



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 23rd January

Tuesday 24th January

SMT Meeting 8:30am

Rehearsal, *Wind in the Willows* 4:00-5:30pm

Wednesday 25th January

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

U11A Football v Longridge (H) 2:30pm

U11B Football v Longridge (H) 2:30pm

U9A Football v Merchiston (A) 2:30pm

U9B Football v Merchiston (A) 2:30pm

1st Netball v Mowden (H) 2:30pm

2nd Netball v Mowden (H) 2:30pm

Wednesday 25th January (cont'd)

U11A Netball v Mowden Hall (A) 2:15pm

U10 Netball v Mowden Hall (A) 3:00pm

U9A Netball v Mowden Hall (A) 2:15pm

U9B Netball v Mowden Hall (A) 2:15pm

Thursday 26th January

~~Scottish Prep Schools Ski Race, Glenshee~~
postponed until Thursday 9th February

Burns Lunch

Friday 27th January

Assembly Mrs Urquhart, Lomond School 8:35am

Winter Team Sports Photographs – *clean kit & boots*

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Thank you to Mrs Bell for writing a weekly update last week in my absence. I had a most enlightening tour to Uppingham School and then to Eton College. I received a very warm welcome from both senior schools, and came away having updated my knowledge of each school's current form, and changes that have been made to their admissions processes. I talked of my tube travel experiences in assembly on Monday morning, highlighting that in contrast to my travel experience, it was a pleasure to be surrounded by over 100 people in the hall, none of whom had headphones in, attached to a telephone or screen of one description or another. None of my fellow passengers on the tube seemed keen to talk about the weather or what kind of day they were having! I then had the pleasure of handing out a music exam certificate to Jess K, who had passed Grade 4 clarinet with merit.

The week has unravelled in a very positive way, despite the fact that Monday 16th January marked the now infamous "Blue Monday". I am pleased to say the St. Mary's community seem in fine form. Part of this may be attributed to the growing excitement that our new Kindergarten facilities are taking shape. We are extremely grateful to MEH Builders Ltd for their ever-patient, flexible and friendly approach to getting on with their tight work

schedule, whilst accommodating the comings and goings of the day-to-day routine at St. Mary's.

On Tuesday evening, staff attended a twilight top-up training session from diabetic care nurse Angela Archibald. We are very grateful to Angela for her update and for passing on such useful and important information.

Wednesday saw a very busy fixture programme unfold, and I apologise for my absence on any courtside or touch line. This was due to January/February being scholarship season, during which the administrative demands on a headmaster escalate significantly.

This morning, we were treated to a wonderfully enlightening assembly by Ms Wood, who talked about the creation of the Tapestry of Scotland in which both she and Mrs Muir were involved. Though their small sections of the panel relating to the Borders equate to the size of the palm of one's hand, this gave us a sense of just what an extraordinary production this tapestry is. Ms Wood led us through a moving whistle stop tour of various panels, during which she focused on the Clydebank blitz, an event during the 2nd World War that saw her 16-year-old mum survive, simply because she was in the right place at the right time. If there were a number in the assembly hall who questioned the future housing of the Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels, Ms Wood will have no doubt succeeded in converting them.

We quickly touched upon one or two housekeeping matters before the Middle School headed off to their full cast rehearsal, whilst the rest of the school went about their usual Friday business.

This afternoon, Finlay Bu and Nicole are attending an award ceremony to congratulate twelve bookmark design winners. Finlay and Nicole's bookmarks are amongst the twelve, and will be available from any Borders library in the near future. Well done to both for drawing the judge's eye to their artistic designs.

Finally, whilst the building work continues in the stable block, our new boarding team are celebrating an exceptionally busy week in the boarding house. It is clear to see that the enthusiasm for boarding here at St. Mary's is as strong as ever, and look out for "I am an Australian, Get Me Out of Here" as a forthcoming theme night in the week ahead.

Have a restful weekend.

HM

BURNS DAY

St. Mary's will celebrate Burns Day on *Thursday 26th January*, rather than the official day, Wednesday 25th January with an optional Burns lunch. Normal uniform (boys do not need to wear kilts) but girls may wear tartan hair ribbon!

SMT

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Wind in the Willows

Please hand in any remaining ticket order forms to the school office. Tickets are not restricted to parents of F3, 4 and 5 pupils so if you would like to come and see the fantastic show the Middle School pupils have created, please just pop into the school office to reserve tickets. Dates are Wednesday, 8th February at 2pm and Thursday, 9th February at 7pm.

Costume items

We are looking for the following items. Please let me know if you can help.

- Pink ballet leotard, approx. age 10.
- Old umbrellas which we can spray paint.

Willows Costume letters

Costume letters are in brown envelopes today. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. kmcrae@stmarysmelrose.org.uk

Instrument lessons

We currently have spaces on our drumkit timetable. If anyone is interested in beginning lessons on drumkit, please let me know. A taster session can be arranged ahead of committing to tuition.

