

ST. MARY'S
SCHOOL
MELROSE



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The weekly newsletter of St Mary's School

Edition No. 14

9th December 2016

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 12th December

UK & Reception Nativity 9:30am
Forms 6, 7 & 8 Christmas Party 3:00-5:00pm

Tuesday 13th December

SMT meeting 8:30am
Prep School Christmas Lunch 1:00pm

Wednesday 14th December

Carol Service in Melrose Parish Church 10:00am
End of Term 12:00 noon

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Emily and Matt were rightly beaming with pride having organised a thoroughly enjoyable, if a little raucous, GAP Surprise last Friday. A packed boarding house made the most of all Emily's and Matt's hard work, and the children were ready for home on Saturday morning.

On Monday morning, I thanked Emily and Matt, Mrs Harvey, Mrs Stewart, Mr Brown, Mr Williams, Mr Hardie and Miss Pariente for all their hard work in trying to ensure the evening ran smoothly. I reminded all our pupils that especially at this time of year, when treats and extra activities are added to the busy school schedule, it is vital that they take time to thank those who have organised such additional privileges and those who help supervise.

If you are feeling rather down in the dumps, I recommend you go on the school website and follow the link on latest news to the Kindergarten's Christmas Carols that took place on Tuesday. I challenge you not to smile whilst you are watching it; if you manage to do so, then bah humbug!

On Tuesday evening, Miss McRae, intrepid shepherds, carpenters, expectant mothers, wise men, "camels", sheep, goats and cattle (ponies and dogs) headed for St Boswells' auction mart. Parents, fellow pupils, staff and an impressive number of local volunteers watched on as our pupils provided the Christmas story. Though a little chilly, the auditorium proved a wonderful setting, and despite a little bit of unfamiliarity with the microphone system, a thoroughly entertaining production ensued. Well done to Miss McRae and her cast, and I do hope that Mrs Innes and her team raised a healthy sum for 'Clic Sargent', a most worthwhile charity (*addendum: funds raised approx.. £3,000*).

Rugby and hockey took place on Wednesday. Please see match reports on the website.

Thursday saw the Middle School - Forms 3, 4 and 5 - enjoying a Christmas party in the Morrison Hall after a morning of hard work in class, and I was delighted to hear of good manners and cooperation from all pupils throughout the afternoon.

Today, Pre-Prep's Christmas begins in earnest. They treated an audience to their carols and musical performances this morning, and will have Christmas lunch, expertly provided as ever by Cheffy and his team, before heading to the Morrison Hall for their Christmas party this afternoon.



Meanwhile, onlookers could be forgiven for thinking St. Mary's had become Santa's Grotto for the day, as pupils and staff have embraced Bobble Hat Day. This initiative is to raise funds for Childline, and the ever-increasing pile of presents on the table in the Hamilton Building is to support Mission Christmas, a charity driven by Radio Borders. On behalf of both charities, thank you for your support.

This morning's assembly was abbreviated, but I was quickly able to thank pupils for wearing their hats. I presented book tokens to Nicole and Celia, and I wished our four boys involved in the Scottish Prep Schools XV rugby match against an Edinburgh Schools XV at Merchiston this weekend all the very best.

HM



Form 4 supporting Bobble Hat Day



The under 11 hockey squad wore their bobble hats today supporting 30 years of ChildLine. The Bauble team beat The Glitter team 3-2. Merry Christmas from the U11s!

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Orchestra

Could all members of the Orchestra please have their instruments and music at school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

Many thanks

Miss McRae.

Middle School Production

Rehearsals for the Middle School production of 'Wind in the Willows' will continue after the Christmas break. All rehearsals will be for the full cast and will take place on a Tuesday afternoon between 4 and 5.30pm. Pupils will be given snack before the rehearsal starts and should be collected from the **Sanderson Building** at 5.30pm.

Miss McRae

KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

On Tuesday afternoon, the parents and grandparents were treated to some beautiful singing from Kindergarten children. All dressed up in their costumes, they sang; 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star', 'Away in a manger', 'Jingle Bells' and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' with musical instruments. A visit from Santa was very welcomed and the quietest we have seen the children!



A super afternoon was had. Thank you to Santa for taking time to visit us at such a busy time of year and to Mrs Patel for taking photographs,

Mrs L Berni

BOARDERS CAROL SINGING

Carol singing on Wednesday night with the boarders was a great success.



Much fun was had by all and much food was consumed amongst many carols and songs! The singing was brilliant and both Mr Bryden and the Syme's commented on this. A huge thank you to the Syme's and Mr Bryden for hosting the boarders this year. It is always an absolute pleasure to be allowed into their households. For more details and pictures, please see the boarding blog this week.

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/486282/St_Marys_School/Boarding/St_Marys_Boarders/Week_ending.aspx

Mr RE Mill

ART DEPARTMENT

Just in time for the elves to deliver them, our Christmas cards have arrived in school. You should have received them from your child's form tutor. They really are charming and utterly unique and I do hope that you are happy with the quality of both the cards and wrapping paper. Thanks to your fabulous support of this project we have been able to raise £358.50 towards school funds. A rather lovely early Christmas present!

Many Thanks
Ms Wood

ADVANCE NOTICE

CAROL SERVICE, WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER - 10.00 AM - PARKING

Would parents please note that there is no parking (other than disabled) at Melrose Parish Church. Please park in Melrose and walk to the church. Parking in school grounds is limited so please don't double park. Thank you.

Pupils in the Prep school should come into school in No. 1 Uniform.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Middle School had a wonderful Christmas Party on Thursday. Children were piped into the Morrison Hall by Mr Mill and enjoyed dancing the Gay Gordons and Dashing White Sergeant as well as taking part in lots of party games and dancing with their friends. There was a very happy atmosphere and lots of cheerful, beautifully dressed children.

Staff were very impressed with the enthusiasm, politeness and good humour that all the children showed and this made it a very special party for all of us.

Mrs Runciman, Mr Mill, Mrs Scott Aiton and Mrs Wright

PE LESSONS – LENT 2017

From January to March all classes will take part in gymnastics as part of the PE curriculum.

Please ensure your child/ren has/have the following kit for gymnastics:

Pre-Prep: white gym t-shirt, green shorts, short white socks, gym shoes.

Prep school: white polo shirt, green shorts, white socks, gym shoes (optional for gymnastics).

Girls may wear a leotard if they wish.

It is important that children do not wear muddy clothes in the gym. As per the uniform list boys should have **2 pairs** of green shorts; 1 for PE and 1 for games

Thank you
Mrs Bell

FORM 4 AND 5

Form 4 and 5 held a team contest to make the longest, strongest and best decorated paper-chain. The teams were all given the same materials and worked together to make their chain. The final results can be seen decorating the Form 4 and 5 classrooms.

Mrs Runciman and Mrs Scott Aiton



MISSING

Thomas M's kilt sock - named
Alexander NN hat and scarf – both are named

FOUND - Gloves



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

The last communication of the term and a chance for us to thank pupils, parents and the Staff of St Mary's for all your wonderful support at the events we have held this term. We have made a good start to raising the funds for the new school minibus and hope to have a "totaliser board" up in the New Year.

We shall be holding more events next term, so please keep an eye on the notice boards and in the weekly .mail for more information.

Don't forget to use "Easyfundraising" when getting those last minute Christmas presents online!!

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

FOSM