10th November

Friday 11th November

Remembrance Service 11:00am

Junior Choir 1:40pm

12:40pm Senior Cross Country

Sunday 13th November

Remembrance Service 10:15am

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

The start of the week happened to be Halloween, though before any fun and games in the evening, a hard day's work in class was required. Kindergarten invited their pupils to dress up for the day, and I am delighted to say that amongst the costumes there were no clowns! There was however, a Spiderman, a Superman, an elf, a princess, a dinosaur and a fairy. Twenty five boarders set off to "trick or treat" to the home of Clan Macpherson, then the Headmaster's house, and finally "Brownton Abbey", in the corner of the campus. It would seem that the days when any sort of performance that might merit a reward from the household visited have somewhat petered out, as many a "lame" joke was told in an attempt to receive sweets of one description or another. Most importantly however, Mr Mill and his team said the boarders made the most of the evening and conducted themselves appropriately. Pre-Prep parents' evenings took place, with a positive feel about this collaboration.

On Tuesday, inevitably the focus turned to our Lecture Final and the visit of Mr Michael Osborne, former Headmaster of Belhaven Hill School. Mr Osborne was very impressed by the standard of lectures, along with the “delightful, polite children, and positive and happy staff”. He described St. Mary’s as looking “spick and span with a lovely buzz about the place”. He congratulated all participants, but selected Tiggy (Being a Child in World War II) as the junior competition winner and Oliver (Joe Powell, War Hero and Stuntman) as the senior competition winner. We are very grateful to Mr Osborne for returning to St. Mary’s to judge our competition, and for his heartfelt compliments bestowed on the school.

Wednesday’s raft of fixtures might better be described as an “island” of fixtures, as there were so many taking place. As usual, please see match reports on the website, but particular congratulations go to the five boys who represented the victorious Dandyliions rugby side: Tommy, Lachlan, Harris, Hamish and Joseph, with Lachlan, Harris, Hamish and Joseph winning selection for the Scottish Prep Schools Select side. I would also like to pay tribute to the U9 boys’ rugby team and Mr Brown for their undefeated contribution at the Fettes U9 rugby tournament. I understand they conducted themselves in a skilful and courageous manner, showing exemplary manners when off the pitch, and total commitment on it.

On Thursday, a steady trickle of staff from the Prep School ventured across to Kindergarten to take part in their Diwali celebrations. The Kindergarten pupils and staff cannot have been more welcoming, and hosted a very tasty drop-in buffet. Please see the photographs on the website.

This morning, Mrs Scott Aiton presented a thought-provoking and amusing assembly on forgiveness. Mr Mill, Mr Brown, Mrs Bell and Mrs Runciman were chastised in a light-hearted way for various misdemeanours, but Mrs Scott Aiton summoned up a sense of forgiveness for the miscreants, dressing them up in embarrassing costumes as a light-hearted sanction. Our thanks go to Mrs Scott Aiton for starting our school day in such an upbeat and positive way, and with a simple but important message.

This Sunday, we wish our U13 and U11 rugby 7s squads all the best at the Ardvreck and Cargilfield tournaments.

Finally, once again can I remind parents that we have a 5 miles-per-hour speed limit on campus, and that vehicles can only be parked in vacant bays, and not left unattended in any other area of the school; to do so compromises the safety of pupils. Please see my letter to you all in the protected area of the website.

Have a good weekend.

HATS, SCARFS AND GLOVES

Please ensure your child is wearing regulation items of the above; available from Aitken and Niven or the second hand uniform shop.

Many thanks,

SMT

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Clic Sargent Nativity Play

St. Mary's will once again be supporting the Clic Sargent charity by staging a 'live Nativity' with various children and animals! The event takes place on Tuesday, December 6th at 6pm in St Boswells auction mart. This is such a worthwhile cause, supporting children and young people living with cancer.

Form 5 will be the leading players in the performance, supported by a choir of additional St. Mary's performers. If your child is in Form 3-8 and would like to be involved, please let me know by contacting me on kmcrae@stmarymelrose.org.uk.

Music lessons

Forms 3 – 8. We will be focusing on instrument skills in class music lessons this term, therefore pupils who attend instrument lessons should try to bring their instrument and books to class with them. Many thanks.

