



### **Reception Class Family Celebration of the Word**

Today our Reception pupils led a beautiful family Celebration of the Word on the theme of the 'the wonders of God's world'. They prayed and sang beautifully – thank you to everyone who joined us!

### **Year 3 visit to Durham University**

On Tuesday the children in Year 3 launched their new History unit on the Ancient Egyptians by visiting the Oriental Museum at Durham University. They spent the day handling original artefacts and learning about life in that period.

### **School Lunches**

Please log into your Arbor Portal account to make your school lunch selections or if you need to make any changes. Remember that due to changes within the Arbor system you will need to manually choose the dinner choices for your child no later than 4 days before the beginning of the week to place their dinner choices. Please remember to regularly check your child's meals balance on your Arbor Parent Portal to prevent from accruing a debt.

### **Healthy Snack Time**

Please can we remind all parents and carers that children in Key Stage 2 should only bring healthy snacks to school for morning break. This includes fruits, vegetable pieces etc. We have noticed over the last few weeks that children are bringing cakes, biscuits and sweets which is not in line with our healthy school policy. Many thanks

### **Safety in the Carpark**

Unfortunately we have had a number of incidents this week where children are running unattended through the staff carpark and playing near the cars. Whilst we do not anticipate vehicles moving in the carpark at the beginning and end of the day, this could happen and so it is vital that children stay with an adult and use the marked pathways.

### **Planting of Sycamore Gap Sapling**

The 'tree of hope' sapling will be planted at Rising Sun Country Park next week on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30-12pm. The Sycamore Gap sapling that was presented as part of the Garden for Grief bereavement project in association with Elemental Occupational Therapy and it's hoped that it will be a place of reflection, remembrance and hope that will be accessible for the whole community. Everyone is invited and no booking is necessary.

### **Connect Mental Health Monthly Parent Workshop**

February's support session topic will be 'Understanding Low Mood and Strategies to Support Your Child' on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6pm. The virtual session is a place for parents and carers to get information and support from Connect on wellbeing topics identified by parents, share their experiences if they choose to, help and support each other and get information and advice to support them. Please click on the [link](#) to register your interest and to receive the Zoom invite.

### **Dates for Diary**

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Year 2 Great Fire Workshop*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Year 2 visit to the Quayside*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Reception/Year 6 Class Mass*

*Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Year 5 Family Celebration of the Word*

***House of the Week is St Bede's***

**Next week is ZEBRA week on the school lunch menu**

**Don't forget to visit our school website for further school information**

**[www.stmarysonline.co.uk](http://www.stmarysonline.co.uk)**