



Dear Parents/Guardians,

December 2024

We now draw to a close on a very busy but productive autumn term... I would like to thank you very much for your continued support. Thinking back to September when the pupils started their transition in to school, who would have thought it would pass by so quickly! Here we are now ready to relax, reflect this Christmastime, prepare for the new year of 2025 and indeed for a whole new academic spring term. All in all, a very busy but successful term/year and long may it continue!

May I thank you for your wonderful generosity with fundraising this term-so, so many Cause Hampers; Christmas Fayre donations; Reindeer Run and Genesis Project amongst others! We are blessed to have you as parents- thank you again!

This letter today is to inform you of a couple of updates:

Term Dates for 2025-2026

Term dates for academic year 2025-2026 have been finalised. These dates were sent to you last week and there is a copy on our website under parents and pupils section titled **Term Dates**.

Sacramental Programme

Fr Tom and Mrs Gardner have arranged for parishioners in the parish to lead the sacramental programme for children in year 4. An introductory meeting has already taken place in school. Please look out for information and communication from the parishioners in the church newsletter, their Facebook account once organised and we will be keeping you up to date with communication and information too. The programme will commence in January 2025. More details to follow when we return after Christmas.

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

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Brown

St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Eastbourne Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS5 6QS
Tel: 01642 819507 | Email: enquiries@stedwards.npcat.org.uk | Website: stedwards.npcat.org.uk

Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust



Parking Notice- important updates

I know that the busy location of our school makes parking difficult at dropping off and pick up times of the day. I need to remind you that unfortunately **the Little Theatre has not granted permission to use their car park** so please be mindful of this when bringing pupils to school and collecting at the end of the school day.

Please could parents respect the local resident's parking spaces when parking in the vicinity of the school and to not block the driveways. I have been informed that this has been happening particularly on Sycamore Road and Cornfield Road. Thank you for your support with this.

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.

At the side of the Y6 classrooms and by the side of the church there is a small driveway off Eastbourne Road (which belongs to the Diocese). At times, cars have been parked there whilst dropping off pupils or collecting on a night. A gentle reminder please to not park in this area- it is an emergency exit for our school pupils and needs to be clear at all times.

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.

Teaching and Learning (T&L)

A great term's work and indeed year's work with teaching and learning. Our curriculum is knowledge rich and sequential which allows for progression throughout the year ensuring gaps are closing. You will receive the spring term curriculum newsletter when we return in January. If you have any queries about the curriculum, please get in touch with your class teacher who will only be too happy to discuss this with you.

Please find attached a letter of congratulations from DfE Regional Director. We are very proud of the school in achieving Gold Primary Geography Quality Mark- one of only 103 schools across the country to have been awarded gold. A big thankyou to all the staff and of course the wonderful pupils but a special mention to our Humanities Leader Mrs Brady. Thank you for your hard work with leading geography Mrs Brady!

Pupils from our leadership groups have been very busy this term and again this academic year. The pupils are incredibly articulate and are very sure of the strengths of school and next steps to further develop. Well done to all pupils involved in leading groups.

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At the time of writing this letter, Nursery, KS1 and KS2 have performed their nativity/Advent performance to many, many parents.

The performances in school and church were truly magical. The singing and reflections were inspirational and just beautiful! All performances allowed us, for a short time, to forget about the rush of Christmas and absorb the innocence and pride of the children in each year group telling us how to prepare for Jesus' birth in the most wonderful way. As some parents commented, the real start to Christmas has begun. I couldn't agree more!

Well done to all our pupils and staff.

Our Reception nativity will take place on Tuesday 17th December. I know it will be just as lovely as the rest of the school. A real treat.

As I finish this letter, can I take this opportunity to ask you to think of all our families in the school and parish community who are going through difficult times at present and to keep them in your prayers and hearts in the run up to Christmas. Thank you.

Dates

Just a reminder that school breaks up for the end of term on **Thursday 19th December** at the usual time of 3.10pm.

Pupils return on Monday 6th January 2025

I would like to wish you a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas with your family and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 6th January 2025.

Best wishes for 2025.

Mrs M Brown

Executive Headteacher

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