



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Sacramental preparation meeting in school at 5pm on Wednesday 22.1.25 for parents/carers of pupils in Year 4 who would like to nominate their child to prepare for and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year.
- Pupils in Years 1 to 6 will take part in a judo taster session on Tuesday and will need to come to school in full PE kit. Rather than cause further confusion, this will be seen as an additional day for PE for any pupils who do not normally wear PE kit on a Tuesday (ie. These pupils will need to wear PE kit three times next week).
- Please ensure payment is made for any pupils receiving small group peripatetic violin tuition this term.

SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS



JUBILEE YEAR 2025:

On Friday, our Year 6 pupils will be leading a special Liturgy to 'open' a Holy Door in school as we launch our celebrations for the Jubilee Year 2025. This follows the opening of two Holy Doors in Rome which signify the invitation for all to enter into fullness of life through Christ (*"I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."* John 10:9).

Pope Francis has called for the theme of the Jubilee Year (held every 25 years in the Catholic Church) to be **'Pilgrims of Hope.'** Over the coming year, we will invite each member of our extended school community to be part of our celebrations – and to pass through our 'Holy Door' as pilgrims of hope – starting with special moments of prayer led by our pupils as part of the upcoming Explore the Curriculum sessions held in school this term.

We will also devote our energies over the coming months to developing in our faith through prayer, learning and action focusing in particular on how we can all contribute to the Mission of the Church through its Catholic Social Teaching.

Lord, be with us as we embark on our year-long pilgrimage. In hope-filled expectation, we set forth as one Church who – from the four corners of the earth – come together behind the banner of the cross: a constant reassurance and reminder that, for God, nothing is impossible. May we enter this year through You and stay ever close to Your side in our daily learning and living, rooted firmly in prayer and devotion to Your Holy Word. We ask that Your Holy Spirit be ever-present in our school, parish and Diocese and that this may be a blessed year for us all. Amen.

2025/26 TERM DATES:

Please see attached the agreed term dates for academic year 2025/26. Term dates can be found on the school website (<https://stmaryswhickham.bwcet.com/parents/term-dates-school-day>). Please note the Inset days which have also been set for the year.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ERROR:

Sincere apologies for an error made last week with the menu for the free school meal offered to pupils on Thursday. The offer of a free school meal in part of an ongoing initiative within Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust who work with a number of school meal providers across its 48 schools. The error was due

to a breakdown in communication between the Bishop Wilkinson CET central team and the Gateshead School Catering. We know that some pupils would have been confused and may have been disappointed by the change in the advertised menu, and we will make every endeavour to ensure that this error is not made for future free meal events. Thank you for your understanding.