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The weekly newsletter of St Mary's School

Edition No. 22

24th February 2017

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 27th February

Tuesday 28th February

SMT Meeting 8:30am

Wednesday 1st March

Orchestra 8:00am

1st boys Hockey train. v Cargilfield (H) 2:30pm

U11A Rugby v Cargilfield (H) 2:30pm

U11B Football v Longridge (A) 2:30pm

U9A Football v Longridge (A) 2:30pm

~~U9B Football v Longridge (A) 2:30pm~~

1st Netball Tourn. Ardvreck (A) 1:00pm

2nd Netball Tri. Loretto/Cargil (H) **2:15pm**

U11A Netball Tourn. Ardvreck (A) 1:00pm

U10 Netball v Loretto (H) 2:30pm

U9 Netball v Loretto (A) 2:30pm

Thursday 2nd March

~~U8 Netball v Loretto (A) 2:30pm~~

Form 5 Maths Fun Day, Merchiston

Forms 3 & 4 Tutor/Parent Meetings 4:15pm

Edinburgh Music Festival

Friday 3rd March

Assembly with Elaine Purves, Rossall School

1st Rugby v Aberlour (H) 1:30pm

1st Hockey v Aberlour (H) 1:30pm

Form 8 Camp meeting - Parents & Pupils 5pm

Saturday 4th March

FP Dinner, The Townhouse, 7:00pm

Sunday 5th March

IAPS Cross Country at Belhaven 2:30pm

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

We welcomed school back on Monday morning with many of our pupils sporting those unmistakable facial suntans, with the tell-tale ski goggle whitening around the eyes. Thankfully, all were injury-free and raring to go for the second half of term. I reminded our Form 8 pupils that the number of "working" weeks until Common Entrance is approaching single figures, and therefore sharpening their focus on their studies must be given maximum priority. We welcomed Oliver, Bea and William, and we are delighted with how they have settled into their respective forms during the week.

I concluded assembly by announcing the latest scholarship successes: Jess - Academic and Music Scholarships, Harrogate Ladies College; Harris, Hamish and Lucy - Sports Scholarships, Loretto and Chloe-Marie - Art Exhibition Award, Loretto. Congratulations to all.

On Tuesday evening, teaching staff met to discuss the progress of all pupils in Forms 6, 7 and 8. This sharing of information is invaluable when gathering a picture of each pupil's progress.

A busy fixture programme took place on Wednesday and as usual, match reports are available online. Three fixtures received special mention for different reasons at this morning's assembly, but I shall come back to that later.

St. Mary's AGM took place on Wednesday afternoon, and we are extremely grateful to Lt Colonel Colin Hogg and Mr John Tweedie for their attendance, input and continued support of the school. The Board of Governors then conducted their termly meeting soon afterwards, and a real sense of optimism was a key feature throughout this meeting.

This morning, Form 7 took to the stage to narrate the remarkable story of Sir Ernest Shackleton, whilst a number provided us with a visual supplement to the fascinating details of the great leader, including his loyalty to his men. Mr Rawson concluded proceedings referring to St. Mary's five Rs: Resourcefulness, Risk management, Responsibility, Resilience and Reflection, all of which featured in Shackleton saving the lives of his entire party in the Antarctic.

I then had the privilege of being able to congratulate Form 7 on the high standard of academic performance being drawn to my attention in the core subjects by their teachers. All pupils in the year are exceeding our expectations in many regards, and it seemed fitting to make mention of this at the end of such an informative assembly. I then made mention of the two senior girls' netball teams, who conducted themselves with dignity and determination during two netball fixtures in which they suffered very heavy defeats. We acknowledged the high standard of the opposition and made reference to how unusual it is for such an imbalanced score line to be allowed to unfold, but we are very proud of how our girls stuck to the task and refused to feel sorry for themselves. The 1st XV Rugby team played Merchiston, having lost narrowly to the same team last term. Once again, this fixture proved to be fiercely contested, with a high standard of rugby on display from both teams. It seems appropriate that a St. Mary's victory has left the season's honours even between the two sides. Well done to the boys for an extremely determined performance.

