



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Admissions reminders:
 - 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.
 - Remembrance Sunday parade 9.11.25 – Thank you to those who have contacted us to say that they can attend in support of the school. Pupils to meet with school staff at 10:10am at Back Row, Whickham (behind the Bridle Path pub, Front Street). Pupils to wear full school uniform with a warm coat. Thank you.
 - Armistice Day – the school will hold a two minutes' silence on Tuesday 11.11.25 in remembrance (see further information below).
 - Anti-Bullying week – the school will be spreading awareness this week about the impact of bullying as part of the *Anti-Bullying Alliance's* Anti-Bullying Week. You can read more below.
 - Children in Need – pupils may come to school in their own clothes on Friday 14th November. Donations to the appeal can be made via the school's dedicated *JustGiving* page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/whickhamstmarys-cin2025>. Please be as generous as you can to help us meet our target of £500 (suggested donation of £5 per family).
 - Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes can be sent in to school now. Our new deadline is **Friday 21st November**.
 - There will be a free taster session at our Tennis after-school club on **Monday 10th November** for any **pupils in Year 2-6** who would like to try out the club. Please contact the school office to let us know that your child will be taking part. Pupils just need to bring a pair of trainers; pick-up is at 4:15pm at the main school gate.
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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:

On Sunday, pupils from across school will be representing St Mary's as part of the annual service of Remembrance held at the cenotaph in Whickham. On this day, we take a moment to say thank you for the selfless service offered by many – now and in the past – so that we may live with peace in our country.

Pupils and staff will also observe a two-minute silence on Tuesday 11th November in remembrance.

At this time, we of course hold in our thoughts those who continue to be affected by war and conflict in our world.

Lord of all healing, bring peace and justice to our world; grant wisdom, right judgement and courage to its leaders and hold in your healing embrace all who continue to suffer due to the greed and selfishness of others. AMEN

During the month of November, we continue to remember and pray for all those who have died: the Holy Souls. We continue to call to mind and pray for all our loved ones who have died, *eternal rest grant unto them O, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. AMEN*

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025:

Next week, pupils across school will be acknowledging Anti-Bullying Week: the annual event organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance to raise awareness of the dangers and impact of bullying.

We will be taking time across school, as part of our Relationships and Health Education curriculum, to be reminded of what bullying is and how we can all prevent bullying from happening in our school and using this year's theme of 'Power for Good' to highlight the choices that we can all make to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

You can read more about this year's appeal here: [Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good](#)

SCHOOL CHOIR:

It was lovely to hear our school choir in fine voice at their first rehearsal of the term! The choir will continue to meet at 8:15am each Tuesday. It is open to all pupils in KS2. If your child would like to attend, but hasn't yet done so, please contact the school office.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – SHOEBOX APPEAL:

Thank you to all who have returned shoeboxes so far. If you would like to contribute a donation of a wrapped, filled shoebox, please follow the link to instructions here [How to Pack a Shoebox | Samaritans Purse](#) and ensure that your box is returned to school by our new deadline of **Friday 21st November**.

SPECIAL NEWS:

At the end of the Autumn Term, we will be saying a very fond farewell to our longest serving member of school staff. Mrs Dobson has supported the learning and development of pupils at St Mary's for twenty years and will now be retiring to enjoy new adventures in her life. We give thanks for all that she has done for the pupils, staff and wider school community of St Mary's. We will, of course, miss her infectious personality, her tireless dedication, her love and care for our pupils and her heartfelt friendship. Mrs Dobson has been a staff favourite for so many, and we know that we will not be alone in wishing her every blessing as she embarks on this new chapter in her life. We will be sure to acknowledge the significant contribution that Mrs Dobson has made to our school and the indelible mark that she has left on us all at our school events leading up to Christmas, and we are sure that many of you will take the time to express your own personal thanks as you see her around school over the coming weeks. We will share news regarding any recruitment as and when we have it.