

SMP CONNECTED

Friday 13th March 2026 Issue #130

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#LifesongSMP



THE TIMES
BEST SCHOOLS IN THE UK
TOP 100

For our SMPTA SHOP [CLICK HERE](#)



It has been another memorable week for our school community. On Monday, our year 5 and 6 drama group took to the Northern Stage to present their interpretation of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. They were simply phenomenal. The way in which each child rose to the occasion was a joy to behold. My immense thanks go to Dr. Saunders for once again directing an ambitious and thoroughly entertaining play.

This morning, it was the turn of our magical Reception children to shine as they shared their special messages for their beautiful mummies. I am sure that those present will agree that they did a fantastic job - there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

This weekend we take time to celebrate and remember our mums and all those special women who have, and continue to have such a profound impact on our lives. We pray for all our mums and for those, for whom this is a difficult day as well.

Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Bright blessings,
Martin Gray
Headteacher



School leadership

A letter was circulated via email this afternoon informing parents and carers of a significant change to the school's leadership from September 2026. Please check your inbox for details.

1876 Day - 17th March 2026

We are very excited ahead of our Victorian school day which will take place on Tuesday next week. A reminder that children are invited to attend in costume as Victorian school children. We look forward to welcoming the education team from Beamish to help us celebrate another landmark day in our 150th anniversary celebrations.

Parents' Consultations

These will take place on consecutive Mondays: **16th and 23rd March**. Please note that due to staff absence, **appointments for years 3 and 4 have been postponed**. We will look to rearrange these for the summer term. Please take a couple of minutes over the weekend to complete this online form to help us prepare for our meeting with you: <https://forms.office.com/e/KBGVLWfG7Q>

Big Lent Walk!

This year's First Holy Communion group enjoyed their Big Lent Walk this week. Remember that you are invited to go on your own family walks through the season of Lent and to contribute towards our Cafod fundraiser - see below.

School Council - visit to London

Our school council group are setting off from Prudhoe at **5am on Friday** to spend a day in our nation's capital! The highlight of the day is a **visit to the Houses of Parliament!** We look forward to hearing all about their special day!

Mother's Day Cream Tea

An enormous thank you to everyone who made it along to this afternoon's celebration. It was wonderful to see the hall full and to see so many of you enjoying the start of what I am sure will be a marvellous Mother's Day weekend! Thank you to our fabulous SMPTA for organising the event and to Mrs. Potter for baking all the delicious scones!

Chocolate Tombola!

All pupils are invited to wear non-uniform on **Friday 27th March**. In return, we are asking for donations of **Easter eggs for our tombola on the last day of term - Thursday 2nd April**. Thank you for your support!

NEXT WEEK

Monday 16th March

Parents' Consultations 3-6pm *a reminder that year 3 and 4 appointments have been postponed*

Tuesday 17th March

1876 Day - dress as a Victorian!

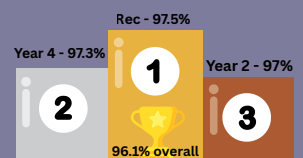
Friday 20th March

School Council visit to London



This week

Reception and Year 3 - 100%



Year to date podium



LENT 2026@SMP

THE BIG LENT WALK



Scan the QR code to share an image of your BIG LENT WALK or click on [this link](#).

This year, we are inviting families to embark on their own BIG LENT WALK in support of Cafod. Joining in couldn't be easier - simply get your family together and go for a nice long walk. All we ask is that you share a photo of you on your walk to our shared Padlet and donate to Cafod via our [Big Lent Walk donations page](#).



SMP
Lenten
Mission

On **Tuesday, 24th March**, we will be holding a Lenten Mission Day called **OVERCOME**. Throughout the day, pupils will engage in a number of activities linked to our Lifesong mission and how, during this season of Lent, we can grow closer to Jesus.

Praying with your child is so important. If you don't know how to get started, try clicking on the image opposite for some ideas about how you and your family can pray together this Lent. **You could even try the doughnut challenge!**



*Tuesday, 17th
March 2026*

*Costumes encouraged
Special celebration lunch
Traditional lessons
Official photography*



1876 DAY

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Dress as a Victorian child may have done on their first day at St. Matthew's.

Participate in a range of activities facilitated by historians from Beamish Museum

Play traditional Victorian games

As part of this special day, we are hoping to set up our own SMP Museum. If you have any educational artefacts that you think may interest the children and you are willing to loan them for the day, please get in touch.



16th March
17th March
20th March
23rd March
27th March
1st April
2nd April
20th April
11 - 14th May
16th May
31st May - 3rd June
1st June
8th June
13th June
19th June
22 - 26th June
2nd July
3rd July
8th July
10th July
16th July
17th July

Parents' Consultation Evening (1)
1876 Day - dress as a Victorian
School Council trip to Parliament
Parents' Consultation Evening (2)
Non-uniform day - bring a chocolate egg!
EYFS Easter Egg Hunt (pm)
Maundy Thursday - school closes for the Easter holidays
Pupils return to school
Year 6 SATs
First Holy Communion
Year 6 Field Trip to Boggle Hole (leaving Sunday)
Year 4 Multiplication Check (this week)
Year 1 Phonics Check (this week)
BIG School Reunion Day!
School Closed - INSET Day
Cornerstones Week 2026 / Summer fair on Friday
Year 5 Celebration of Sport at Gateshead International Stadium
Sports Day - Reception - Year 6
Nursery Sports Afternoon - 1pm
Anniversary Celebration Mass with Bishop Stephen Wright - 10am
Leavers' Mass - 10am
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 2pm / School closes



**Please note that
all dates are
subject to
change.**

Please note that new dates are added in bold