

**IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:**

- Pupils representing the school at the Remembrance Sunday service in Whickham should meet at Back Row (near the old Front Street School) for 10:15am on Sunday 12.11.23. Pupils should be in full school uniform.
- On Monday 13.11.23, pupils are encouraged to wear odd-socks (or colourful tights if they would prefer) in support of the National Bullying Alliance's 2023 campaign – see more detail below.
- Y4 pupils should not bring their string instruments in to school on Monday 13.11.23.
- Flu immunisations will be administered in school this week for all pupils whose parents completed the online form shared earlier this term on Tuesday 14.11.23.
- Pupils in Reception Class are asked to come in to school in outdoor clothing for a day of activity on Thursday 16.11.23 (incl. wellies, coats, hats/gloves/scarves).
- Pupils may come in to school in their own clothes for Children in Need on Friday 17.11.23. Families can make a suggested donation of £5 per family (or whatever you can afford) on the school's JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/whickhamstmaryscin2023>.
- We have our Explore the Curriculum sessions next week. As well as an opportunity to share in the successes of the past term's learning with your child by looking through their books with them, we will also be shining a spotlight on Reading as our curriculum focus for the term.

The sessions are at the following times:

DATE	CLASS
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2:30pm	Y2
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2:30pm	Y6
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 9:15am	Reception
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2:30pm	Y4
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 9:15am	Y3
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2:30pm	Y5
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 9:15am	Y1

*Please let us know if you will not be able to attend the session so that we can arrange an alternative appointment for you to come in and review your child's learning with them.*

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**SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS****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.

At this time, we of course hold in our thoughts those who continue to be affected by conflict in our world and in particular those affected by the wars in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan.

*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*

#### ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2023:

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, pupils are encouraged to wear odd-socks (or colourful tights if they would prefer) in support of the National Bullying Alliance's 2023 campaign which calls for us all to 'make a noise' against bullying (<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying>). This week, 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.

#### REMINDER – LIFE TO THE FULL:

This week, pupils across school will be completing their first unit from *Life to the Full* – our school's chosen curriculum to support the teaching of Relationships and Health Education.

The following important links will give a more detailed view of the programme for parents:

- *Life to the Full* parent portal <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>
- *Life to the Full* parents' consultation programme <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/courses/parent-consultation-tool-primary/>

#### RISE NORTH-EAST:

This year, the school has been working with RISE, who are part of the Newcastle Gateshead ICB, NHS and DFE Mental Health in Schools programme, to deliver aspects of our Relationships and Health Education curriculum focusing on child and adolescent mental health and well-being. Emma and Molly from the RISE team have been working with Years 1, 2, 3 and 4, and will now move in to Years 5 and 6 for a few more weeks; they have also worked with all staff to further develop our understanding and practice. We hope that our work with the team will help support our pupils and staff to be better aware of the importance of looking after our own and others' mental health and wellbeing and better armed with strategies to keep us feeling positive and calm even when faced with stressful or worrying situations. Pupils have been really enjoying their sessions, and we aim to build on the successes of the programme by inducting pupil 'ambassadors' across school to lead and promote mental health initiatives moving forward.

#### DUCKPOOL PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION:

A huge well done to the pupils and staff of Duckpool Pre-school who were visited by Ofsted this week. We look forward to sharing their inspection report with you in the near future.