



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- This week, we will be having a celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) across school (see note below).
 - There will be no Happy Feet on Tuesday due to the pupils' participation in the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival at the Glasshouse.
 - On Tuesday, pupils will be having a special assembly from CAFOD in advance of our participation in the Big Lent Walk.
 - Our Whole School Mass has been postponed due to Canon Peter's availability and will now be celebrated at 9:30am on Tuesday 26th March. Our Big Lent Walk will now take place on Monday 25th March. Mrs Ledger will be in touch with those who have volunteered to help out, so if you are no longer able to take part, please just let us know.
 - Y5 Bikeability session 4 on Thursday.
 - Thanks to all those who helped us to raise over £200 for Comic Relief. If you haven't yet donated to our Red Nose Day appeal, please do so here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/whickhamstmarys-comicrelief2024>.
 - Outstanding payments for Y2 and Y4 pupils' trip to Hamsterley Forest must be made this week. This can be done via the school shop on Arbor (the trip has been reinstated so please look again if you have struggled to make a late payment). Please contact the school office for assistance if you cannot make payment.
 - There will be a Friends of St Mary's meeting at 8:50am on Friday 22nd March in school. All welcome to attend.
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SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

DIARY DATES:

Please note that Thursday 28th March is the last day of the Spring Term.

All pupils will return to school on Monday 15th April.

Our final Inset day of the academic year has been set for Monday 3rd June. School (and Duckpool Pre-school) will be closed to all pupils on this day.

Term dates for academic year 2024-25 can be found on the school website (<https://www.whickhamstmarys.org.uk/term-dates.html>).

STEM WEEK:

Pupils across school will be enjoying various activities next week for our STEM celebration. Highlights include a visit from Northumbria University's 'Street Scientists' for KS2 on Wednesday, a rockpool workshop for Y2 on Thursday, as well as class visits from several of our parents who will be talking to pupils about their experiences working in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths. It promises to be a fantastic week.

FIRST RECONCILIATION:

Well done to our Y4 pupils who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in a special celebration on Wednesday. We continue to pray for them as they journey towards their celebration of first Holy Communion in June.

SPORTING UPDATE:

Congratulations to our KS1 and 2 footballers, Y3 hockey teams and swimming squad who have all represented the school over the past week in various events. All the pupils performed wonderfully – not least our Y5 and 6 swimmers who came 6th overall in the county finals – and displayed fantastic effort, determination, resilience, teamwork and fair play.

REMINDER - FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S:

Calling all Friends! We are on the lookout for a range of partners to help us out with our Friends Picnic planned for the Summer Term. If you, or someone you know, has links to any of the following, we would love to hear from you:

- Food/drink concessions (no alcohol we're afraid!)
- Funfair attractions/lawn games
- Face painting
- Family entertainment

Please contact friendsofstmarys1@outlook.com if you could help us deliver an amazing event for our pupils, friends and family.