



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Explore the Curriculum sessions next week:

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

- Operation Christmas Child – please return all completed shoeboxes by Friday 21st November if you would like to contribute to the appeal. [How to Pack a Shoebox | Samaritans Purse](#)
- Tennis club – please can all parents/carers with outstanding session payments make payment as soon as possible. All pupils who enjoyed last week's taster session and would like to join the club may do so by enrolling and making payment here: [Blaydon](#)

EXPLORE THE CURRICULUM:

We look forward to seeing you at next week's Explore the Curriculum sessions. 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 your child's 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.

CHILDREN IN NEED:

Thank you for all of your kind donations to BBC Children in Need. Thanks to your generosity, we have nearly surpassed our £500 target! If you have yet to make a donation, you can still do so [here](#).

SICKNESS ABSENCE:

Pupil attendance has been hit by the seasonal illnesses doing the rounds since our return following the half term break.

We continue to encourage you to send your child in to school if not 100% but able to manage through the school day, and would ask that you prioritise school attendance over out of school activities.

It is important for the health and well-being of staff and pupils, however, that you do not send your child in to school if they have a high temperature/fever or a contagious illness (such as sickness). If pupils have

experienced a genuine gastrointestinal illness, they should not return to school until 48 hours after their final bout of illness. We have staff and pupils who are immunosuppressed, so it is vital that you also report all contagious illness affecting your child. Thank you.

You can find more information from Public Health England [here](#).

SPORTS UPDATE:

Our group of Year 5/6 athletes continued their endeavours at the Gateshead Sportshall Athletics Finals this week. After many obstacle races and field events they were very proud to finish in fourth place out of all schools in Gateshead! All pupils represented St Mary's brilliantly and displayed great sportsmanship.

A group of pupils took part in Pantathlon 10 pin bowling this week. They had a wonderful time, hit many strikes and encouraged each other throughout. The bowlers were very proud of the medals they brought back to school.

Our girls' football team proved yet again that they are a strong side to beat, finishing second in their group in the County Cup on Tuesday afternoon.

REMINDER – TERM DATES:

A reminder that the last day of term for all pupils will be Friday 19th December 2025.

Two inset days will be held in school on Monday 5th January and Monday 1st June 2026.

Term dates can be found on our school website here:

<https://stmaryswhickham.bwcet.com/parents/term-dates-school-day/>.