Mrs Bell concluded assembly by talking through this afternoon's squad cross country competition and as is always the case, she simply encouraged each competitor to do their best.

Ahead of next week, it is important to draw your attention to the visit of Oundle Registrar Mr Gary Phillips, who is coming to meet any parents who might be interested in sending their son or daughter to Oundle. Mr Phillips will be available to speak to parents on Tuesday from 4:30pm in the Hamilton Building <http://www.oundleschool.org.uk/>

Finally, I made mention of the sad passing of Mr Colin Crozier, our much-loved bugler, who has played the Last Post at our Remembrance Service over the past several years. Colin loved coming to St. Mary's and always spoke so highly of how we conducted our Remembrance Services. St. Mary's will ever be grateful to a gentleman who was kindness personified, and who showed great courage in his final months of life. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family.

WORLD BOOK DAY AND TRAVELLING BOOKS

World Book Day is next week on **Thursday 2nd March** and all children have been given a book token in their Brown Envelopes today.



To coincide with World Book Day, we have Travelling Books at school this week. Children will be taken to visit the book fair with their Form Tutors to choose a book. If you are happy with their choice, please return payment to their Form Tutor no later than Thursday 2nd March. Any cheques may be made payable to St Mary's School. World Book Day tokens may be used as part payment.

This is a great opportunity for us to earn money to top up the library or add to class libraries as we earn 60% commission from the book company.

Miss Renwick

MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Wizard Props

If you can help with any of the following, please let me know as soon as possible.

- Old fashioned bicycle
- Crystal ball or something which looks like one!
- Sparkly fairy wand
- Witches broomstick
- Curtain screen – similar to picture opposite.



Willows DVD

Order forms are in brown envelopes today. Please return these, along with payment, to the school office by **Friday, 3rd March**.

Miss McRae

SUMMER UNIFORM – SCHOOL SHOP

Despite this week's flurry of snow and gritters, summer is on its way. This is a good time to bring in anything outgrown, there is always a rush for uniform at the end of this term and beginning of next.

Summer Uniform

Forms 3&4 Boys - White cricket shorts (no longer in manufacture) will be loaned from the school shop for a small fee and organised next term. Forms 5-8 Boys wear cricket longs.

Mrs Blunt

KINDERGARTEN

I am delighted to report that we are all settling well in to our new Kindergarten!



Mrs Hardie will be visiting us on a Thursday to read a story to the children. Today, the children listened to the story of the 'Three Little Pigs'.

Mrs L Berni

PARENT/TUTOR MEETINGS

Thursday 2nd March – Forms 3 and 4, 4:15pm

Monday 6th March – Forms 5, 6 and 7, 5:10pm

Tuesday 7th March – Forms 3 and 4, 4:10pm

Tuesday 14th March – Form 8, 5:10pm (timetable to be circulated)

Sign-up sheets for Forms 3, 4 and 5 Parents' Meetings are outside their respective classrooms. Please sign up at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sheets for Forms 6 and 7 are on display outside the school office.

SWIMMING CAPS – REMINDER

Swimming caps for the *summer term* should now be your child's SQUAD COLOUR:

Douglas – red

Home – blue

Percy – green

Scott – yellow

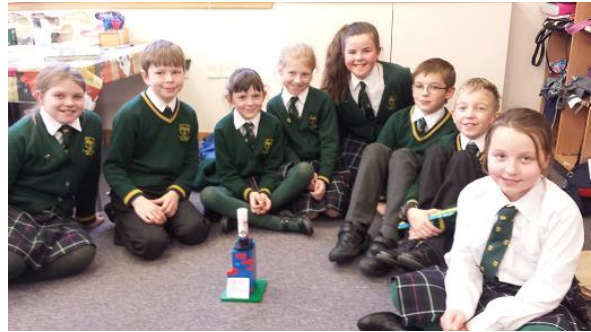
Caps can be bought in Aitken and Niven, in sports shops or from your local pool.

