



IMPORTANT REMINDERS/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Thank you for your donations for Comic Relief. If you haven't had the chance to donate, you can still do so [here](#) (suggested donation of £5 per family).
 - Happy Feet Dance Club will represent St Mary's at the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival at The Glasshouse on Wednesday 25th March. Pupils should come to school wearing school uniform for 8:15am. Please provide your child with a packed lunch and a water bottle.
 - Year 3 visit to Wheelbirks Parlour on Friday 27th March. Pupils should wear their own clothing (including long trousers and a waterproof jacket) plus wellies or boots and bring a clean change of shoes in a carrier bag. Pupils will need a packed lunch and water bottle.
 - Mass will be held on Thursday 26th March at St Mary's RC Church. 9:30am start. All welcome.
 - **REMINDER: Final gymnastics club before the Easter holiday will be held after school on Friday this week.** Five spaces (Reception or Year 1) are now available in gymnastics club to start after Easter. Please contact Georgia on 07896 577832 if you wish to book.
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PARISH SURVEY:

As you may already be aware, the Parishes of Our Lady and St Philip Neri, and Sacred Heart, Byermoor are undertaking a survey to capture the views of parishioners as part of the Bishop's Diocesan Pastoral Strategy which focuses on the future of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. You can see more about the strategy [here](#).

Please use this [link](#) to access the survey.

The survey is for all people within the parish: pupils, parents/carers, school staff and all with links to our Catholic churches and schools.

As parents/carers of the school you all have a vested interest in the future of our parish: its churches, schools and other assets. You are strongly encouraged, therefore, to complete the survey with your honest views on issues such as celebration of the Mass, the Mission of the Church and Stewardship of parish resources (e.g. finance and buildings). You are called to have your say about what is currently working well as well as the challenges and frustrations you may have.

The survey can be completed very quickly, but it also gives the opportunity for longer written responses should you wish to share more detailed views. Please do not be put off completing the survey if you are not a regular attendee at Mass. Your voice matters.

Please feel free to share the link to the survey with any members of our parish community.

Pupils will be completing the survey in school with their teachers.

Survey responses are required asap (by midnight on Sunday 29.3.26).

Thank you.

LENT 2026:

A reminder that throughout the season of Lent, we are called to Pray, Fast (Act) and Give:

- All pupils will be participating in the **Big Lent Walk** to raise money for CAFOD on the morning of **Wednesday 1st April**.

We would love to invite family/friends from the school to join us on our walk. If you are able to give over a morning to help us out, please complete the following [form](#). We will be contacting volunteers this week with further details about the walk.

Please give generously to CAFOD via our dedicated JustGiving page [here](#).

- We will also be asking pupils to consider doing something more for members of our community living in hardship by donating items to local food banks. Throughout Lent, pupils are being asked to bring in any of the following items that are in constant demand. Please be as generous as you can with your donations.

SHORT SUPPLY – UHT milk, cereal, dried pasta, pasta sauce, tinned garden peas, carrots, sweetcorn, feminine hygiene products, antiperspirant.

OTHER PRIORITY ITEMS – tomato purée, tinned custard, fruit, rice pudding, potatoes, tinned meat, baked beans, chopped tomatoes, tuna, long grained rice, cooking oil, biscuits, teabags, sugar, coffee, toothpaste, laundry powder/liquid, washing up liquid, spray cleaner.

- We will be celebrating Mass for the end of the Spring Term on **Thursday 26th March**. All welcome.

SPORTS UPDATES:

Year 6 Mini Basketball Finals

The Year 6 basketball team represented their cluster in the Gateshead finals on Monday at Whickham School. They played brilliantly, working really hard as a team and came fifth overall.

Year 6 Mini Hockey

Two teams took part in a mini hockey tournament at Whickham School on Wednesday. Pupils had a great morning learning new skills in the sunshine, coming third and fourth in their groups.

RECEPTION CLASS VISIT TO HALL HILL FARM:

Our trip to the farm was the absolute highlight of our week! We had such a fabulous day with Farmer Richard and his helper, Ruth, who kindly showed us all around. The children were delighted to feed the lambs, goats and sheep and the bumpy tractor ride was a big favourite too. Pupils showed such gentle hands while holding the rabbits and guinea pigs and many of the chicks were so relaxed that they drifted off to sleep. After all that excitement, it's safe to say the children and adults alike were ready for a quiet rest on the bus home! A huge thank you to all our parent helpers for joining us and giving up their time— we are so grateful.