



11 April 2025

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Re: Parent letter April 2025

The end of the spring term is now upon us. I still can't believe how fast the academic year is going. Since the last newsletter, we have seen beautiful Lenten reflections taken place; Sacrament of Reconciliation mass for our year 4 pupils; an excellent CSI inspection (report will be displayed on our website soon), calm and reflective Prayer Space morning for parents and parishioners, educational visits and many sporting competitions with successful outcomes. 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:

KS2 SATs test week for Y6:

Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May

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

Monday 9th June - Friday 13th June

KS1 Teacher Assessments administration begins in May for the whole month

Multiplication Tables Checking assessment for Y4 pupils

Monday June 2nd - Friday June 13th

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

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 this term. 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.

OPAL

We continue to provide Free Flow across both playgrounds. This has been rolled out for three days at present but our aim is to extend this next term to each lunchtime. We still would appreciate any resources you feel you could contribute.

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House Team Winners-spring term- St Oswald

The winning house team was announced on Wednesday 9th April. As I am writing this letter, the winners are currently taking part in a session of fun multi- sports activities outside in the playground as a celebration for winning. I have just checked on the winning house team and they look delighted to be outside in the warm weather having fun! Well done St Oswald!

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 this consists of:

- A group of Y5 girls hosted a cake stall for their class charity, NeoAngels, and raised £57. Well done! You know who you are.
- Both Y3 classes organised a bracelet sale and donated funds of £87.20 to the Salvation Army. Wonderful!
- Chocolate Bar sale raised £140- thank you!
- Year 6 have been raising money for Zoe's Place with a book sale, sweet treats and cake sale. They have raised just over an amazing £200!

Important Reminders (as we go into the final summer term)

Please ensure your children, especially the KS1 pupils, are with you at all times when exiting the school premises across the KS2 playground. I have noticed many footballs being played with by the younger pupils and some older pupils- this poses a dangerous situation with families accessing the KS2 playground. Many families have very young children with them and pushchairs, prams can be seen. Please do not allow your children to kick the footballs or play with any resources at home time. The staff have been reminded to clear away all resources before 3pm each day so hopefully in partnership with you we can keep all our pupils and your families safe.

I really do understand the frustration of parking when bringing and collecting your children to school but a few reminders about this below:

-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.

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-Parking has been observed in front of resident's driveways- please ensure this will not continue. Residents are telling school that they will and have been contacting the community police.

-The school car park is for **staff only**- a parent parked in this car park two weeks ago and as they were reversing out onto Eastbourne Road they just missed a pupil cycling to school on the pavement. This is an accident waiting to happen. We all need to play our part in safeguarding our children!

I have made our community police officer aware of our frustrations and he is going to be monitoring the environment around school.

I have been informed that KS2 pupils are bringing in various snacks to school...crisps, sweets, sweet cereal bars, cookies, cereal bars containing nuts (please remember we are nut free school). Some pupils are eating these as snacks during breaktime. This is a reminder that we encourage the pupils to bring fruit into school as a breaktime snack. Thankyou for your support with this.

As always, please be aware of the apps your children are accessing on ipads, mobile phones, WhatsApp or Snapchat. In school, during lessons and in particular Safer Internet Day, 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 do not take place. Older pupils bringing their mobiles into school must have written permission from you as parents. Mobiles should be kept in their bags as they enter school. No watches with cameras should be worn.... if they are seen they will be confiscated due to safeguarding. Many thanks for your support with this.

The pupils are always well behaved, extremely well- mannered and polite and this has, over the years, been commented on by visitors to the school. This has continued with excellent comments from our Ofsted inspection and in the recent CSI inspection in March. 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 head in to our final term at the end of April.

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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. Please ensure your child is dressed in the correct clothing. This will ensure the standards and expectations are consistently applied across school.

Questionnaires:

"The people really. It feels like the people have a passion for education that builds on the children's natural joy and desire to learn and be amongst new things." Parent comment, February 2025

"I like everything about this school." Parent comment, February 2025

"I have recommended St Edward's to one of my friends because I strongly believe it is one of the best schools." Parent comment, February 2025

Thank you for returning the parental questionnaires this term. Analysis has been undertaken and this will be displayed on our website w/c 28th April. So, so many positive and wonderful comments were observed and we are extremely grateful! Your contribution to school development was noted too; again, many thanks for this- we are actioning these points immediately and will continue to do so next term.

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 parents' 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.

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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 continue to liaise and lead with these agencies.

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

Pupils break up for Easter: Friday 11th April at 3.10pm and return Monday 28th April.

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,
M D Brown
Executive Headteacher

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