Thank you

Mrs Bell and Mr Purvis

FORM 4 & 5 LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

The pupils from Form 4 and 5 have been working together in their 'Clans' to complete various team challenges. Each week they select a new leader who is responsible for making final decisions and guiding their team. We focus on the qualities of a good leader as well as on the skills required to be a good team member. This week's challenge was to build their own Clan 'Lego Landmark' which had to be over 15cm tall, be able to hold a glue stick at the top as well as withstand Mrs Scott Aiton's 'gentle' nudge test! All the towers passed all of these credentials so it came down to our judgement of how well the teams had worked together and the aesthetics of the designs. The 'Untoppable Tower' by Clan Unstoppable were declared the winners. All the towers are now on display in the Sanderson Corridor.



MISSING

Caelan is missing his rugby socks, they are named and brand new.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons w/c Monday 27th March - 1:1 crash course 27th – 31st March at Whitmuir. Water temperature is now nearly 30 degrees!! From 0900-1200. Lessons are 30 minutes long and the cost of the week is £75 per child. Please contact Audrey Power on 07974 344063

SCOTTISH BALLET'S AUDITIONS FOR CHILDREN

Scottish Ballet will be holding auditions in May for the 2017/2018 session of the Junior Associate Programme – a classically based training programme for boys and girls who are currently in **Primary 5** and **Primary 6**. No previous dance experience is necessary.

Auditions will be held on **Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2017** at Scottish Ballet's Studios at Tramway, 25 Albert Drive, Glasgow. The closing date for applications is **Monday 24th April 2017**.

Further information on the Programme can be found on their website:

<https://www.scottishballet.co.uk/join-in/training/associate-programme/junior-associates>

CROSS COUNTRY 2017

Pre Junior Girls		Boys	
Freyja H 3m19	Home	John I 3m03	Scott
Tiggy M 3m24	Percy	Josh C 3m12	Home
Anna B 3m28	Percy	Ollie de G 3m14	Percy
Iona W 3m29	Home	Nic J 3m15	Percy
Emily L 3m50	Scott	Tristan B 3m19	Scott
Skye M 3m52	Scott	Henry S 3m26	Scott



Junior Girls		Boys	
Eliza M 5m59	Scott	Caelan B 5m55	Scott
Libby B 6m22	Percy	Ed S 6m05	Home
Elsa S 6m32	Home	Oliver L 6m06	Doug
Mhairi B 6m38	Doug	Archie Mac 6m06	Doug
Rosie P 6m42	Doug	Geordie M 6m15	Scott
Lara J 6m44	Home	Mitchell C 6m33	Doug



Senior Girls		Boys	
Lucy B 7m57	Home	Jamie F Percy	7m14
Georgia L 8m05	Scott	Matt B 7m29	Scott
Louisa F 8m40	Home	Lachlan F Home	7m36
Anna S 9m03	Doug	Fergus H Home	8m01
Naesi de Z 9m25	Home	Hamish M Home	8m08
Chloe G 9m28	Scott	Otto K/Will S 8m 11	D/H



More photographs can be viewed on the school website

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/491995/St_Marys_School/Sport/Cross_Country/Cross_Country_Reports/Squad_Cross_Country.aspx

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE BOARDS AROUND THE SCHOOL FOR INFORMATION ON ALL THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

Saturday, 11th March

We have a very small group of rugby fans wanting to watch the England Scotland match at the Townhouse - this group needs to be bigger! Please contact alan@vantageevents.co.uk as soon as you can if you want to come!

Wednesday, 15th March

TOY SWAP/SWISH in the Morrison Hall from 3pm to 5pm.



A new event following the success of the Clothes Swish last Autumn. Donations of new, nearly new, unloved, unbroken and clean toys would be gratefully received and can be left in the large boxes in the Hamilton and Sanderson Buildings.

These will then be sold on to new owners and raise money for the new School Minibus.

Come and join us and pick up an exciting new toy. Please see event poster on the Noticeboards.

Wednesday, 22nd March

CAKE SALE

In aid of the Scottish Borders Brass Band Association. From 3pm in the Art Room.

Donations of home baking would be gratefully received and can be left in the kitchen on the morning or brought with you to the Art Room during the day.

