



Dear Parent/Guardian,

17 February 2023

Re: February Parent Letter 2023

Thank you for your support during the first half term of the new academic year. It has been a positive seven weeks of learning; pupil voice has been invaluable from pupils in their leadership roles, such an amount of sporting success; successful external visits; all governors have visited school this half term, the attendance of 97% just last week and a wonderful visit from Bishop Terry on 16th February...the list goes on.

It is 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.

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. School is monitoring the attendance very closely alongside NPCAT. Please ensure your child is in school every day and punctual. Gates open at 8.30am to allow your child to enter the classrooms before school starts at 8.50am. Gates close at 8.50am.

A reminder of the dates for your diaries:

Extra Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May: in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles

KS2 SATs test week for Y6:

Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May

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

Monday 12th June - Friday 16th June

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Brown | Head of School: Mrs C Grainger
St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Eastbourne Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QS
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KS1 Test administration begins in May for the whole month

Multiplication Tables Checking assessment for Y4 pupils:
Monday June 5th-Friday 16th June

Important reminders:

Please be aware of the apps your children are accessing on iPads or mobile phones and check all devices the children are using, especially we now enter the half term holiday.

In school, during lessons and in particular Safer Internet Day, which was held on February 7th, the pupils are constantly made aware of the importance of online safety and of using devices of any kind generally. Together, we can make sure your child is aware of all the dangers regarding online activity and protect the children in this ever-changing world of technology.

Please get in touch with school should you need any support with any information about apps, settings or any concerns you may have and we will be only too happy to help.

With expectations in mind, can I thank you for ensuring the children are wearing full uniform. Let's make sure this continues after half term too. PE kits should be worn in all PE sessions. Only a few pupils are wearing their own choice of sporting clothing on the PE day so I would like to remind you that 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.

A reminder that the **school car park is for staff only** and the dropping off of deliveries. Unless you have sought permission from the school for a particular reason then please do not use this space to collect and drop off pupils.

To support you with this, can I remind you we have a breakfast and after school provision here in school which means children are in the school building from 7.45am and after school until 6pm. If you feel this will be of help to you, please contact the school and speak with the manager of this provision.

Letters to you continue to 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.

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Bishop Terrys' visit to school

What a lovely morning we spent with Bishop Terry yesterday- there was a reflective liturgy led by the pupils and Mrs Gardner; discussion with Chaplaincy and Laudato Si pupil groups- who were very articulate when discussing their vision- and a great visit around school to each class. Bishop Terry commented on the calm atmosphere and wonderful children.

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.

We are off to Huddersfield!

The Y5/6 boys football team were victorious recently in the Middlesbrough Football Club round of the EFL Utilita Kids Cup and will represent them in Huddersfield at the Northern Championships on 9th March. If we win there, we progress to the Championship Final at Wembley on 29th May. Amazing success already! We wish you the very best of luck!

Parental Consultations and Pupil Voice:

We have just finished the last of our spring term consultations many 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.

Please make sure you do return the parent questionnaires to school. We would like to compare these to the autumn term questionnaires and ensure school is supporting you and your child's needs and look at suggestions to improve further. So far, the questionnaires returned have been incredible- many parents strongly agree or agree to the questions being asked. One quote springs to mind from a parent: " The best school, the best teachers; the best staff." Wonderful to read!

For those parents with suggestions to develop further- thank you, we will take your comments on board and some of these are already being discussed. Many thanks to you all.

As we did last year, extra parent consultations have been organised for pupils with SEND taking place in March- we look forward to meeting with you again.

I have to express my thanks to the pupils regularly supervising the parents and staff in school during the parent consultations and checking that the safeguarding arrangements were in place. They did a tremendous job and parents (and staff) were making sure they conformed to their requests!!

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Other groups such as Chaplaincy group, Laudato Si, Mini Vinnies, School Council, Sports Crew and Digital Champions also support the school in moving forward. Thank you to them!

Our new January starters in Nursery have settled well into our EYFS. Parent consultation for Nursery pupils has been organised; parents have been given details in a separate letter from Mrs Bell.

I wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing half term holiday and look forward to seeing you on Monday 27th February.

Best wishes,

Mrs M D Brown
Executive Headteacher

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