



IMPORTANT REMINDERS/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- **IMPORTANT:** All parents/carers please read and share the below parking update.
- Thank you to all who attended our Explore the Curriculum mornings last week. Please see below a reminder of the remaining dates/times:

| DATE | CLASS |
|---|-----------|
| Tuesday 10 th March 9:15am | Y5 |
| Wednesday 11 th March 9:15am | Reception |
| Friday 13 th March 9:15am | Y4 |

- Parent Consultations begin next week for Year 6 (Monday), Year 3 (Wednesday) and Reception (Thursday) – a reminder of all consultation dates is included below.
- Date change – please be advised that the date of our Big Lent Walk is now **Wednesday 1st April**.

A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER REGARDING PARKING:

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that, over the past week, I have received several messages from neighbouring residents regarding instances of irresponsible and inconsiderate parking near school during drop-off and pick-up times. While I know that the vast majority of our parents and carers park safely and respectfully—something for which I am extremely grateful—I must ask that all families read the update below and share it with anyone involved in bringing or collecting your child.

As you know, we regularly remind parents and carers about the importance of smart, considerate parking: to protect the safety of pupils, pedestrians and other road users, and to show respect for those living in the surrounding streets. Unfortunately, some residents continue to experience difficulties caused by a small number of drivers who are blocking driveways or parking in ways that restrict access on residential roads. Understandably, this is causing frustration. Although residents have expressed sympathy with the challenge of finding suitable parking at busy times, they are equally concerned by the ongoing impact of a few individuals' actions.

Once again, I am asking all members of our school community to ensure that, if you need to park near school, you do so legally, safely and considerately at all times. Please also share this message with anyone else who supports your family with drop-off or pick-up so that we can work together consistently.

For clarity, the main area of concern currently is the junction of Windermere Gardens and Duckpool Lane. Although this location is close to school and may appear convenient, parking here should be avoided. The street is narrow, there are multiple driveways on both sides, and the junction can quickly become congested when vehicles are parked too close.

To help prevent further issues, please allow extra time to park slightly further away and walk the remaining distance to school. This small act of consideration will make a significant difference to residents, pupils, and the wider community.

I have advised residents that, if they experience persistent illegal or antisocial parking, they may contact the community police and report specific vehicle details where necessary. As a result, you may notice an increased police presence around school in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Yours in Faithful Optimism,

J Wheatley
Headteacher

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 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.

REMINDER – PARENT CONSULTATIONS:

Parent/Carer consultations will take place over the next two weeks. Dates/times for the consultations are as follows:

| DATE | CLASS |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Monday 9 th March | Y6 |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Y3 |
| Thursday 12 th March | Reception |
| Monday 16 th March | Y4 |
| Tuesday 17 th March | Y2 |
| Wednesday 18 th March | Y5 |
| Thursday 19 th March | Y1 |

Ensure that you have booked your appointment via Arbor and have informed us if you would prefer this to be a telephone appointment. Please remember that these meetings are designed to be a short (5 minute) discussion with your child's class teacher for a brief progress and pastoral update. Should you feel that

there is a particular issue requiring more attention, please – as ever – contact the school office to arrange an alternative appointment at a mutually convenient time.

WORLD BOOK DAY:

We enjoyed a fantastic week of events in celebration of World Book Day.

On Thursday, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 visited Whickham Library, where pupils joined in with words and actions to some of their favourite stories. They each chose a book to take home and even had the chance to stamp it themselves—a definite highlight! Thank you to all the parents who were able to support the trip.

Across the school, pupils also joined our Trust's live-streamed sessions, taking part in brilliant author Q&As and an engaging draw-along workshop.

To finish the week, pupils and staff alike had great fun on Friday dressing up as characters from their favourite stories and poems as part of our whole-school World Book Day celebration. You can see photos of each class on our [school X page](#).

SPORTS UPDATES:

Quicksticks Hockey

Year 3 and 4 made the most of the sunshine's brief reappearance on Tuesday when they attended Whickham School for a Quicksticks hockey competition. All pupils who attended showed great sportsmanship and represented St Mary's brilliantly.

Gateshead Schools Swimming Gala Final

Good luck to our Y6 swimming squad who will be competing in the Gateshead Schools Swimming Gala finals at Haven Point, South Shields on Wednesday. We look forward to seeing how the pupils get on and will share their news next week.