Miss McRae

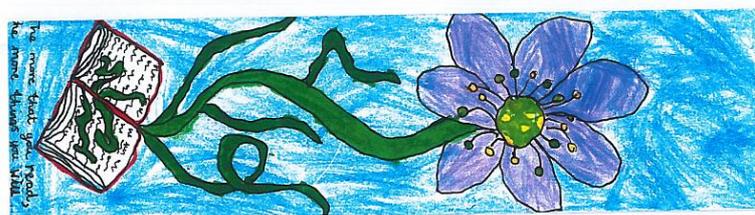
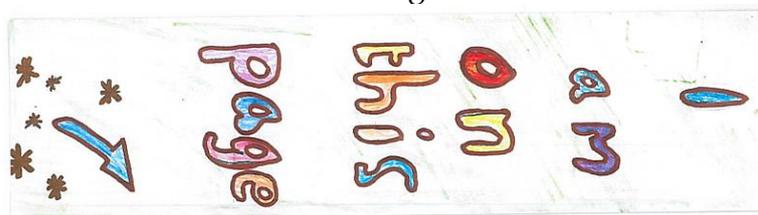
BREAKFAST CLUB

Are you aware we have a breakfast club, which is available Monday – Friday at 7:30am. Just email the school office to book your children in.

BOOKMARK WINNERS



Hot off the press! Finlay and Nicole at their presentation this afternoon. More photographs on the website next week. Mrs Wright



BOARDING HOUSE

Check out the weekly boarding blog on the school website:

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/488560/St_Marys_School/Boarding/St_Marys_Boards/Week_ending.aspx

CAR PARKING

Bus spaces – please do not park in these spaces, often buses are returning from fixtures and are unable to park and offload children safely.

Staff spaces – we have staff living on site and on numerous occasions they have been unable to park their cars because parents are using the spaces – please do not park in staff spaces.

Disabled space – please do not park in the disabled space.

Please remember that parking is always available in Melrose rugby club car park and Melrose health centre.

KINDERGARTEN

The children in Upper Kindergarten have been busy creating their name using their snack mat, named wooden spoon and pebble letters.



Mrs L Berni

BORDER EMBROIDERIES

Ordering school coats, base layers and hoodies is done directly with Border Embroideries. From 28th January, orders will now be received within 20 working days. In the past orders have been delivered on the 28th of the month. Please see their website:

http://beschoolwear.co.uk/advanced_search.php?skl_id=90684&pager=view_all

PARENT/TUTOR MEETINGS

A reminder, that parent tutor meetings begin the week commencing Monday 6th March (see the school calendar).

FORM 6 FRENCH

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE: MAKE A RECORDING OF THE FRENCH CAROL ' DOUCE NUIT, SAINTE NUIT' WITH YOUR FAMILY

I have spent some time listening to the very entertaining recordings for the Form 6 Christmas challenge and after much deliberation, I am delighted to announce that there were FOUR winners:

Hannah F– a charming solo and then a very good family performance featuring Mr Francis!

Eliza – a beautiful introduction on piano and recorder and then lovely group singing

Rosie – another great family effort with Dad to the fore!

Molly S – a very musical family performance.

Some pupils have experienced difficulties with recording and we are currently working with Schoolshape to resolve these problems. For those who are disappointed, I will set another challenge later in the year.

Note to winners: Please remember to SHARE your chocolate with your family!

Bonne Annee 2017!

Madame Syme

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHS

These take place next Friday, 27th January. Boys must take boots home after games on Wednesday and bring them back clean and polished on Friday.

All games kit must be washed after Wednesday's fixtures.

Thank you

MISSING

Zara has lost her green skort – it is named.

FOUND



Marks and Spencers teddy – dropped in the grounds on Wednesday night.

And other lost property

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

WINTER WONDERLAND UPDATE - After counting up all the coins and notes, it gives us huge pleasure to advise you all that we made a magnificent sum of £1,309.46 at the Winter Wonderland held at the end of last term. Thank you so much; your generosity and enthusiasm for the event makes it all so worthwhile.

***STOP PRESS *..... SAVE THE DATES!!**

Saturday, 11th March

An event for all rugby lovers!

Come to the Townhouse in Melrose to cheer on Scotland against England and raise money for the school minibus. Starts with the Italy vs France match then onto the main event to see if Scotland can win their fourth match in a row. £10 for pie and chips - please bring some raffle and auction prizes.

Wednesday, 15th March

We shall be holding a Toy Swap/Swish. More details to follow in due course.

CAKE SALE

An advance warning that we shall be holding a cake sale on Wednesday, 22nd March in aid of the Scottish Borders Brass Band Association. More details to follow in due course.

FOSM NOTICEBOARDS

For those who may not know, we would like to make you aware of the position of the Noticeboards around the school where FOSM Event Notices are placed. They are:

- Outside F2 on the wall of the Sanderson Building
- In passage of the Sanderson Building, between F3 & F4
- In Hamilton Building, opposite the School Office
- Info board inside foyer to Hamilton Building
- Kindergarten

Friends of St. Mary's