



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Ayr Drive, Jarrow NE32 4AW Tel. 0191 4898336
Executive Head Teacher Mrs M.Graham BEd. (Hons) NPQH
Head of School Mrs A Tumelty (BA Hons) NPQH
soffice@stmarysjarrow.co.uk www.stmarysjarrow.co.uk

15^h February 2022

Dear families,

We are hurtling forward into spring and eventually it is getting lighter on a morning and an evening. We just need some warmth now...

Lent

It is the beginning of Lent on Wednesday 2nd March. We will be encouraging the children to take part in the 40 days of kindness where each day they think of others and help them to feel happy. Over the holidays, you could try to help them think of 40 ideas.



Mrs. Colley will be inviting parents and children in school during Lent to take part in prayerful activities.



COVID-19

School life is slowly resuming to normal. Assemblies and school worship in the hall have both restarted and we are aiming to have the school gathering as a whole after half term. All restrictions have been lifted in the dining hall and outside.

Family learning

Mrs. Walker is continuing family learning sessions this term. Letters will be sent out to individual classes. Family Learning aims to raise the confidence of adult family members, by equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to become more involved in their children's learning and social development.

Restart of SEND Coffee mornings

We are restarting the coffee mornings for families of those identified as a special education need/disability or those who receive additional support. They will run on the first Thursday of each month. The coffee morning will give you the opportunity to talk to other parents who are in a similar situation to yourself. The sessions are very informal.

The sessions will take place in the school building at 9-10am on the following dates are-

Thursday 3rd March 2022

Thursday 7th April 2022

Thursday 5th May 2022

Thursday 9th June 2022

Thursday 7th July 2022

Design and Technology Day

The children have taken part in a food design and technology day today. Ask them what they learnt and the skills that they have developed. They should be able to help you make a meal now!





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Outdoor play

The senior leadership team are reviewing the equipment and outdoor set up at lunch time. We are aware that the children behave differently on a lunchtime as they are outside for a longer period of time. Mrs. Colley and I are now often outside with the children and have identified that the children need more play equipment to engage them. We have previously spent a lot of money on toys, but they quickly break. To help overcome this, we are engaging the children with meaningful activities, encouraging the children to look after the equipment and we have four year 5 pupils who have trained as Sport's Leaders and they are going to help arrange the activities.

Commando Joe Days

Each half term, the children will take part in a Commando Joe Day where the children take part in missions and develop their social skills.

The children can come to school in their PE kits or Commando style clothing. Commando style face paints are allowed, but remember that the children are moving around a lot and become sweaty. We will also provide face paints on the yard on the morning of a Commando Joe day, but parents will need to be with their child. If the child would like this, then it will only be 2 stripes of camouflage colour on each cheek.



Class	Commando Joe Date
Nursery	Tuesday 8 th March
Reception	Wednesday 9 th March
Year 1	Thursday 10 th March
Year 2	Wednesday 23 rd March
Year 3	Wednesday 16 th March
Year 4	Thursday 24 th March
Year 5	Tuesday 5 th April
Year 6	Wednesday 6 th April

PE days

PE days will remain the same, but year 3 and 4 will be taking part in dance sessions during their PE days.

Class	PE day	Swimming day
Reception	Wednesday	n/a
Year 1	Monday	n/a
Year 2	Friday	n/a
Year 3	Monday	n/a
Year 4	Monday	Friday
Year 5	Monday	Friday
Year 6	Friday	n/a





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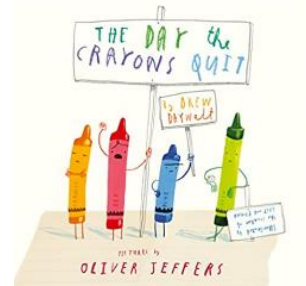
Head Lice

We have cases of head lice in school- please check your child's hair. Head lice treatments are available at 'Care of the Chemist' at no cost to parents/carers. Ask at your local pharmacist about this.

Reading week

St. Mary's are holding a reading week during the first week that we return. The week will involve many activities to engage the children including a NO PEN DAY. Previously the children have thoroughly enjoyed this week.

World Book day is on Thursday 3rd March 2022. We would like children to dress as their favourite book or comic character or come dressed as a full colour, e.g. all blue. This will represent the crayons from the book 'The Day the Crayons Quit.' They can of course come in their school uniform if they would like to.



We are holding a 'Reading in Strange Places' competition and the winner will be announced on Friday 4th March 2022. To enter, take a photograph of your child reading in a strange place and either print it off and leave it in the school office, email it to reading@stmarysjarrow.co.uk or send it via classdojo to me or Mrs. Colley.

Red Nose Day

On Friday 18th March, we will be hosting a RED day to celebrate Red Nose Day. Please send your child to school wearing red items of clothing, this could be a full red outfit, partly red or red accessories with their normal uniform. It is up to you as long as it has a red theme. Where possible, please add a donation on Parent Pay or bring cash to school and we will send it to the charity.

The school office will be selling official Red Noses. Mrs. Smith will let you know when they arrive on school. If you have any OLD red noses from previous years, then please donate them to school where they will be used in activities.

Parental Consultations

We will be holding in school OR telephone consultations this term. It would be lovely to see you all in school, but we know the telephone call was helpful to some parents. They will be held during the week of 28th March. Year 3 and 6 will be held the following week. Letters will be sent out soon with specific dates and information on.

School site

Following the storm a few weeks ago, we are hopeful that the loose tiles on the roof will be fixed in the half term holiday. The heating in the reception class is due to be fully fixed by mid-March. The play equipment at the front of school is getting fully replaced in the summer term and the gym equipment will be ready to use again after the holidays. Please keep your children off the equipment before and after school.





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Movie night

As year 1 and year 5 missed their Christmas movie night due to COVID, it is being held tonight. The class teachers contacted the parents of the children who had originally paid for the night. We are aware that some children are missing out as parents didn't originally pay for the event. To help us, please make sure that you pay for events in advance. Most messages come through Class DoJo- please make sure that you have logged on to this system. Ask for help if needed.

Clubs

After school clubs will be released during the week that we return from school. We are pleased that so many children stay and we take their opinion on what to run. Payments must be paid via parent pay; if payments are not made then the children will not be able to stay for a club. We often have to pay external providers for the provision and school end up having to pay, which is not ideal. If you would like your child to attend a club, but payment is difficult then please speak to a member of school staff about this. We will support where possible.

Arrears

Unfortunately, some families are in arrears for dinners, nursery fees, clubs and wraparound; we know that this can be difficult, but we are here to support you and can set up a payment plan to help. We will also help you avoid more debts occurring. Mrs. Smith, our office manager, can meet individually and privately with families to help. She can be contacted on the school email or via Class DoJo.

Nursery places

We are pleased to announce that we have full-time and part-time nursery spaces available for 2, 3 or 4 year olds. Mrs. Smith, will be able to discuss the payment options and can easily check if families are entitled to free hours.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

You will be aware that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee day is within the school holiday in June. Due to this, schools have been able to allocate an additional date. Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust schools are taking this date on July 22nd 2022, so school will be closed on this date. We have a school INSET day on July 21st 2022, therefore school will close for the summer to the pupils on Wednesday July 20th 2022.

Have a wonderful half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. M Graham
Acting Executive Headteacher.

Mrs. A Tumelty
Acting Head of school.

A Prayer for our School

Dear God,
Thank you for looking after our School.
Thank you that you love each and everyone of us here.
Help us to learn, play and share together,
So that the wonderful world you have
made becomes more beautiful everyday.
Amen.

