



17th February 2023

Happy Half-term Everyone!

Dear parents and carers,

Today, we break up for a well deserved rest after a busy half-term. Thankfully, the mornings and nights are getting a bit lighter and the spring flowers are beginning to appear which makes everyone feel a little brighter.

Catholic Life

As a school and parish community, we have continued to grow in faith together this half-term. A big thank you to parents and families who are able to join us in Stay and Pray and Class Masses each Friday. The children enjoy it when folks from home can join them to celebrate these special moments. Please see dates below for next half-term prayer and liturgy events.

We have met with Year 4 children and their parents who will begin preparations for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist later this month. The first session is in school on 27th February from 3.15 to 4.00pm. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

We have a number of children in school who are not baptised Catholic and have enquired about baptism. If you would like your child to be baptised, please speak to Fr.Pat after Mass on a Sunday. Mass times are Saturday at 6.00pm and Sunday at 11.00am.

Bishop Terry will visit school on Thursday 16th March. He will meet with staff and pupils and present two awards which we have recently been accredited with. *CAFOD's Live Simply Award* is about showing how we live simply, how we live in solidarity with those in poverty and how we live sustainably with creation. We were also the first and only school in the whole of Middlesbrough Diocese to be awarded with *The Oscar Romero Award*. Oscar Romero was a Bishop who lived in El Salvador in the 1950s and

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fought for equality and the rights of the working poor. It is an award given to schools who show a commitment to including Catholic Social Teaching within their curriculum. The promotion of caring for creation and consideration of humankind is a strong aspect throughout our curriculum at St.Patrick's.

The holy season of Lent will start during the half-term break so please be aware of this. Enjoy the pancake tradition on Tuesday ahead of Ash Wednesday on 22nd February which marks the start of Lent- a season of fast, prayer and giving to others.

Clubs

A new programme of clubs will begin in the first week back after the holiday. A separate letter will be emailed to you all today with booking and payment details through arbor.

Attendance

Our overall school attendance at the moment is 96.6% Thank you to the vast majority of parents who work hard to ensure daily attendance is a priority. We are also working with a group of parents where attendance has become a persistent concern. We also recognise that some children have greatly improved on their attendance as the year progresses so congratulations to these children! Letters will be issued to parents where attendance is a concern followed by attendance meetings.

Strike Action

There is industrial action planned for Tuesday 28th February. You will receive a letter informing you of which classes will remain open that day. It is anticipated that there will be some disruption to the operation of school that day.

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Keeping Safe on-line

Children enjoyed Online safety day on 7th February and picked up some useful tips in lessons and from a special assembly. We also asked children to complete an E-safety survey which we will give feedback to you after the half-term. One concerning observation for us as a school was the amount of children that say they use a device to help them go to sleep. 57% of our children said that they use a phone or tablet to help them get to sleep. We urge all parents to make sure that children go to bed with a good book or conversation with you. The most important contact that you have as parents is on an evening where you can share and talk through the events of the day. Of course, we ask that you say a small prayer and offer a Good night God bless. This small and simple gesture before sleep has served so many generations before us. We feel it is important. We hope you do too!

A reminder that we have our parent guidance meeting on Monday 6th March at 2.15pm. Please make every effort to be there as it will be a very useful meeting for parents of children of all ages.

Flu Nasal Drop In Clinics

If your child is in need of the Flu Injection, can you please call our office on 0300 003 2554. There is also a drop in clinic on 23rd February from 9.30 to 2.30 at the Thornaby Family Hub on Tedder Avenue if you wish for your child to receive the flu nasal vaccination.

Reading books

We seem to be running a little low on reading scheme books in school. We have invested heavily into making sure that there is a range of quality books in school. Please have a look around the house and return any school books back to school after the holiday. Some of our classes in KS2 have enjoyed visits to Thornaby Central Library. Please encourage visits to the library yourselves while we are fortunate to have such a good resource in our community.

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World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on the 2nd March. We have a range of activities happening in school and a separate letter about the day is attached with this email.

Parking

While the vast majority of parents park safely and sensibly around school, we have a small minority that don't. We constantly work with our neighbours and the council to ensure that the roads around school are safe at pick up and drop off times. Unfortunately, traffic enforcement officers have cautioned some parents recently.

Science Week

National Schools Science Week will take place from Monday 13th March. This year, we have decided to focus on the history of science and industry on Teesside. Our area has such a special and unique industrial heritage that is to be celebrated with our children. We hope this will inspire and encourage the children to feel proud of the area that they call home as well as learn about careers and pathways they could take in the field of science. During the week, they will have the opportunities to meet with local scientists who work in local industries. We are proud to be part of Teesside!

Parents Evenings

After the half-term break, you will receive mid-term reports about the progress your child is making. If you feel a need to discuss these reports with class teachers, parent consultations will be held on 27th/28th March. We will inform you of how to book through the arbor system on return. If you still have not registered on arbor, please contact the school office for guidance.

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Future Dates

Mon 27th Feb	First Holy Communion Session in School Hall 3.15-4.00pm. Parents and Children
Tue 28th Feb	Industrial Strike Day (see separate letter)
Wed 1st March	Rocksteady Music Launch in school
Thur 2nd March	World Book Day (see separate letter)
Fri 3rd March	Class 1 Stay and Pray 9.10-9.30am Class 3 Mass in Church 10am
Sat 4th March	Year 5 and 6 Ski Trip to Claviere Italy
Mon 6th March	First Holy Communion Session in School Hall 3.15-4.00pm
Fri 10th March	Class 3 Stay and Pray Class 8 and 9 Mass in Church at 10am Chris Connorton Story Teller in school
Mon 13th March	National Science Week Online Safety Awareness for Parents in Hall 2.15-3.00pm Y5 Bikeability (see separate letter)
Tue 14th March	Mid Year Reports to parents
Wed 15th March	Proposed Strike Action Day
Thur 16th MArch	Proposed Strike Action Day Bishop Terry Visits School Class 6 Visit to Murton Park
Fri 17th March	St.Patrick's Feast Day

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Mon 20th March	Year 5 Bikeability Day 2
Tue 21st March	World Down Syndrome Awareness Day- Odd sock and Donation
Fri 24th March	Class 3 Stay and Pray-9.10-9.30am Class 10 and 5 Mass in Church 10am
Mon 27th March	Parent's Consultations (details to follow)
Tue 28th March	Parent's Consultations (details to follow)
Fri 31st March	Class 11 Stay and Pray 9.10-9.30am Class 6 and 7 Mass in Church 10am Y4 Sacrament of Reconciliation Mass and Service 10am
Fri 31st March	End of Spring Term
Mon 17th Apr	Return to School

Finally, enjoy the rest and hopefully bright days during the break to get out and about and we will see you all on **Monday 27th February**.

**God Bless,
Mr Conwell
Mr Ryan**

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