



SCHOOL UPDATES



LENT 2019:

We've had a great week of fundraising in school as pupils have taken part in their 40 minute sponsored activities. The challenge was for classes to give 40 minutes of their time to improve and look after our school environment and local area. We've had pupils gardening, cleaning windows and making art work to inspire us during Lent – all of which were great examples how just 40 minutes of thinking about others can make a huge difference. We've set ourselves a target of £2000 this Lent (approximately £10 per pupil) which will go to support vulnerable members of our local and global community. Please help your child to collect donations and send on to school in a clearly labelled envelope. It would be great to think that we could work together to reach – and maybe even better – this ambitious total.

We're also continuing to ask children to bring in donations of food produce for the Worswick Welcome project at St Andrew's RC Church, Newcastle, and the Gateshead Foodbank. Please be as generous as you can. Children across school are being asked to donate the following items:

Reception: Beans and ketchup

Year 1: Coffee and tea

Year 2: Biscuits (wrapped – eg. Kit-kat, Penguin etc)

Year 3: Sugar

Year 4: Washing up liquid

Year 5: Tinned ham/tuna

Year 6: Toiletries (shaving foam, shower gel, deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes)

Please could all food donations and sponsor money be sent in to school by Monday 26th March 2019.

Many thanks for your continued support this Lent!

LENTEN PRAYER STATIONS:

This week, pupils will be focusing on 'prayer' – one of our Lenten challenges. Pupils will look at different ways of praying which will include participation in a creative prayer experience in the school hall in which pupils will spend time at various 'prayer stations' designed to deepen their understanding of the themes of Lent, and of course, to have a meaningful prayer experience in which they come to know God's love for them more intimately. We will also be opening up our prayer stations for parents and members of our community on Thursday between 2:30 and 3pm, during which time our Y3 pupils will act as prayer leaders in the space. It promises to be an uplifting week for us all.

OWN-CLOTHES DAY – CAFOD 'GIVE IT UP' AND COMIC RELIEF:

Thank you for your contributions last Friday. We managed to raise a combined £356 which will be split between these two appeals.

MOTHER'S DAY SALE FRIDAY 29TH MARCH:

We're still in need of gifts for our Mother's Day sale which will be taking place on Friday 29th March. Beauty gift sets/ products, photo frames, potted plants, candles and chocolates would all be greatly received (please note, we cannot accept any alcoholic drinks). **Can we please ask that all donations /gifts are handed in to school by Wednesday 27th March.** On the day, gifts will be priced from 50p to £3. Please could all money be sent in a clearly labelled envelope or (for older pupils) brought in a purse or wallet – change will be sent home with your child unless indicated otherwise (ie. You would like them to buy more than one gift or you would like to donate a greater amount to the Friends of St Mary's). Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

SPORTS UPDATE:

It's been a busy week of sport at St Mary's! At the start of the week, our Y4 quick sticks hockey semi-finalists battled valiantly in the face of some tough competition, and though not quite qualifying to the regional finals, the team had a great time and represented the school amazingly. We then had pupils from Years 4 and 6 representing the school in the re-arranged Cross Country competition at Watergate Park; all the runners performed excellently, with some notable times from the group. Our Y5 C2C team were out on their bikes for another gruelling after-school ride too, many of whom completed over 100m of climbs on the night as they continue their preparations for their 4 day ride in June. On Thursday, all pupils in Y4 attended the Gateshead tag rugby festival at Gateshead International Stadium on Thursday with the pupils putting in to practice the skills they've been developing in PE and representing the school admirably in a friendly competition with other Gateshead schools. And finally, our school football team once again produced some lovely football on the last night of the Blaydon and District League competition, coming second overall on points. It's been a truly active week, with fantastic efforts all round from pupils and staff demonstrating what an amazing sporting provision we have at St Mary's.

ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	3.7	0	96.3
YEAR 1	3.8	0	96.2
YEAR 2	6.7	0.7	92.7
YEAR 3	3.9	1.3	94.8
YEAR 4	3.9	3.2	92.9
YEAR 5	1	0.7	98.3
YEAR 6	0.6	0	99.4
AVERAGE	3.4	0.8	95.8

We've had bit of a dip in attendance this week across school, so a particular well done to Years 5 and 6 for maintaining their strong attendance!

EXEMPLAR EDUCATION:

This week, in your child's blue bag, you will receive an envelope containing information about *Exemplar Education* – an online homework support programme for children and parents. This is the second time we have sent this information home, and whereas we don't endorse this programme as such, we are regularly asked by parents for information about how they can help their child continue their learning at home. There is no requirement to sign up for more information, but if the school receives 30% of forms back, we will receive some free licences to use in school. Please return the forms by the end of next week. Thank you.

REMINDERS

PARENTS' EVENING:

Thank you to all those who attended Parents' Evening appointments this week. The evenings ran very smoothly, and it was lovely to catch up with many of you as you waited for appointments or perused books in the hall. We are seeking your feedback as part of our Spring Term Parents' Voice survey, and would ask that you take five minutes to respond to a few questions online (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HDBBJML>). Many thanks for your ongoing support and feedback.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Y3 CLASS LITURGY:

Please help us to continue our Lenten journey by joining Y3 at their termly class liturgy on Thursday 28th March (2:30pm in the school hall). The format of our class liturgy will be slightly different to normal; rather than a traditional Liturgy of the Word, the Y3 pupils will be leading creative 'prayer stations' reflections. The interactive prayer space will open at 2:30pm and close at 3pm, so please feel free to pop in at any point between these times. All welcome!

Y4 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION LITURGY:

Our next liturgy of preparation towards Holy Communion for pupils in Y4 will be held during 9:30am Mass at St Mary's church on Sunday 24th March.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S EASTER EGG COMPETITION:

In blue bags this week, you will find a blank egg template for your child to decorate at home. Children can decorate, paint or colour their egg in any style that they want and there will be 1st and 2nd prize per year group which will be given out in assembly on the last day of term. Can all completed eggs be returned to school by Thursday 4th April at the latest. Thank you.

DIARY DATES (25.3.19 – 29.3.19)

MONDAY – Y5 Trip to Gibside (pupils have received a letter with details of the trip).

TUESDAY – Lenten Prayer Stations for pupils.

WEDNESDAY – Lenten Prayer Stations for pupils.

C2C all day ride.

Y1 and 2 striking and fielding event (pupils involved will receive a letter).

THURSDAY – Y4 skipping festival at Gateshead Leisure Centre (pupils have received a letter with details).

Y3 Class Liturgy/Prayer Stations (2:30pm-3pm; all welcome).

FRIDAY – Girls' football tournament at Cardinal Hume School (pupils involved will receive a letter).

