



22nd March 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are already more than halfway through the academic year - I can't believe how quickly the year is going and how quickly this term has finished. Since the last newsletter, so far, we have seen beautiful Lenten reflections taken place; Big Lent Walks; Sacrament of Reconciliation mass for our year 4 pupils; workshops for parents and pupils have been organised and we received a letter of congratulations from the diocese and many, many positive comments from parents and further afield regarding our most recent successful and positive Ofsted inspection. Enjoy this newsletter outlining what has been happening so far with your children here in St. Edward's; updates and dates for you to plan your diary.

[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.

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Brown

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Dates for your diaries:

*Y4B parent consultation will take place once Mrs Brady returns to school

KS2 SATs test week for Y6:

Monday 13th May - Thursday 16th May

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

Monday 10th June - Friday 14th June

KS1 Teacher Assessments begin in May

Multiplication Tables Checking assessment for Y4 pupils

Monday June 10th - Friday June 21st

We will keep you informed of any changes to the above information

Weeks ahead...please also look at the website:

-Pupils break up for Easter: Friday 22nd March and return Monday 8th

April

-Y5W Swimming- 8th April for two weeks

-Y6 Educational trip-9th April

-Y6 Residential Meeting-10th April 3.15pm

-Spring term House winners celebration- 12th April in the afternoon

-Y3C Educational trip-23rd April

-Y5 Bikeability training-23rd April for the week

-Y3W Educational trip-24th April

- Combined Election-Nurser closed-2nd May

-Bank Holiday-school closed-6th May

-Pupils return-7th May

-Y5 Educational trip-17th May

-Whole School Retreat- May 20th and 21st May-see separate details

-Y6 Residential-22nd-24th May

-Pupils break up for half term-24th May 3.10pm

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-Pupils return Monday 3rd June

Faith Space:

Over the last half term, our school and parish community have been thriving. We have shared a Family Mass and invited families and parishioners to share in our Prayer Space Day. It was so lovely to see so many of you join us for this.

Our Communicants are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion in June and we are grateful to parents, catechists and staff for their support in the catechesis sessions. They received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time yesterday on the 21st March. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Many of you have journeyed through Lent with us in school through our shared times of prayer, from nursery up to Year 6. Thank you for your continued support in our prayer life.

Upcoming feasts: Palm Sunday - 24th March; Maundy Thursday - 28th March; Good Friday - 29th March; Easter Sunday - 31st March; Divine Mercy Sunday - 7th April; The Annunciation of the Lord - 8th April; World Day of Prayer for Vocations - 21st April

Open Door Art

You will be aware school commissioned an artist to work with our pupils over two days a few weeks ago. The pupils absolutely loved being involved in the artwork and the finished product was amazing! The focus was to link with Mental Health and Wellbeing. Art workshops were organised for each year group and every child had to think about "My Voice Matters" and express their opinions and their voice through art.

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OPAL

We continue to provide Free Flow Friday but our aim is to extend this to each lunchtime. Please look out for a Facebook appeal from Mrs George regarding resources and your support.



This fortnight we are appealing
for our stage/music area:

We are in need of any old and unused:

- fancy dress and accessories
- hats, props, puppets ect
- Children's wellies - varied sizes from Rec-Y6



All donations are greatly appreciated
Thank you

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House Team Winners

The winning house team will be announced after Easter and their celebration will take place the first week back.

Easter Treat

Each pupil has been given a little Easter treat to take home tonight- please look out for these in their bags. It is a thank you to each pupil for being the wonderful pupils they are.

Fundraising

Your children are amazing! On a daily basis they consult with their teachers and with senior leaders to propose an idea to raise funds for charities across the board. This term they have organised and led fundraising events.

- Year 1 organised a food appeal for their class charity - St. Mary's Cathedral food bank, donating 16 bags full of food and other needed items. A letter of thanks was received from the Cathedral. The pupils also completed their Big Lent Walk joining with Year 5 to raise money for the CAFOD appeal.
- Year 2 held a sponsored danceathon to raise money for their class charity 'Mind.'
- Y4 have organised a football 'kick up' during lunchtime to raise money for the Great North Air ambulance charity.
- A group of pupils from Year 6 organised their own raffle tickets with the prize being a visit to a Middlesbrough Football Club match. Funds were sent to Zoe's Place.
- A group of Y3 pupils arranged their own production of bracelets to sell; the funds went to CAFOD.

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Gentle reminders

Please ensure your children, especially the KS1 pupils, are with you at all times when exiting the school premises across the KS2 playground.

I really do understand the frustration of parking when bringing and collecting your children to school but a few reminders about this please. Parking is not allowed in the curial car park. This is a private car park for the diocese. Please do not park across the drive at the side of the church and Y6 classrooms- this is an emergency exit for pupils and parking has been observed in front of resident's driveways- please ensure this will not continue.

The car park is for staff only- please be aware not to use it unless you have sought permission and be very mindful of parking on Sycamore Road in conjunction with The Avenue...it is causing dangerous congestion and will, if we are not careful, result in an accident with one of our pupils or parents.

I was introduced to our new Community Police Officer this morning and he will, and his team, be visiting the school premises on a regular basis. This is all of us working together to keep your children safe. Thanking you in advance.

As always, please be aware of the apps your children are accessing on iPad's, mobile phones, WhatsApp or Snapchat. In school, during lessons and in particular Safer Internet Day, which was held on February 6th with the focus on 'Inspiring Change', 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.

Some pupils have regular conversations with their peers outside of school on mobiles and through certain apps but we are aware that this is causing upset with each other. Please remind the children of the age limit for some of these apps and keep a check on what they are saying to each other- this will ensure hurtful conversations will not take place. Older pupils bringing their mobiles into school have to have written permission from you as parents. Mobiles should be kept in their bags as they enter school. Many thanks for your support with this.

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The pupils are always well behaved, extremely well- mannered and polite and this has, over the years, been commented on. I have also noticed a calm environment with high expectations evidenced across each Key Stage, pupils being supportive of one another and working and playing together as a team. Well, done to all pupils! They are mature, friendly and eager to learn.

Please encourage your children to discuss with you what is expected in school so this continues as we enter in to our final term.

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. PE kit consists of a white t-shirt, navy shorts and trainers. Please ensure your child is dressed in the correct clothing. This will ensure the standards and expectations are consistently applied across school.

When we return after the holiday, you will receive the summer term curriculum newsletter from your child's year group. Please take a note of the curriculum content and coverage; any information you need regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

Letters to you will continue to be sent through email. The letters will also be uploaded onto our website in the parent's section and on latest news. Please check daily for any updates. Classes will post events and activities of school life on Facebook 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.

Mrs Harris Matthews continues to lead Mental Health & Wellbeing, Welfare and HeadStart support. We have many mechanisms for support in school such as Play Therapy, Schools in Mind, The Bungalow for parents. Mrs Harris Matthews will be liaising and leading with these agencies.

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Deputy Headteacher

I am delighted to inform you that last week our very own Mrs Rovardi was appointed as Deputy Headteacher for St Edward's. She will take up this post in September 2024. Mrs Rovardi has been a part of our senior leadership team previously and we look forward and are excited to continuing the journey with her as DHT. I know I speak on behalf of you all when I say congratulations and well done to Mrs Rovardi.

Finally, please continue your prayers for our parish and school community- many, many are suffering bereavement, illness and very much just hard times!

Thank you for your support this term. It is only by working together that we can achieve all we do...much appreciated!

I do hope you have a wonderful Easter and enjoy the rest of the holiday with your family.

Best wishes,
Mrs M D Brown
Executive Headteacher

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