



### **IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:**

- **All parents/carers, please read the below staffing update.**
- Year 5 pupils will be attending St Thomas More's 'Big Sing' event on Tuesday morning. The event is part of an open morning for parents/carers of pupils in Year 5.
- Please pray for the member of our Year 4 class who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in a special liturgy at St Mary's RC Church at 5:30pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.
- This Lent, we will be raising money for Cafod by taking part in their 'Big Lent Walk'. Should you wish to donate to Cafod's Lent appeal, you may do so via either our dedicated 'Big Lent Walk' page [here](#) or the Cafod website [here](#).
- Parent/Carer voice – please see attached the analysis of our Autumn Term parent/carers voice survey as discussed within this term's Explore the Curriculum sessions. Please share your views with us via our Spring Term parent/carers voice survey [here](#). We would love to have as many responses as possible, so please spare 5 minutes to complete the multiple-choice questions to take part.

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### STAFFING UPDATE:

On Monday, we welcome a new member of staff: Miss Scott, who will be joining our support staff team working predominantly across KS1. We look forward to her joining our school family and are sure that you will make her feel very welcome. Mrs Ahmed, who has been working with us on a supply contract since September, will be leaving school at the end of the Spring Term.

We will also soon be advertising for a permanent teaching position starting in September 2025. We are not losing any permanent members of the teaching staff; Mr Cockling, as you will already know, is contracted with us until the end of the Summer Term. We are seeking to recruit a full-time, permanent member of staff who has experience of working in the Early Years. Please do not be alarmed, Mrs Joyce has no plans to leave us just yet, however this is an area of expertise in which we do not have a depth of experience on our teaching staff at present, and therefore, it has been set as a priority by our Local Governing Committee. Please share this news (and the link to our advert when it goes live) with anyone you think may be interested, and as ever, please get in contact with Mr Wheatley if you would like more information about the position.

### **LENT 2025:**

#### Big Lent Walk

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help us on our Big Lent Walk on 7.4.25. We will be contacting those who have volunteered next week with more details about the plan for the morning.

#### Almsgiving/Fasting

Please continue to send in your donations of the following items for our Lenten Food Bank appeal.

## Moments of Prayer

Our remaining Moments of Prayer will continue on the following dates:

DATE	CLASS(ES)
1.4.25	Y6
2.4.25	Reception and Y1
7.4.25	Y5
9.4.25	Y4

\*All to begin at 2:45pm

## VISIT OF THE RELIC OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS:

This week, four pupils from Year 6 attended a special Celebration of the Word and veneration of relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis: the 'soon-to-be' first millennial saint and patron of our Trust family of schools. At the faith-filled event, Monsignor Figueredo, who travels the world with the relics teaching people about the life of Carlo gave a moving talk on the life of this modern saint, and – using Carlo's own words – encouraged all young people in our Trust to know that they are made 'originals' and should not seek to be 'photocopies', and that, with their own unique gifts and talents they reflect the light of Christ in our world.

Next week, all pupils will bring home a booklet on the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis as a gift from our Trust. We continue to pray for the intercessions of Blessed Carlo and look forward to his canonisation in April.

*O God, Our Father,  
thank you for giving us Carlo,  
a life example for the young  
and a message of love for everyone.  
You filled him with love for Your Son Jesus,  
Making the Eucharist  
his "Highway to Heaven".  
You gave him Mary, as a most loving Mother,  
and, with the Rosary, you made him  
a poet of her tenderness. Receive his prayer for us.*

*Above all, gaze upon the poor,  
whom he loved and helped.  
Grant for me too, by his intercession,  
the grace that I need  
And make our joy fulfilled,  
placing Carlo among the Saints  
of your Church, so that his smile  
may shine again for us in the glory of your name.*

*Amen*

## SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to our school football teams who turned out in action at both the Northern Cross and Blydon and District League competitions last week. Although our girls' team did not progress on the night, both teams performed amazingly and showed real teamwork, skill and determination. We continue to follow closely the progress of our mixed school team and look forward to their potential progression to 'finals night' next term.

Well done to our Happy Feet dance troupe who put in an incredible performance as part of the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival. The group have been working tirelessly at their Tuesday after-school club and pulled out all the stops with their high-energy performance. Huge thanks to all those involved in preparing the pupils and of course to all those who came along to offer their support. We're already looking forward to next year's show!