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The weekly newsletter of St Mary's School

Edition No. 30

12th May 2017

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES/EVENTS

Monday 15th May

Common Entrance Oral Maths
Forms 4 & 5 Athletics Club
U14 and U12 Athletics Eve Fettes 4pm

Tuesday 16th May

SMT Meeting 8:30am
Common Entrance French; Listening & Speaking
Reception class visit Melrose Parish Church
Senior Choir
Tuesday tennis lessons 3:00pm-8:00pm

Wednesday 17th May

Orchestra 8:00am
Kindergarten Pedal Push 11:00am
~~1st XI Cricket v Longridge (A) 2:00pm~~ *cancelled – trying to arrange alternative*
~~2nd XI Cricket v Longridge (H) 2:00pm~~ *cancelled – trying to arrange alternative*
U11A Cricket v Longridge (A) 2:00pm
~~U9 Kwik Cricket v Longridge (H) 2pm~~ *cancelled*
~~U9B Kwik Cricket v Longridge (H) 2pm~~ *cancelled*

Wednesday 17th May (cont'd)

WOSPS v Dandy Lion's Rounders (A) C'field 2:30pm
~~2nd Rounders v Longridge Towers (A) 2:30pm~~
2nd Rounders v Fettes (A) 2:30pm
3rd Rounders v Fettes (A) 2:30pm
U11 Rounders v Longridge Towers (H) 2:30pm
U10 Rounders v Longridge Towers (H) 2:30pm
U9A Rounders v Fettes (H) 2:30pm
U9B Rounders v Fettes (H) 2:30pm
U8 Rounders v Fettes (H) 2:30pm

Thursday 18th May

Swimming lessons
Tennis lessons 3:00pm – 7:00pm

Friday 19th May

Assembly with FP Harry Letts, Greenland Exp.
Author MG Leonard visiting Forms 4 - 6
Form 3 Trip to the Hirsell
Forms 6 – 8 Athletics Club
Form 7 Trip Edinburgh College of Art Fashion
Junior Choir

NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Mr Purvis was beaming with pride following last week's Laser Vision Scotland sponsored Farr Out Challenge. The sun shone and right across our campus pupils from the 14 schools represented could be heard and seen enjoying the various teamwork and leadership activities in which they were involved. Huge thanks go to all the schools who took part, to the staff and parents who supported them, to the pupils of St. Mary's for guiding them on the day, and to staff who ran the numerous activities. During the week we have received thank you card messages, including a card from the pupils of Morebattle Primary, who were worthy winners on the day.

On Monday morning, we talked about the successes of the Farr Out Challenge before handing out numerous medals and trophies gathered by pupils involved in extra-curricular

activities the previous weekend. I then made mention of Dr Jim Reilly's emphasis on recycling, and that the idea of man reaching Mars is probably as far away as the planet itself because of our inability to recycle responsibly. This led me on to talk about a littering culture in Scotland that seems to be at a lower standard than any other country in Europe or the western world. I hope my message was received by all pupils, and would ask that appropriate disposal of one's litter be reiterated at all times.

During the week, Form 4 took a trip to Trimontium on Tuesday as part of their work in Latin, studying the Romans. When I visited the class to ask them how they had got on, Form 4 were able to provide me with some interesting facts that they had picked up on their trip. Meanwhile, Miss Simpson headed south to a senior school in England to make enquiries about an exciting new reading initiative that we will be incorporating here at St. Mary's in the coming weeks. More details to follow as this approaches its launch.

A busy afternoon of fixtures took place on Wednesday, and whilst I usually refer you to the individual match reports on the website, I would like to make mention of a splendid 1st XI cricket match between St. Mary's and Mowden Hall on our front field. The match was played in a typical prep school spirit, with both teams playing hard but in a courteous and gracious manner towards each other. An outstanding catch by Tommy may well have been the deciding factor in a narrow victory for St. Mary's, but both teams should be congratulated on their performances.

This morning in assembly, Miss McRae conducted a wonderful performance by Form 5. Oliver L played 'Aura Lee' on guitar, Willa gave a beautiful rendition of 'Baby Mine' and Form 5 choir sang 'Rhythm of Life' at an exceptional standard, leaving visiting parents and the school with smiles on their faces as we entered the final day of the week. Oliver C received his Grade II violin certificate; we thanked Mimi Pitman and James Inglis for their excellent contributions whilst on work experience during the week; and we thanked Form 3 for sending an uplifting video to Tanya and her mum and dad, as her absence through ill health continues.

Finally, can I wish our seven boys who will be competing in the Glenalmond Cricket Sixes this Sunday all the very best. It would be quite something if they were able to defend the trophy that St. Mary's won for the first time in the trophy's history last year.

POLITE NOTICE

Please can all parents be aware that our Form 8 pupils will be sitting their Common Entrance Mental Arithmetic examination at 8.30am on Monday. The exam will take place in the Maths and English rooms so please try to minimise noise in the vicinity of the Hamilton Building. As in previous years, the main written examinations will also be completed in the Hamilton Building, starting on Tuesday 6th and finishing on the morning of Friday 9th June.

