



SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:

This weekend, we will be called to remember all those who have given their lives in the name of peace as part of this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations. Though we may not be taking part in collective acts of remembrance this year, we can still continue to pay our respects; the British Legion have produced an online resource to support you to mark Remembrance Sunday with your families at home which can be found at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/about-remembrance/act-of-remembrance>.

A Prayer of Remembrance:

We pray for all people whose lives have been in any way affected by the atrocities of war.

We pray for service men and women, past and present, who have given their lives for the protection of Human Rights, and for the families who have lived the realities of war and conflict through their loved ones.

We pray too for all victims of war: the damaged, the persecuted, the displaced; we give thanks for those who have dedicated their lives to care for and support all these victims of war, and we ask that we too may have the strength and conviction to be instruments of peace in our world.

As we pause in our busy lives to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to uphold the human dignity of all, we look forward together, in faithful optimism, to a time in which all people, everywhere, may live in a world of tolerance, respect, peace and love.

Amen

A POLITE REMINDER – ROUTINES FOR LATE DROP-OFF/PICK-UP:

Please be reminded that all pupils should be in school by 8:55am at the latest.

We have had a few instances of confusion arise over the past week with regards school expectations where a child is dropped off after 8:55am, or adults have missed the collection time.

We understand that on the odd occasion issues will arise which mean that a child may be dropped off or collected later than planned. If this is to be the case, we would appreciate communication at the earliest possible opportunity via phone or email to the school office.

Within our revised arrangements this year, if pupils are dropped off after 8:55am (i.e. when the access Gates B or C are closed) the responsible adult must make their way to the main school gate, phone the school office and wait for a member of staff to meet them at the gate. Parents/carers must not open the school gates themselves to allow pupils to make their own way to the school office. It is also important that parents/carers and pupils maintain their social distance from staff and parents from Duckpool Pre-school; Pre-school staff are not permitted to assume responsibility of pupils at St Mary's.

If a child is to be collected late, information will be provided by the school office regarding time and place for collection, and parents/carers may need to wait until other classes have been dismissed and exit points cleared.

Parents/carers should make every effort for late drop-off/collection to not become a pattern, and will be contacted by Mr Wheatley to discuss ways in which to improve punctuality if required.

FLU VACCINATIONS:

Flu vaccinations for pupils whose parents gave written consent earlier this term will be taking place in school on Tuesday (10th November).

CHILDREN IN NEED:

We will be celebrating Children in Need day on Friday 13th November with an own clothes day (spots optional) and by taking part in some 'Five to Thrive' challenges which call for children to be Active, to Connect, to be Curious, to Give and to Take Notice. This year, we are going cashless with our giving, so we would ask you to make your donations to BBC Children in Need via our dedicated Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/whickhamstmaryschildreninneed2020>. We would love to raise a total of £500 as a school community – so please feel free to share the link among friends and family. Thank you!

TIMESTABLE ROCKSTARS 'ROCK OUT' 2020:

As part of our commitment to making mathematics fun, exciting and high profile in our school, next week, Years 2-6 will be taking part in a competition for 'Maths Week England'. It's called *Rock Out 2020* and it'll all take place online at <http://play.ttrockstars.com>.

Over the week, we will be celebrating the efforts of all of those who take part, and children will earn their class points by tackling both multiplication and division questions. Each day, the *Timestable Rockstars* platform will calculate a class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours), and winning classes in school – and across the country – will be recognised.

All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count. To avoid pupils playing late into the night and early morning, TTRS have limited the time of the competition to games played between 7.30am and 7.30pm on Monday 9th to Saturday 14th.

In the spirit of the competition, please encourage and support your child to embrace the fun and competition of the event with their classmates, but not to the extent that it causes worry or impacts upon family plans.

If your child is in Reception or Year 1, they will be taking part in a similar school-based event on the *Numbots* platform.

We look forward to seeing how everyone gets on!

Mr Colling
Mathematics Co-ordinator

REMINDER – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

This year, in spite of revisions we continue to enforce in response to the global coronavirus pandemic, we will be collecting for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal. Leaflets have gone home to explain how you can take part, and after half term we will share collection dates with you.

Please do not send in your filled shoeboxes until instructed, as we do not presently have the capacity to store the boxes for any longer than necessary in advance of their collection. Thank you!