



## SCHOOL UPDATES

### LENT 2019:

We marked the outset of Lent as a school and parish family with an uplifting celebration of Mass on Ash Wednesday. Over the week, pupils have been thinking about 'pledges' they will make this Lent to spend more time in prayer, to give more of themselves and to go without privileges and treats, and to do more to support the vulnerable and needy. Reception and Year 5 also lead a beautiful community Liturgy entitled 'seeds and good deeds' which encouraged us all to consider how we can be *ambassadors* for Christ in what we do and say, and how small changes we make in our lives can blossom and grow in to wonderful expressions of Christ's love in our world.

Next week, pupils will be bringing home sponsor forms for a '40-minute Lenten Challenge'. Pupils will be considering in their classes how they could spend 40 minutes making a positive change in our school and local area, and will then spend the time with their classmates fulfilling their good deed. They will be asking for donations to complete the task which will go towards our Lenten charities: the projects supported by our parish Gift for Life group in Kenya and India, as well as St Cuthbert's Care – our local Catholic charity. This year, we are setting a target of £2000 to achieve by the end of Lent. This may seem ambitious, but if every pupil were to collect donations of just £10, we could achieve this amount which would have a great impact on the lives of people living in great need. Let's see if we can make it happen!



Week	Theme	Activities
2 (wb.11/3/19)	Stand up #forLife	Sponsored fundraising events taking place in school (money raised to support projects in Kenya and India in collaboration with the parish Gift for Life group).  Cafod 'Give it Up' Day and Comic Relief – 15 <sup>th</sup> March.
3 (wb.18/3/19)	Give #forLife	<b>Year 2 Class Liturgy – 21<sup>st</sup> March (2:30pm at St Mary's school).</b>  Drive to support local community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Cuthbert's Care.</li> <li>• Worswick Welcome/ Gateshead Food Bank.</li> </ul>
4 (wb.25/3/19)	Pray #forLife	<b>Change of date: Year 3 Class Liturgy – 28<sup>th</sup> March (2:30pm at St Mary's school).</b>  Creative prayer opportunities planned and delivered by pupils in school.
5 (wb.1/4/19)	Celebrate #forLife	<b>Whole School Mass to celebrate our Lenten journey – 4<sup>th</sup> March (9:30am at St Mary's Church).</b>

### SOME WONDERFUL NEWS:

It is with great joy we are able to share that Mrs Gardner and her husband welcomed their first son Milo John Gardner in to the world on Monday. Both mum and baby are doing well, and we wish them all well at this special time. We look forward to meeting Milo very soon!

### IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE:

Following a very serious incident in the borough in which an 11 year old child was knocked over, we have been asked by Gateshead Council to remind all parents and carers to ensure that:

- Children of all ages know to stop at a zebra crossing, and not to cross until either a lollipop warden instructs them to do so, or in the case that no warden available, vehicles on both sides of the road have stopped.
- Younger children are holding the hand of a responsible adult at all crossing points.
- Those driving take additional care near schools and at stopping points – especially where there are people waiting to cross.

Thank you for taking time to consider these points.

### 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.

### SPORTS UPDATE:

Well done to our 'indoor athletes' who represented the school wonderfully well at St Thomas More this week. Mrs Joyce was incredibly impressed by the skill, determination and attitude displayed by all the pupils who had a thoroughly enjoyable evening of sport.

### ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	3.3	4	93.3
YEAR 1	0.7	0	99.3
YEAR 2	2.3	0	97.7
YEAR 3	2.9	0	97.1
YEAR 4	0	3.2	97.4
YEAR 5	2.3	0	97.7
YEAR 6	0.6	0	99.4
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>97.4</b>

### MOTHER'S DAY SALE FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:

The Friends of St Mary's are organising a Mother's Day sale where your child can come along to our *pop-up shop* and buy a gift especially for you. In order to ensure that we have enough stock for our shop, we are asking for your support in providing suitable gifts that you as Mothers would like to receive. In previous years, beauty gift sets/ products, photo frames, potted plants, candles and chocolates have proved very popular (please note, we cannot accept any alcoholic drinks). On the day, gifts will be priced from 50p to £3. Can we please ask that all donations /gifts are handed in to school by Wednesday 27th March. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

## REMINDERS

### SKIPPING ROPES:

Following the success of their skipping workshops, Y2 and 4 have the opportunity to purchase a skipping rope in order to continue developing their skills at home. These can be purchased for £5 each by sending in money in a clearly labelled envelope.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **CLASS LITURGIES – CHANGE OF DATE:**

**The date of the Y3 Class Liturgy has changed, and it will now take place at 2:30pm on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March. Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.**

### OWN-CLOTHES DAY – CAFOD ‘GIVE IT UP’ AND COMIC RELIEF:

As well as our Lenten fundraising, we’ll be supporting somewhat of a double-whammy next Friday! Pupils can pay £1 (or more if you’re feeling generous!) to come to school in their own clothes for the day. We will split the donations from the day to the Cafod Lenten ‘Give it Up’ and Comic Relief campaigns. Please send all monies in to school in a clearly labelled envelope.

## DIARY DATES (11.3.19 – 15.3.19)

### WEDNESDAY –

Cricket Roadshow for Years 1,2 and 3 (pupils need full PE kit including trainers).

Y4 Hockey at Kingsmeadow School (pupils involved will receive a letter).

C2C local ride (3:30 – 5pm).

### THURSDAY –

Blaydon and District League Football (pupils involved will receive a letter).

### FRIDAY –

Cafod ‘Give it Up’ and Comic Relief – pupils may pay £1 and come in to school in own clothes.

Friends Coffee Morning – 9am in the school hall (funds to go towards our Lenten fundraising appeal).