



IMPORTANT REMINDERS/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- The whole school will be attending Mass for Ash Wednesday at 9:30am on Wednesday 18th February at St Mary's RC Church. This marks the beginning of the season of Lent. All welcome to join us.
 - Please ensure that you have booked your child's parent-teacher consultation on Arbor.
 - REMINDER: Year 6 will be attending swimming each Thursday until the end of this half term. Pupils should wear PE kit each Wednesday and Thursday but not on a Friday. Year 4 pupils should continue to wear their PE kit each Thursday but not bring their swimming kit. Swimming will resume each Thursday for Year 4 after February half term.
 - As previously advertised there will be themed meals on Tuesday 17th February (pancakes for Shrove Tuesday) and Thursday 19th February (Chinese themed meal for Lunar New Year).
 - REMINDER: Friday 20th February is the last day of the Spring 1 Half-Term. All pupils will return after their half-term break on Monday 2nd March 2026.
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A POLITE PLEA TO ALL PARENTS CARERS REGARDING UNNECESSARY ITEMS IN SCHOOL:

To help us keep pupils safe, organised and ready for learning, we kindly ask parents and carers to ensure that children do **not bring unnecessary items into school**. Recently we have had a number of issues involving lost property, distractions in class and items being misplaced or damaged. Your support in minimising this is greatly appreciated.

Pupils should only really need to bring a filled a water bottle to school each day alongside their reading folder and spelling jotter (daily in KS2, weekly in Early Years/KS1).

We have recently asked parents to send a change of clothes and footwear on wet days (in case of falls on the playground etc) and these can stay in school in a bag on your child's peg/in your child's locker.

Other than this, pupils should not be routinely bringing anything else into school.

Please note the following specific issues which have been identified over recent weeks:

- **Lip balm:** Only *one plain lip balm* is permitted if required for sore lips. *No lip gloss or lipstick* is allowed.
- **Make-up:** Pupils should **not** wear or bring any make-up items, including false nails or nail varnish. Please ensure any make-up/nail varnish worn at the weekend is removed before the start of the school week.
- **Jewellery:** Pupils should not wear jewellery to school. Pupils are only permitted to wear a watch or charity wristbands/badges at appropriate times in the school year.
- **Toys:** Toys should **not** be brought into school. *Exception:* transitional items agreed with the class teacher. These will be monitored by staff.
- **Birthday gifts:** Small gifts for classmates on birthdays are allowed, but **must be handed directly to the class teacher**, who will organise distribution.

- **Electronic devices:** No electronic devices are permitted in school. Pupils may wear watches, but **smart watches may only be used to tell the time** — no messaging, cameras, games or additional functions. Mobile phones, with parents' written consent remain turned off, are handed in to the class teacher and are stored in the school office.
- **Money:** Pupils should not carry money. If money is required for a specific reason, it must be **handed to the class teacher for safe keeping.**
- **Food items:** Only a **fruit snack** is allowed at break time, or a **healthy snack** if attending an after-school club. Some pupils may require a more substantial snack; this is permitted **following discussion with school.**
- **Children may on occasion** bring an item for show and tell. Parents/carers should moderate this to ensure that items being brought in are appropriate for show and tell recognition. Class teachers will look after these items while they are in school.
- **Children may on occasion** need to bring additional necessary items to school (e.g. a bag of clothing for an overnight stay away from home); this is of course fine – but if the bag contains any restricted items, it should be handed in to class teacher for safe keeping during the school day.

If you are at all unsure about what your child should/should not be bringing in to school, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office to check.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe, calm and focused learning environment for all pupils.

YEAR 5 VISIT TO THE CENTRE FOR LIFE:

On Thursday, Year 5 visited the Centre for Life in Newcastle to investigate and deepen their knowledge of their current topic on Space and the solar system in particular. Pupils enjoyed two interactive sessions in the planetarium, as well as a fast-paced, live science show which made pupils and adults alike question what was fact or fiction!

SPORTS UPDATES:

Mini hockey at Whickham School

Unfortunately, rain stopped play for our Year 5 players this week, but we will let you know as and when this event is rearranged. Thank you for your continued support.