



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Year 2 and 4 trip to Hamsterley Forest on Tuesday – warm, appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear and packed lunch required.
- Year 1 trip to the Library on Wednesday (10am departure).
- Please pray for our Year 4 pupils who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday evening at St Mary's RC Church.
- Y5 Bikeability session 3 on Thursday.
- Pupils in Reception and Year 6 will be taking part in height and weight checks as part of the NCMP (please see attached info). You do not need to do anything if you are happy for your child to take part.
- Pupils can come in to school in their own clothes on Friday 15th March for Comic Relief Red Nose Day. If you would like to make a donation to the cause, please do so here:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/whickhamstmarys-comicrelief2024>.

SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

LENT 2024:

Thank you for all your Lenten almsgiving donations for the Gateshead Food Bank. There is still time to make a donation if you have not yet done so, please send in all donations by Monday 11th March 2024 at the latest.

There is still time to volunteer for our Big Lent Walk on Tuesday 26th March. If you are able to help us out, please get in touch with the school office (info@stmw.bwcet.com).

WORLD BOOK DAY AT ST MARY'S:

We had a fantastic early World Book Day celebration at school with pupils entering in to the 'dress your way' theme with a range of costumes, cosy clothing and the ubiquitous World Book Day football strips!

If you haven't managed to get your hands on a World Book Day token already, you can use the attached digital token for a free World Book Day title or £1 off a brand new book.

The redemption period for World Book Day 2024 £1 tokens is from Thursday 15th February until Sunday 31st March 2024. You can redeem your World Book Day book token at the following retailers:

- Your local independent bookseller
- Asda
- Blackwell's (selected stores only)
- Sainsburys
- Tesco
- The Works
- Waterstones
- WHSmith

SPORTING UPDATE:

A massive well done to our female footballing superstars in Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 who have represented the school wonderfully at events over the past week. The pupils all took part in a range of activities and matches developing and honing their skills and having loads of fun along the way. We are so proud of all the girls and their achievements!

Good luck to our KS2 swimming squad who will be competing in the county finals this week!

SCIENCE WEEK:

During the week of 18th March, we will be having a Science week across school in order to celebrate and promote STEM subjects and careers. We would be delighted if any parents/carers, friends or families of the school could help us out by coming in to talk to some of our pupils about their careers and how Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths or Computing plays a role in what they do. If you think you could help out, please get in touch with the school office with your availability for the week (info@stmw.bwcet.com).

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.

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

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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND MOTHERING SUNDAY:

On Friday 8th March we celebrated International Women's Day, and on Sunday, we will be giving thanks for all mothers, grandmothers and female care-givers. We hope that all our in our community have a wonderful weekend with their loved ones.

We pray,

*Mary, mother of God, Mary mother of compassion, we ask for your prayers.
Mother of all who are poor, you said 'yes' to God's call.*

We give thanks for the inspiration of all the women who have answered God's call throughout time – for those who are known as saints and for those whose names are hidden but whose work lives on.

We celebrate the example of women who transform their own lives and the lives of others, by answering Christ's call to feed those who are hungry and give drink to those who thirst.

Mary, mother of us all, the urgent cries of the hungry can still be heard today – call us to answer, help us to hear.

Inspire us and move us, as we battle to bring about a better world.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, your Son, Amen.

(Linda Jones/CAFOD)