



February 2022

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Thank you for your support during the first half term of the new academic year. It really has been a positive six weeks of learning, pupil voice in their leadership roles, of sporting success; the rehearsals have begun for our annual show at the Little Theatre, successful QA visit and safeguarding visit and attendance of 98% just last week...the list goes on. It is with your partnership with school and parish community that allows this to happen- thank you so much for your continued support.

The calendar on our website is regularly updated and contains dates of activities that are taking place. Please ensure you check the website and the letter you received in September regarding key events to support your planning of next half term and indeed for the rest of the academic year.

A reminder that school closes today at the normal time of 3.10pm and pupils return Monday 28th February. Gates open at 8.30am to allow the pupils to be prompt and ready to start work at 8.50am.

Please see the notice below regarding leave of absence.

[LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

Amendments to the 2006 Regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. The amendments make clear that headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should determine the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

Please do not book your holiday during term time or until you have requested authorisation. NPCAT is monitoring the attendance alongside the school. Please ensure your child is in school every day and punctual. Gates close at 8.50am.

Live, Love, Serve

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St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Eastbourne Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QS
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A reminder of the dates for your diaries:

KS2 SATs test week for Y6:

Monday 9th May - Thursday 12th May

Phonics Check Week for Y1 (and some pupils in Y2):

Monday 6th June - Friday 10th June

KS1 Test administration begins in May for the whole month

Multiplication Tables Checking assessment for Y4 pupils

Monday June 6th - Friday June 24th

Important reminders:

Please be aware of the apps your children are accessing on ipads or mobile phones, especially as we now enter the half term holiday. In school, during lessons and in particular Safer Internet Day, which was held on February 8th, the pupils are constantly made aware of the importance of online safety. Together, we can make sure your child is aware of all the dangers regarding online activity in this ever-changing world of technology.

With expectations in mind, can I please remind you that full uniform with black shoes is expected to be worn in school and PE kits should be worn in all PE sessions. Some pupils are wearing their own choice of sporting clothing on the PE day and this is not PE uniform. PE kit consists of a **white t-shirt, navy shorts and trainers. Our winter kit allows pupils to wear navy jogging bottoms and a navy plain hoodie/jacket.** Please ensure your child is dressed in the correct clothing. This will ensure the standards and expectations are consistently applied across school.

Letters to you will be sent through email. The letters will also be uploaded onto our website in the parents section and on latest news. Please check daily for any updates. Classes will post events and activities of school life on Facebook and Twitter too so look out for these. If you would like a hard copy of the letter, please just inform the school office and it can be sent home with your child.

Attached to this letter is an update of a couple of tweaks to our Behaviour system in school. You may recall I mentioned this in my January letter to parents. It is based on

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assertive discipline and positive recognition and goes hand in hand with our Culture of Excellence. Our expectations are simply: 'Be Safe, Be Ready, Be Respectful' and I have to say, the pupils are displaying these qualities and are enjoying the rewards. Please take a read of the attachment; I am sure the children will be able to articulate the school system to you too.

World Book Day-Thursday 3rd March

Please see a separate letter which highlights the activities taking place in school on March 3rd. The theme of the day is: 'You are a Reader' and to celebrate this theme and the 25th anniversary of World Book Day, we have planned many activities over the day to embrace our love of reading.

Children's Mental Health Week

We observed Children's Mental Health Week just recently and it is worth noting that our pupils discussed openly of the importance of mental health as well as physical health. Lessons over the week encouraged open discussions, developed the knowledge and understanding of building resilience and the importance of building relationships and support networks. Tasks such as creating a hot air balloon with the strings as 'links' to parents, teachers, community to support us every day in KS1 to origami mindfulness in Key Stage 2, helped promote the message. The pupils were amazing!

Parental Consultations and Pupil Voice:

We have just finished the last of our spring term consultations and parents expressed their delight at the arrangements. Holding consultations during the day and into the evening allows for a longer allocation/slot to discuss your child in depth. I do hope you found the consultation informative and together we can work on the targets for the rest of the academic year.

I have to express my thanks to the pupil 'Curriculum and Safeguarding Superheroes' (they named the group themselves) for regularly supervising the parents and staff in school and checking safeguarding arrangements were in place. They did a tremendous job and parents (and staff) were making sure they conformed to their requests!!!

I also need to thank the pupils 'Standards team'- they know who they are- for keeping an eye on the expectations in school, checking that all staff and pupils have high expectations in their environment and passing through messages from me to staff with regards to important activities and events in school.

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A final thanks to the school council for their recent meeting and putting forward strengths and development points for next half term. More details after half term.

Other groups such as Young Historians, Sports Crew and Digital Champions also support the school in moving forward. Thank you to them! At present, there is an election for a new Chaplaincy group...exciting times.

Our new January starters in Nursery have settled well into our EYFS - it feels like they have been here forever. What lovely personalities.

Finally, you will remember our year 2 pupil who was extremely poorly last term...well I have much better news to share. She visited all her friends in year 2 yesterday for a short time and received many gifts and cards. The children were so kind. The year group were thrilled to see her; the joy on their faces was a delight to see. It was a wonderful visit and she did really well to meet with everyone.

She is still recovering and there is a fair way to go but your prayers and kind thoughts have made all the difference; please continue to do so for all the family members as we support transition in returning to school one day.

I wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing half term holiday and look forward to seeing you on Monday 28th February.

Best wishes,
Mrs M D Brown
Executive Headteacher

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