



stmarys.mail

The weekly newsletter of St Mary's School

Edition No. 16

6th January 2017

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 9th January

Instrument lessons resume

Tuesday 10th January

SMT Meeting 8:30am

Wednesday 11th January

1st XI Football v Longridge (A) 2:30pm

2nd XI Football v Longridge (A) 2:30pm

U10 Football v Clifton Hall (H) 2:30pm

U11 Football v Clifton Hall (H) 2:30pm

Wednesday 11th January (cont'd)

1st Netball v Loretto (H) 3:00pm

2nd Netball v Loretto (H) 3:00pm

U10 Netball v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

U11A Netball v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

U11B Netball v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

U9 Netball v Loretto (H) 2:00pm

U8 Netball v Loretto (H) 2:00pm

Thursday 12th January

Friday 13th January

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

A happy new year to you all, and I hope you have all had a restful break. Your children have returned in fine form, and it would appear they are raring to get underway in this busy Lent term.

Over the holidays, building work for the new Kindergarten has taken place, and I am pleased to report we remain on schedule at this stage. We also took the opportunity to replace the boiler that feeds the toilets and boys' changing rooms, which will hopefully result in more manageable shower temperatures and a more efficient and economical system all-round.

It was a pleasure to welcome Mr and Mrs Rawson and their sons to St. Mary's during the Christmas break, and they have certainly made impressive progress in making the lodge and New Buccleuch House their home. Their eagerness to get started in their new roles has been apparent as we welcomed our two new house tutors: qualified teacher Pablo Mateos, Assistant Rugby Development Officer Andrew Whitelaw, and our two new GAPS from All Saints, Jessie McRae and Max Cummins. It has been uplifting watching the new team set about their business since their arrival, and by the smiles on the faces of our many boarders

last night, it would appear this new chapter is getting underway in a most encouraging fashion.

The new staff joined our staff training day on Wednesday, during which policies and procedures were gone through, departmental meetings took place, and some school management system training made up a day of useful preparation.

As well as the new staff, we have welcomed a new starter, Fergus R in Reception, and four new pupils into Kindergarten: Geordie, Ruben, Calum and Hector. This morning we had our first full school assembly of 2017, and congratulated Dicken and Georgia for both being chosen to represent the National Youth Choir of Scotland, following a highly selective and rigorous selection process. As I write, the school feels very much as if it is in full flow, and it is lovely to start 2017 with such a positive stride forward.

Enjoy your weekend.

HM

MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Wind in the Willows Rehearsals

All pupils in Forms 3, 4 and 5 should attend rehearsals on a Tuesday afternoon between 4pm and 5.30pm. Dates are Jan 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. Pick up is from the Sanderson Building at 5.30pm. Many thanks.

Miss McRae

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Forms 6, 7 and 8 are being given an exciting opportunity to join a nationwide weather balloon competition run by the Royal Meteorological Society. Students are invited to design a science experiment to be carried through the atmosphere by a weather balloon. Themes could include Earth observation, the atmosphere, natural forces, cold temperatures, pressure or UV. Students could use a Raspberry Pi, or similar, to design and build their own tracker and/ or sensor package. All entries must be submitted by 31st March 2017. The entry judged best by a panel of judges will be invited to build and launch their experiment.

St. Mary's students who choose to be involved will need to do the majority of the work in their own time, but I will run a lunch time club all term, on a Thursday at 1.10pm, to offer support. Details of the competition and links to various related websites can be found at:

<http://www.metlink.org/weather-balloon-competition/>

M Stuart

SPONSORSHIP

For those of you who have not met me, my name is Peter Gibson FP and parent of Amelie and Ewan. I am a member of the Border Search and Rescue Unit and like all members of the

team I am a volunteer. The team provides an essential emergency mountain rescue service 24/7, not just to hill-walkers, but to the whole community covering a wide range of incidents.

On the 14th of January 2017 I will be taking part in the Spine Mountain Rescue Challenge Race. A non-stop, 108 mile race between Edale and Hawes with a time limit of 60 hours. This is one of the world's toughest endurance challenges. There is very little outside support on this race and we are expected to travel with a degree of self-sufficiency. That said, I will be attached to a GPS tracker with a big red emergency button, just in case!

BorderSAR rely heavily on public donations to exist. I not only hope to raise awareness of what the team does, but also to raise much needed funds. So please donate at:

<http://www.charitychoice.co.uk/fundraiser/petergibson/my-events>

Duncan Buchanan is also a volunteer for the Border Search and Rescue Unit and he is running the full 268 mile course. Duncan's page is <https://www.charitychoice.co.uk/fundraiser/duncanbuchanan/my-events>. Last year the donations and texts along the way gave him a huge boost.....this year he has 7 days to complete 268 miles!

THANK YOU

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

Happy New Year.

The Committee are in the process of putting together some exciting fundraising events for this term, details of which will be circulated in the weekly .mail in due course and notices put on the boards around the school.

FOSM