



## SCHOOL UPDATES AND REMINDERS

### ACTIVITIES FORTNIGHT:

We have enjoyed a fantastic start to our activities fortnight this past week with pupils taking part in a range of different sporting events and activities. You can have a look at what we've been up to on the school's Twitter page (@whickhamstmarys).

Please remember that pupils should come into school in a sports kit each day next week, but please save your child's smartest school PE kit (yellow embroidered t-shirt, royal blue school PE shorts and school PE hoodie) for any external events such as the Gateshead fun run and the Y5 Cricket Festival.

### Timetable of activities for activities fortnight:

DATE	ACTIVITY
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Happy Feet Dance (KS1) KS2 daily mile
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 activity morning at Whickham Thorns Rec – Y3 Tennis Fun Day Y5 Cricket Festival
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Y5 activity morning at Whickham Thorns Reception – Year 3 bring your own scooter sessions KS2 daily mile
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Netball (KS2) and multi-skills (KS1)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Whole school Fun Run; <b>all pupils to be in school for 8:15am</b>

### GATESHEAD FUN RUN:

All pupils will be taking part in the Gateshead Fun Run on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

On the day, the school gates will open at 8am and all pupils must be in school by 8:15am.

All pupils must be in full school PE kit and appropriate trainers for running.

Pupils will be outside for the majority of the morning. In the event of sunny weather, pupils should have sun cream and a filled water bottle. A school sun hat will be provided for each child for the day.

All pupils require a packed lunch which they will have on their return to school. Pupils will be provided with a healthy snack during the morning.

All staff will be in attendance at the fun run, so pupils cannot stay behind at school because of mild illness etc. If you have any queries or concerns about this, please contact the school office to discuss.

#### YEAR 5 CRICKET FESTIVAL:

All pupils in Y5 will require a packed lunch on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May for their participation in the Cricket festival. Pupils should also be in full school sports kit for this event as they will be representing St Mary's and competing against other local schools.

#### WHICKHAM THORNS – YEARS 4 AND 5:

Pupils will need comfortable clothing and shoes appropriate for the weather on the day. All pupils will also require a packed lunch on their respective visit day.

#### BRING YOUR OWN SCOOTER:

Pupils in Reception to Y3 can bring their own scooter to school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March for some challenges on the school playground and field (though this is not compulsory, and pupils without their scooters will take part in an alternative activity). Pupils bringing their scooter must bring a helmet and be able to put this on/take it off by themselves.

#### PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE:

We would ask you to continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia, and for world leaders, that a swift and peaceful end to this conflict may be reached immediately:

*Loving God,  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.*

*We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.*

*We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.*

*May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.*

*Amen.*

Should you wish to make a personal financial donation to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (part of the UK Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal), you can do so online at [www.cafod.org.uk/Ukraine](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Ukraine).

## REMINDER – LIVING WITH COVID ONGOING GUIDANCE:

With the Government moving to their 'Living with Covid' strategy, it is important that we provide families with the latest information regarding managing children's absence.

There is now an assumption that testing will not occur as PCR tests are not routinely available and LFD tests are no longer free of charge. Consequently, the management of children who may be unwell is to be the same as with any other respiratory illness.

### **What do I do if my child is unwell?**

As with a cold virus, if your child is unwell, you have to make a judgement about whether they are able to come into school. If a child has a temperature (37.8 or above), they should not be in school until the temperature has reduced.

If a child is under the weather, has a runny nose etc. this does not mean they should be absent from school as they may be more than able to manage the day. However, if a child is clearly too unwell to be in, we know families will make the decision to keep a child at home for the minimum amount of time required to recover.

If we believe that your child is too unwell to be in school, we will contact you to collect your child as normal.

Other infectious illnesses – such as sickness and diarrhea – should continue to be treated as normal (ie. 48 hours absence after last bout of illness).

### **What if I have tested my child and they have Covid-19?**

As there is still some access to LFD tests in the short term, some children may be identified as having Covid-19. If this is the case, the child will need to be at home for three days after the test result or symptoms.