



LENT 2022:

Our pupils have made a fantastic start to their Lenten journey, and we will be continuing to pray more, give more and do more over the coming weeks as we prepare to celebrate our risen Lord at Easter.

SPONSORED WALK:

On the morning of Friday 1st April, all pupils will be taking part in a sponsored walk around our local area. Pupils should come into school in their own clothes – appropriate for the weather (whatever that may be). We will be outdoors for a couple of hours and pupils will need appropriate outdoor footwear (walking shoes or wellies) and a change of socks and shoes for school.

We are still in need of some parent helpers for the morning so please get in touch if you'd be able to help out. Thank you to all those who have already volunteered; we will be in touch next week with more details in advance of Friday.

For the pupils' efforts, we are asking for financial contributions towards our Lenten appeal for local and global projects (Kenya, India) supported by the Parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri *Gift for Life* group. Donations can be made via Sims Pay360 (<https://www.pay360educationpayments.com/Home>) under the 'events' section (Lent 2022) or by sending cash into school in a clearly labelled envelope. Please spread the word and see how much we can raise for some great causes.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

FOOD DONATIONS:

Please could all food donations be sent into school by **Monday 4th April**, so that the produce can be collected and distributed by our dedicated team of parish volunteers before the end of term.

SCHOOL UPDATES AND REMINDERS

TREE OF REMEMBRANCE AND TIME CAPSULE:

This week, Y6 pupils from St Mary's and St Philip Neri primary schools took part in a tree planting ceremony in remembrance of all members of our parish community who have died throughout the Covid pandemic. You may notice the newly planted tree outside the parish hall, and we would ask that you encourage your children to be careful if they are playing near it; we hope that the tree will stand for decades to come to honour the lives of these cherished members of our community.

Alongside the tree, a time capsule was also buried containing work from Y6 pupils from the two schools inspired by the theme of 'hope'. St Mary's pupils worked together to produce a 'rainbow of hope': a collection of hopeful messages for the future inspired by the icon of the fight against Covid in the UK.

We wonder when the capsule will be unearthed, and how this artefact of the present day will be received by those who discover it.

SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to our school football team who ended their league campaign this season on a great night of football this Thursday. Despite not quite reaching finals night, the team played with spirit and determination, and were a credit to Mr Colling and the school.

GYMNASTICS:

Tonight's gymnastics session (25.3.22) is the last of the current term. Tennis and Happy Feet will continue as usual for the next two weeks.

A NOTICE FROM FRIENDS OF CHASE PARK:

The Friends of Chae Park would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraiser for Ukraine. We hoped to raise £500 for the Disaster Emergency Committee, but thanks to the great generosity of the businesses, runners and people of Whickham, we raised an amazing £3200. Thank you all so much.

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE:

We would ask you to continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia, and for world leaders, that a swift and peaceful end to this conflict may be reached immediately:

*Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.*

*We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.*

*We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.*

*May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.*

Amen.

Should you wish to make a personal financial donation to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (part of the UK Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal), you can do so online at www.cafod.org.uk/Ukraine.

COVID-19 ONGOING GUIDANCE

Please continue to adhere to the following guidance:

As a school, we continue to reserve the right to refuse attendance for pupils who:

- Display Covid-19 symptoms (pending a negative PCR test return);
- Have tested positive for Covid-19 via PCR or LFD test.

UPDATED ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUSPECTED CASES OF COVID-19:

- Your child must not come to school if they have any Covid -19 symptoms; they should access a free PCR test immediately and remain at home pending the outcome of the test.
- No adult should drop-off or pick-up from school if they have Covid-19 symptoms, have tested positive via an LFD test or is awaiting outcomes of a PCR test.

Please ensure that you inform school via the dedicated email inbox wsmcovid@gatedu.org if your child:

- Develops Covid-19 symptoms and is isolating;
- Requires a PCR test (due to displaying Covid symptoms);
- Receives a positive test outcome from a Lateral Flow Device.

UPDATED ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19:

- Should your child test positive for Covid-19 via a PCR test, it continues to be a requirement for school, in line with our school risk assessment, that they must remain off school for up to 10 days after the date the symptoms started (or in the event of an asymptomatic case, from the day the test was taken).
- Should your child test negative via an LFD test for two consecutive days and they no longer have a raised temperature, they may return to school early after five full days has been completed (ie. On day 5 and 6 after symptoms/a positive test with the tests being taken over 24 hours apart).
- Should your child test positive via an LFD test, even without displaying Covid symptoms, they should also stay off school for up to 10 days (as if they had received a positive PCR test result), returning early if they no longer have a raised temperature and return negative LFD test outcomes on days 5 and 6. If tested, for example, in the morning of days 5 and 6, this could mean that they are able to return to school after 5 full days.
- *Please note, for a child to return to school following 5 full days off school, the 2nd negative test outcome must be received before the start of the school day.*

DAILY TESTING FOR CONTACTS OF COVID-19:

- Qualifying adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 (no matter the variant) are still strongly advised to take an LFD test (for as long as they are made available) every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.