



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Please see a list of key term dates below.
 - A polite reminder that all pupils should be through the school gates **before 8:50am** each morning. Registration begins at 8:50am and registers close at 9am. Please do all you can to get your child to school promptly and punctually every day. Thank you.
 - There will be a meeting in school at 5pm on Wednesday 21st January for parents/carers of pupils in Y4 who are Baptised Catholic and would like to prepare to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion this year.
 - All Y1 pupils are to come to school in full PE kit on Thursday 22nd January for their attendance at the Gateshead Schools' Sports Partnership Cricket Festival at Gateshead Stadium. Please give consent for your child to attend by signing up on Arbor.
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SPORTS UPDATES:

St Mary's Shine in the County Finals

A huge well done to the St Mary's football team, who finished as runners-up in the Durham SFA County Finals. After a fantastic run throughout the competition, the team narrowly missed out in the final against St Mary's Sunderland after having overcome the significant challenge of three hard-fought group games and a penalty shoot-out play-off! Our players showed outstanding skill on the pitch and were widely praised for their positivity, resilience and superb teamwork. They represented the school with pride, spirit and sportsmanship throughout the entire tournament. We are incredibly proud of their achievements—well done, team!

Success for St Mary's Netball Stars

Congratulations to our brilliant Year 5 and 6 netball squad, who were crowned champions at the Gateshead Schools' Hi-5 Competition! The team delivered an outstanding performance throughout the tournament, winning every match on the day with determination, skill and true St Mary's spirit. We wish them continued luck and look forward to seeing how they get on in the next round of the competition in which they will pit themselves against the best teams in the region.

Our Sporting Stars of the Future Go Exploring 'Under the Sea'

A squad of wonderful Reception pupils had an exciting and memorable day at the Under the Sea themed sports event held at Gateshead International Stadium this week. The children took part in a variety of fun, imaginative activities designed to develop early physical skills while inspiring confidence, teamwork and a love of being active. They embraced every challenge with big smiles, fantastic enthusiasm and the brilliant St Mary's spirit we are so proud of. Events like this highlight our commitment to giving every child—right from Reception—opportunities to take part in enriching sports experiences that promote healthy participation, teamwork and the joy of being involved. A huge well done to all our youngest sports stars for representing St Mary's so wonderfully!

OVERVIEW OF KEY DATES FOR SPRING TERM:

MONTH	KEY DATES
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 21.1.26 meeting for parents of pupils in Y4 regarding Sacramental Preparation (5pm at school).
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday 18.2.26 (beginning of Lent) • Last day of Spring 1 Friday 20.2.26 • Half term break – from Monday 23.2.26 to Friday 27.2.26
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils return to school on Monday 2.3.26 • World Book Day celebration in school Friday 6.3.26. Pupils invited to come into school in fancy dress inspired by a favourite book. • Y1 and 2 Explore the Curriculum 9:15am Tuesday 3.3.26 • Y3 Explore the Curriculum 9:15am Wednesday 4.3.26 • Y6 Explore the Curriculum 9:15am Friday 6.3.26 • Y6 Parents' Consultations Monday 9.3.26 • Y5 Explore the Curriculum 9:15am Tuesday 10.3.26 • Y3 Parents' Consultations Wednesday 11.3.26 • Reception Explore the Curriculum 9:15am Wednesday 11.3.26 • Reception Parents' Consultations Thursday 12.3.26 • Y4 Explore the Curriculum 9:15am Friday 13.3.26 • Y4 Parents' Consultations Monday 16.3.26 • Y2 Parents' Consultations Tuesday 17.3.26 • Celebration of First Reconciliation 5:30pm Tuesday 17.3.26, St Mary's RC Church. • Y5 Parents' Consultations Wednesday 18.3.26 • Y1 Parents' Consultations Thursday 19.3.26 • Comic Relief Red Nose Day Friday 20.3.26. Pupils invited to come into school in own clothes. • Pupils to take part in the annual 'Big Lent Walk' pilgrimage for CAFOD Wednesday 25.3.26 • Palm Sunday 29.3.26 • Y5 Big Sing and parent open morning at St Thomas More Catholic School Tuesday 31.3.26
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maundy Thursday 2.4.26 • Last day of the Spring 2 Thursday 2.4.26 • Good Friday 3.4.26 • Easter break – from Friday 23.4.26 to Friday 17.4.26 • <i>All pupils return to school on Monday 20.4.26</i>