



### IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Please set aside some time to complete the Autumn Term parent/carer voice survey which can be found here: <https://participate.schoolsurveys.com/BwTEsz32UndGdrNj>. The survey will be open until 12pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes must be returned to school by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

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### SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

#### EXPLORE THE CURRICULUM:

Thank you to all our parents and carers who came along to our termly 'Explore the Curriculum' sessions. It was wonderful to see how proud our pupils were to share their learning with their parents and carers, and we hope that the information we shared with you about online safety and reading was informative and useful. Please put aside a few moments to complete our Autumn Term parent/carer survey here:

<https://participate.schoolsurveys.com/BwTEsz32UndGdrNj>.

#### CHILDREN IN NEED:

Thank you for contributing to our school's fundraising for this year's Children in Need campaign. Our total, so far, sits at just over £350.

You can still make the suggested donation of £5 per family to Children in Need on the school's JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/whickhamstmaryscin2023>.

#### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

If you would like to contribute a shoebox of presents for this year's Samaritan's Purse *Operation Christmas Child*, please send in your packed items in a labelled shoebox using the labels sent home with children this week and return to school for **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**. You can get more information about the appeal and how to pack your shoebox here: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox/>. A suggested donation of £5 can also be made for the postage of the box, or you can even send a 'virtual shoebox' for £20.

#### 'LOVE CHRISTMAS' IN THE PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI:

You can find out how to get involved with more charitable giving as part of our parish's annual 'Love Christmas' campaign here: <https://www.theparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/33A-19-November-2023.pdf>.

#### STAFFING UPDATE:

At the end of the Autumn Term, Mrs Noble, our superhero School Business Manager, will be retiring. Mrs Noble has been at the school since September 2000, working initially as a classroom assistant then moving into office admin and finally taking up the position of Business Manager. As a school community, we would like to wish her continued health and happiness in her retirement and will use our planned events over the coming term to ensure that we all have the opportunity to thank her properly for all that she has given in service of the entire St Mary's school family over two (plus) decades.

We will soon be advertising for positions in the school office as we seek to find suitable replacements for Mrs Noble. Mr Wheatley would invite any interested parties to get in touch with him for an informal chat either before or after the release of the job advert to find out more about the vacancy.