Middle School Rehearsal

A reminder that rehearsals for 'The Wind in the Willows' start on Tuesday, 8th November. Please refer to the rehearsal schedule (already circulated).

Miss McRae

FORM 1 VISIT TO GREENEND



This term Form 1 have been finding out where their food comes from and we finished off our topic with a visit to Greenend on Monday afternoon. We were shown around the farm by Grant, starting with sheep inside one of the sheds. We looked in the sheep's mouths to check teeth, felt how soft their fleeces were and then weighed them to see if they were ready to be sold. We then weighed ourselves but discovered none of us were fit to go off to market!

Walking through the fields in the lovely autumn sunshine gave us chance to discover badger holes and watch Grant work the sheepdogs to gather some sheep so we could try to count them. "Too many!", was the decision! We then came back through the shed full of piglets and we couldn't believe the noise they made! They were very funny hiding in the straw and then creeping forward to see what was going on. There was just time to try driving the tractor, fork lift and quad bike before heading back to school after a wonderful afternoon.

Miss Renwick

DANDYLIONS RUGBY

The Dandylions played the WOSPS on Wednesday 2nd November at Belhaven Hill School.



Lachlan, Joseph, Tommy, Hamish and Harris

A special day and a day all involved will look back fondly on. Well done to all involved.

It was well hosted by Belhaven and both teams put on a great display of attacking rugby showing flair, courage and ultimately, respect for each other. The Dandylions were the victors with a score line of 24-14 and all five St Mary's boys played their heart out and did their bit for the team.

Gavin Hastings presented the medals and trophy to the teams which was a real pleasure for the lads.

Following the match four of the boys were selected to represent the Scottish Prep Schools Select team. They are Lachlan, Joseph, Hamish and Harris.

Mr RE Mill

POLITE NOTICE

Labelling of clothes

We have had a number of items of clothing go missing/become mislaid over the past few weeks; on Thursday morning a complete check of all clothing items was carried out and any items not labelled in the required fashion were identified. Your child's Form Teacher/Tutor will be sending home a note in their brown envelope this weekend to advise which items need to be labelled in the following manner.



Written labels do not withstand washing so unfortunately everything must carry a sewn in fabric label which is placed on the collar or on the back waist band where it is easily seen by both children and staff.

SMT

CELEBRATING DIWALI IN KINDERGARTEN

Thank you to Prishaa for bringing in her beautiful sari to show us during Diwali celebrations and allowing all children in Kindergarten to try traditional dresses on. We are very grateful to Mr Amin and Mrs Patel for sharing their religion with us, the children have really enjoyed learning and celebrating Diwali.

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/483805/St_Marys_School/Parents/Latest_News/Tasting_Indian_Food.aspx



Our Headmaster also enjoyed some Indian food.

Halloween party photographs are on the website along with Diwali celebrations photos.

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/483621/St_Marys_School/Parents/Latest_News/Halloween_in_Kindergarten.aspx

Mrs Berni

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As many of you will be aware the system for ordering Christmas cards on-line has been fraught with problems. Indeed the company that we are using have abandoned the system and are reverting to ordering using a paper copy and paying in school. I can only apologise again as it has caused frustration and far too much communication over what should have been a "simpler" service. We are in the same position as hundreds of other schools but our delivery dates of the finished product have not changed. The new order forms are being sent out and I shall of course let you know when we have them.

I would hope that you could bear with us a little longer.

Many thanks
Ms Wood



First Cross Country run of the season! Friday 4th November

Mrs Bell

SCHOOL SHOP

Girls' Tights

New stock has arrived! All sizes available - £7 for a pack of two.

The shop is in desperate need of stock – especially jumpers and cardigans.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

"YULE DO". Friday, 25th November

Come on everyone... Get your party clothes on and dancing shoes fitted and make up a table for this wonderful evening of fun, laughter and dancing in the Morrison Hall. Tickets priced £10 per person can be purchased from Sophie Scott on sophie_maxwell@hotmail.com or 07778 852559.

Winter Wonderland – Friday, 2nd December

More details to follow shortly. Put the date in your diary