

**IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:**

- Parent/carer consultations this week:
 - Monday – Y4
 - Wednesday – Y1
 - Thursday – Y5

Several appointment times have been rearranged so please check the final times via the Arbor site/app.

As ever, if you anticipate that you will require a longer appointment to discuss a particular issue with your child's class teacher, this should be arranged via the school office for an alternative date/time.

- We will be having our World Book Day celebrations in school on Wednesday 6th March.
- Year 2 will be visiting the Library on Wednesday. Any parent helpers due to attend, please note that the class will depart at 10am.
- Dental checks for all 5-year-old pupils (whose parents have consented) will be undertaken on Thursday.
- Y5 Bikeability session 2 on Thursday.
- Please send in all Food Bank donations this week (see note below).
- REMINDER: We require volunteers for our 'Big Lent Walk' on the morning of Tuesday 26th March. If you can help out, please email the school office (info@stmw.bwcet.com).

SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS**SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT:**

Please see attached some information from Northumbria Police regarding 'County Lines' for your information.

REMINDER – LENTEN EVENTS 2024:

- We will be collecting donations for the Gateshead Food Bank. Donations should be sent to school by Friday 8th March.
Pupils are asked to bring in donations of any of the following priority items:
dried pasta, tinned produce, long grained rice, tomato purée, crisps, biscuits, jam, cereal, squash, tomato ketchup, mayonnaise, sugar, teabags, coffee, biscuits, spray cleaner, washing up liquid, laundry powder/liquid, feminine hygiene (especially tampons), antiperspirant, toilet rolls, shampoo, toothpaste.
- We will be celebrating Whole School Mass at 9:30am on Thursday 21st March 2024.
- On Tuesday 26th March, we will be taking part in a whole-school 'Big Lent Walk' and will be raising money for CAFOD – the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. We will write more in coming weeks about the event, but donations for the sponsored event can already be made here:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/whickhamstmarys-cafod-walk-2024>.
- Pupils will be leading special Celebrations of the Word during Holy Week (the last week of term).

REMINDER – WORLD BOOK DAY AT ST MARY'S:

We will be taking part in our annual 'World Book Day' celebration on Wednesday 6th March. The theme for this year's event is 'Read Your Way'. As such, we would like to invite pupils to come in to school 'dressed their way' in celebration of all things literary. This could be fancy dress of a favourite character/book/word; wearing cosy clothing ready for a bedtime story; anything else that pupils come up with as a way of celebrating the day. Pupils will be taking part in a range of activities over the day to show how much we love reading, and books in general, at St Mary's.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S:

At our meeting of the Friends of St Mary's last week, several items were discussed which we would like to share with you to raise awareness of our aims for the upcoming year:

1. Bank account – Outstanding 200 Club winnings will be re-issued as soon as possible. We will then give an update regarding the 200 Club in due course.
2. We will be planning a community event at the end of the Summer Term to come together and celebrate the achievements of the year. The event will be mid-week, after-school/early evening (date TBC) with a summer picnic/fete theme. Rather than a fundraising event, this will be funded by the Friends as a reward to all out pupils for their efforts this year. Over the coming weeks, we will be on the lookout for some partners to help with stalls/activities at the event, so please keep a lookout for future news items.
3. There will be a coffee morning early in the Autumn Term with an invite to all new parents/carers.
4. Future fundraising will focus on supporting a particular school improvement priority (to be agreed upon next year).
5. The Friends will be funding an experience for all pupils for Christmas 2024 (such as a trip to the theatre).

Upcoming Friends meetings will be held in school at 9am on:

- Friday 22nd March 2024
- Friday 26th April 2024
- Friday 7th June 2024