



28th March 2021

Dear families,

As we approach the Easter holidays, we can reflect back on the term and need to remember the hard work that took place both at home and at school. Although it doesn't seem long ago that school reopened, we feel that everyone is ready for a break and will hopefully be able to see friends and family.

Easter events

During Holy Week, we normally spend a lot of time together as a school reflecting on the importance of the week, the children will continue to gain and deeper understanding within their classrooms. Last week, the KS2 children rehearsed liturgies which will be shared remotely with the whole school this week.

On Wednesday, the children in year groups reception to year six will all watch an Easter pantomime. We are streaming the panto into each class and the children will receive an Easter biscuit made by the kitchen staff. The nursery children will be having Easter fun on Thursday.



We have funded the pantomime from the Easter Egg raffle. For those that do not know about this- we receive Easter egg donations from companies, staff, parents and family members. Raffle tickets then go on sale and we raffle the eggs off to the children. The egg collection is separated into classes and the raffles are completed in front of the children; this is usually the whole school together but it will be held in individual classes this year. The raffle will be held on Thursday. If you haven't already bought your raffle tickets, there is still time. The option to buy them will stay on ParentPay until Thursday morning.

Reception and year six pupils missed out on their Christmas party due to the classes isolating in December. They will be having an Easter party instead. On Thursday, April 1st, the children in reception and year six can wear their party clothes (including make-up if they wish) and they will have games in the hall and a snack in their classrooms. All pupils across the school will be making an Easter craft to bring home.

Big Pedal

When we return to school on Monday 19th April, we will be celebrating the Big Pedal. This will last for two weeks and involves children coming to school all week on bikes, scooters or anything else with wheels. Each playground area will have a space for the bikes etc. to be left during the day. Please remember, do not wheel down the entrance hill and remember to act sensibly on the pavements on the way to and from school.



Attendance

If your child is absent from school due to a COVID isolation, then please inform the office. School work will be added to your child's Google Classroom on day two. Please complete online activities, e.g. Lexia, Reading Plus, My Maths on day one of the absence. We will not be offering live lessons during isolation periods unless the whole class are isolating.

School meals

After the holidays, reception children will be given the choice of school dinners. Mrs. Riley will explain to them what the choices are.



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Afterschool activities

As part of our wider school curriculum, we are offering after school clubs for children in year groups reception to year six. This half term, our theme is sports. Watch out for the booking form coming home today.

The clubs will run for the half term and will start the first week that we return and they will run for 5 weeks until the next holiday- they will run from 3:15 or 3:30pm until 4:30pm. Payment can be made on Parent Pay. You will not receive confirmation as we are not limiting places.

We have to limit the choice of clubs due to class bubbles; where two classes are in one club, they will be separated into classes where possible. All clubs will take place in the main hall, field or the junior yard. Please collect from the main hall entrance and please socially distance while waiting. The one-way system will still be in place, but please take care as cars maybe moving from the carpark at collection time.

If your child is attending a club, they should wear their PE kits to school on that day and make sure that they have a drink. They can refill their bottles prior to the club starting.

If government guidelines change then we may have to cancel some sessions, but we will inform you if this happens.

Year group	Day	Club	Run by	Cost	Notes
Reception	Thursday	Mixed sports	EYFS staff	£1 per session	
Year 1 / Year 2	Friday	Gymnastics/ games	Grassroots- Miss Troke and school staff	£2 per session	
Year 3 / Year 4	Tuesday	Mixed sports	School staff	£1 per session	
Year 5 / Year 6	Wednesday	Football	Mr. Myhill and school staff	£1 per session	Bring football boots if necessary

Wraparound

Breakfast club continues to be 8am-9am and our after-school club runs from 3.30pm until 6pm. Due to lack of demand from 5-6pm, we are considering closing at 5pm, however, we will inform you when decisions have been made in regards to this. Parents should email wraparound@stmarysjarrow.co.uk to book a place.

Parents' consultations

All parent consultations took place via the telephone last week. If you didn't book your appointment then please message the class teacher and they will try to fit you in this week.

Homework

Parents of children in years 3-6 may remember that we used to send out weekly paper-based homework to pupils. We completed a lot of work around the benefit of this and we sent out parental and pupil questionnaires. After a term's trial, it was decided at the time that we would concentrate on spellings, timetables and reading at home and only year two and year six would receive homework to support their statutory tests, however, we offered a homework club to support these pupils.

Our homework policy states that homework can be issued when necessary. Following the return of our pupils, we have identified that the majority of pupils need additional support with handwriting and arithmetic. We will be adding additional sessions into the timetable, but we will be sending out weekly handwriting sheets to all pupils from reception to year four. Year five and six pupils will receive a weekly arithmetic paper to complete at home. All homework will be added to Google Classroom and will be set on a Monday to be returned the following Monday. It must be returned either as an attachment on Google Classroom or via a photograph sent to the class email address.





Uniform

A reminder that children are required to wear their full school uniform including school shoes. Many pupils are continuing to wear trainers. These are not part of the school uniform. We have been lenient due to the closure of shops; however, we will revert to contacting parents after the holidays. We understand that sometimes issues occur, e.g. left school shoes at a family member's house or damaged footwear and if this is the case then we are sympathetic if we know the situation. If you are struggling financially and cannot afford the correct school uniform then please inform us and we will offer support.

On a PE day (or club day), your child must attend school for the full day in their PE kit. Navy tracksuit or shorts, white t-shirt and trainers. **Please do not send your child in a designer make tracksuit.** After the holidays, your child will bring an individual letter home if they do not have appropriate PE kit on. Again, we can offer support if you are unable to provide your child with the appropriate uniform.

Reception- Wednesday

Year 1- Friday

Year 2- Friday

Year 3- Monday

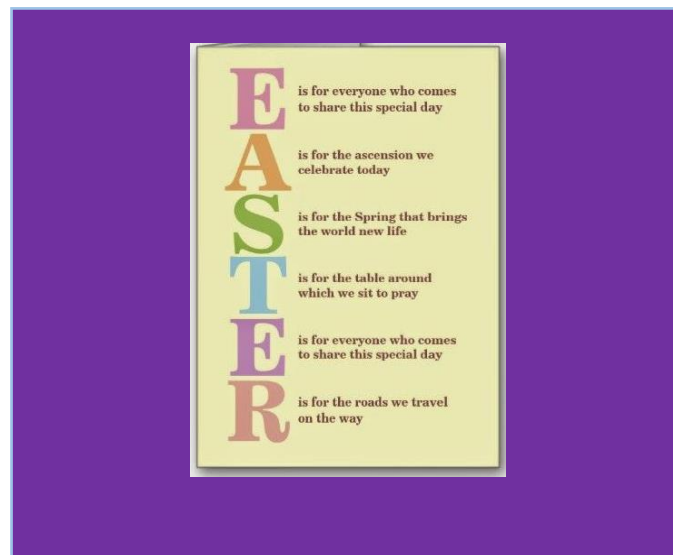
Year 4- Monday

Year 5- Friday

Year 6- Friday

Staffing

As you are aware, Mr. Mackley has been on secondment at another school since Christmas. He has secured this position permanently and officially leaves St. Mary's on Wednesday. We will miss him at St. Mary's, but he was ready to take on further challenges. He will be in school on Wednesday afternoon to say farewell to the staff and children.



We break up for the holidays on Thursday, April 1st at 3:15/3:30pm and return on Monday 19th April. Have a good holiday when it arrives.

Mrs. Tumelty

Acting Head of School.



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