Thank you

Dr Morgan and Miss Simpson

UPPER KINDERGARTEN VISIT MRS CURRIE



Yesterday morning Miss Abbie took the children from Upper Kindergarten along to Mrs Currie's classroom. First of all they played a game on the starboard, then they listened to a story about the letter 'a'. They found some objects that begin with 'a' then they used the playdoh to make the letter 'a' and 's'. It was great fun. Well done everyone.

Mrs Currie

COMMON ENTRANCE 13+ FRENCH LISTENING AND SPEAKING EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 16th May

*****FORM 8*****

On Tuesday morning Form 8 pupils will be sitting their French Listening and Speaking exams. This weekend they should be practising their prepared topics and should be able to speak for 2- 3 minutes on each topic. I have suggested that if they would like to have more support or feedback, they could submit further recordings on Schoolshape this weekend, but must remember to go back to check for feedback. They should also be working on vocabulary revision, using the CE vocabulary book and the sheets of vocabulary that we have gathered through tackling past papers.

Bonne chance pour la semaine prochaine, Classe 8!

Madame Syme

AUTHOR VISIT

On Friday 19th May, author MG Leonard will be at St. Mary's to talk about her latest book, 'Beetle Queen' (sequel to 'Beetle Boy') and about writing and inspirational insects in general. Forms 4-6 will be involved in the visit, and the Mainstreet Trading mobile book van will also be making an appearance. Further information is enclosed in brown envelopes – it's going to be an exciting event!

Miss Simpson

WEDNESDAY GAMES LESSONS

Read about Wednesday's PE lesson on the website.

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/497346/St_Marys_School/Sport/Rounders/Rounders_Reports_2017/Wednesday_Games_Session.aspx

On Tuesday afternoon Form 4 enjoyed a hot and sunny Roman march from Leaderfoot to Newstead with Mr Donald Gordon from the Trimontium trust, who pointed out all the archaeological signs that help us work out where the Trimontium camp used to be. Form 4 carried their standards, shields and swords as they sang their marching song with gusto with our experienced centurio.



We then visited the museum in Melrose and enjoyed dressing up in Roman costumes and looking at some of the artefacts the Romans left behind. Gratias vobis agimus, Miss Scott-Aiton, Jessie and Mr Bell!

Miss Ellis

MUSIC AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Brass Workshop

A reminder that there will be a short brass instrument workshop for pupils in Forms 3, 4 and 5 on Tuesday, May 16th at 3.30pm in the Morrison Hall. This will be delivered by John Mabon, Chairman of Jedforest Instrumental Band. Pupils may be 5/10 minutes late finishing school that day as a result. Parents are very welcome to join us at 3.30 to see and hear what it's all about!

Instrument Tuition

Please return instrument tuition forms for 2017-2018 to your child's Form Tutor as soon as possible but no later than **Friday, May 19th**. If you have any questions regarding tuition, please contact me on kmcrae@stmarysmelrose.org.uk or drop in to see me at school.

Miss McRae

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT



Inspired by the painting of Daniel Quintero Form 8 have been producing their own response to the brief " Looking in Looking out" provided by the National Galleries of Scotland in this year's schools art competition which is sponsored by Tesco Bank.

They have produced some super thought provoking work. So it was wonderful to hear that Hamish M has been rewarded with a merit for his intriguing study of his fellow Form 8 boys and 2 rather symbolic dogs. If you would care to view his painting it will be on display in

the Modern Art Gallery in Edinburgh from the 17th of June. As this is when Hamish has been asked to attend the prize ceremony where the efforts of 53 young artists will be celebrated.

Well done Hamish! 7,700 entries were received this year so we are delighted that his entry caught the judge's eye in the S1-S3 category.

Ms Wood

FORM 5 EXPLORE THE SCHOOL IN SEARCH OF ANGLES!



Read the article and see more photographs on the website

http://www.stmarysmelrose.org.uk/Articles/497351/St_Marys_School/Parents/Latest_News/Form_5_explore.aspx

Mrs Runciman

MISSING

Caelan's - green shorts.

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S

Cake Sale: Friday, 26th May at 3pm. Donations of baking will be much appreciated. Please bring to school on the day and leave in the kitchen. Thank you.

Giant Sunflower Growing Competition Thank you to everyone who has purchased the Grow Packs. Happy Growing! We would love to see pictures of your child's sunflowers growing so if you would like to post pictures on the FOSM Facebook page please do so.

SUMMER FAIR

Volunteers are needed to help with the fair and make it a huge success. Please let Sophie Scott know on 07778 852559 if you are able to help at all. In due course, we will be requesting donations for the jumble sale, tombola, produce stall etc so please remember us if you are having a rummage through your present drawer or clearing out your children's clothes.

Thank you. FOSM

MS FUN RUN

<http://jscrawford.co.uk/news.asp>



And

Melrose Festival Supporters Group are organising a fundraising walk on Sunday 21st May which will follow the route of the festival ride out...approx 9 miles, with an option for doing a shorter loop of about 5 miles. Registration and start from Melrose Tennis Club in the Gibson Park 9.30 -10.30am . Adults £5, Family of 4 - £10, additional children £1. Refreshments and home baking back at Tennis Club at the end. All welcome!