



SCHOOL UPDATES



LENT 2019:

This week, pupils will be bringing home sponsor forms for their '40-minute Lenten Challenges' which will be taking place in school over the coming week. Pupils have been considering in their classes how they could spend 40 minutes making a positive change in our school and local area, and will 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!

Next week, we will also be asking children to bring in donations of food produce for the Worswick Welcome project at St Andrew's RC Church, Newcastle, and the Gateshead Foodbank. 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 be as generous as you can – especially as we are supporting two local projects this year.

Many thanks!

SPORTS UPDATE:

Well done to our Y4 quick sticks hockey teams who competed in a tournament at Kingsmeadow School on a rather blustery Wednesday afternoon. On an afternoon of fierce competition, our 'B squad' managed to qualify for the Semi Finals of the competition which will take place next week. Good luck to the team – we look forward to seeing how far they can progress in the tournament.

ATTENDANCE:

YEAR GROUP	AUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE (%)	OVERALL (%)
RECEPTION	1.7	0	98.3
YEAR 1	2.4	0	97.6
YEAR 2	1.3	0	98.7
YEAR 3	0.3	0	99.7
YEAR 4	0	0	100
YEAR 5	1.7	0	98.3
YEAR 6	0.3	0	99.7
AVERAGE	1.1	0	98.9

Well done for an excellent week of attendance!

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.

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

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 on Friday 15th March! 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.

MOTHER'S DAY SALE FRIDAY 29TH 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.

Y2 CLASS LITURGY:

Please help us to continue our Lenten journey by joining Y2 at their termly class liturgy on Thursday 20th March (2:30pm in the school hall); all welcome!

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 28th March. Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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.

DIARY DATES (18.3.19 – 22.3.19)

TUESDAY –

Cross Country at Watergate Park (pupils involved will receive a letter).

Quick sticks hockey semi-finals (pupils involved will receive a letter).

WEDNESDAY –

Y4 Sacramental Preparation Catechist Session.

C2C local ride.

Y4 Tag Rugby competition at Gateshead Stadium – all pupils involved (pupils will receive an additional letter).

THURSDAY –

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

Y2 Class Liturgy (2:30pm – all welcome).

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

FRIDAY –

Friends of St Mary's Mothers' Day sale.

SUNDAY –

Sacramental Preparation: Liturgy 6 (9:30am, St Mary's RC Church)