



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Please note that Mass will not take place on Thursday (23rd October). Mass will be held on the first Thursday back after half term (9.30am, Thursday 6th November, St Mary's RC Church). All are welcome.
 - Key Stage 2 pupils please sign up on Arbor for our Choir breakfast club taking place 8:15am every Tuesday with Mrs Sanderson (starting 4.11.25).
 - Admissions reminders:
 - Secondary admission applications must be made by 31st October 2025 for all our current Year 6 pupils. Applications must be made via the Gateshead Council website, [here](#). Please contact the school office if you require a paper application form or any other guidance.
 - Applications for Primary admissions (Reception 2026) must be completed by 15th January 2026.
 - In-year admissions for year groups where we have spaces (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are ongoing.
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FIRST AID NOTIFICATIONS:

From Monday, if your child has a minor injury at school and requires first aid, we will let you know by sending you an email. We will only send this email if the injury is minor. **Please do not contact school if you receive this email.** We will always telephone parents/carers in cases of more serious incidents. Thank you for your support with this.

SAVE THE DATE - EXPLORE THE CURRICULUM:

Our Autumn Term 'Explore the Curriculum' sessions will take place next half term. These sessions will give you the chance to discover more about the learning going on in your child's classroom (by looking at their school books) and to receive some guidance as to how you may help their ongoing learning.

We will also provide a brief update on the following:

- Our new 'Opening Worlds' Humanities curriculum.
- Home learning routines.
- Use of Artificial Intelligence at St Mary's.

The dates for this term's 'Explore the Curriculum' sessions are as follows:

DATE	CLASS
Tuesday 18 th November 9:15am	Y1 and Y2
Tuesday 18 th November 2:30pm	Y5
Wednesday 19 th November 9:15am	Y3
Thursday 20 th November 9.15am	Y4
Thursday 20 th November 2.30pm	Y6
Friday 21 st November 9:15am	Reception

TERM DATES:

Please be reminded that our half-term holiday will be from 27.10.25 to 31.10.25. We look forward to seeing all pupils back in school on Monday 3rd November.

Term dates can be found on the school website: <https://stmaryswhickham.bwcet.com/parents/term-dates-school-day/>.

HAPPY FEET DANCE CLUB:

There are five spaces available to start Happy Feet after October half term. This club takes place on Tuesday afternoons from 3.20pm to 4.10pm. Please contact Nic Liddle on 07939 587538 if you wish to discuss a place.

SPORTS UPDATE:

A huge well done to our Y6 tag rugby team who competed in the Gateshead Schools finals at Blaydon Leisure Centre on Friday. We are delighted to say that the team were crowned champions on the day bringing home the first silverware of what promises to be an exceptional year of sport at St Mary's. Well done to Miss Beadling and the whole team for their amazing efforts!

SPECIAL NEWS:

Mrs Shenton, our wonderful Early Years Teaching Assistant, will be starting her adoption leave at the end of this half term as she and her husband are preparing to welcome baby Ivy into their family. We are absolutely delighted for them all and send our warmest wishes for this exciting new chapter. Mrs Shenton will be returning in the not-too-distant future, and we'll share details of the staffing arrangements for her absence in due course.