



NEWSLETTER

'Walk in the Light of Christ'

January 2025

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year, it has been a pleasure to see the children coming back to school so happily, they have settled straight back into school life and are working so hard in class. You will shortly receive class newsletters which outlines what the children will be learning this term in all subjects, as always if you have any questions do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff. The newsletter has important dates for the term, further information will follow regarding trips that involve your children.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you soon, Mrs Birrell.

Team Around the School Support

We are delighted to invite you to a **coffee morning in our school hall on Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 8.40 – 10.30am**, to meet key staff who play a vital role in supporting your child's journey at school, including Miss Harrison our Well-being Lead and Parent Support Worker, who started working with us just before Christmas. We are fortunate enough to work closely with Emma Hayes, a school support advisor who works for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. With the support from school, Emma's role is to ensure that our families have knowledge of, and access to the family support services offered by Stockton Borough Council, including:

- The services and resources available at school and from external providers to support families with a variety of concerns, including behaviour, sleep, physical & mental health.
- Access to early support, ensuring pupils are getting the right support at the right time.
- Parenting support.
- Reducing the number of conversations taking place about children in need of support and to get support in place faster.
- Raising aspirations and inclusiveness for children, young people and parent/carers who are hard to reach.
- Any other concerns families may have, we can point you in the right direction.

Myself (Mrs Birrell) and Mrs Moodie will also be available at the coffee morning to talk about school improvement and future plans for the school. It will be an opportunity to ask questions and to share ideas with the Headteacher of improvements you as parents would like to see at school. Mrs Black our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) will also be available during the morning to support with any educational concerns you may have.

We hope our parents and families will attend this informal morning, if you have any questions or would like any more information please contact the school office.

Fundraising

Many thanks to everyone for supporting our fundraising efforts over the Christmas period. We were overwhelmed with the amount of donations for our Christmas Fair, your generosity allowed us to raise over £500 for school funds. Additionally, over £2100 was raised from the Reindeer Run which has been shared with a very grateful Butterwick Hospice.

Blue Monday Bright

Monday 20th January is "Turn Blue Monday Bright". Why do we want to Turn Blue Monday Bright? The third Monday in January is often referred to as Blue Monday. It's when there are most absences from work, days off school and generally a day when people may be feeling low and struggling with their mental health. We want to turn this day from blue to bright. The idea is to make everyone smile, with the overriding aim to raise awareness of mental health issues. It is a reminder to us all that when we are feeling down, there are always little things we can do to feel better - on this day, and throughout the year. On this day children are invited to come to school dressed in bright clothes or to wear a bright coloured accessory. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Dates for the Diary (Please check MCAS for reminders)	
16 th January	First Holy Communion Preparation Session
20 th January	Turn Blue Monday Bright
21 st January	Y1 Pirate Festival
24 th January	Aspire Judo Y1, 2, 3
27 th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
29 th January	Y3 Trip to Tees Barrage
29 th January	School Support Coffee Morning 8.40 – 10.30am
31 st January	Aspire Judo Y1, 2, 3
3 rd February	Children's Mental Health Week National Story Telling Week
4-9 th February	National Careers Week
5 th February	Y4 Times Tables Meeting 8.45am
5 th February	Active School Festival (selected children)
Wk commencing 10 th February	'Starbooks' 10 th – Reception (hall) & Nursery (in the nursery classroom) 11 th – Year 1 12 th – Year 2 13 th – Year 3 14 th – Year 4
11 th February	Safer Internet Day
12 th February	Whole school Skip 2 B Fit
Wk commencing 17 th February	'Starbooks' 17 th – Year 5 18 th – Year 6
18 th February	Y4 Active Learning
21 st February	School closed to children - PD Day for staff
Week commencing 24 th February – 28 th February is half term.	
3 rd March	Return to school
4 – 9 th March	National Careers Week
5 th March	Y6 Trip to London
5 th March	Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
6 th March	World Book Day
7 th March	Photograph Day
10 th March	British Science Day
13 th March	First Holy Communion Preparation Session
19 th March	St. Joseph's Day
Wk 24 th March	Y5 Swimming Week
25 th March	Y4 Tri Golf
Wk 31 st March	Y5 Swimming Week
1 st April	Y5 Hockey
3 rd April	First Holy Communion Preparation Session
7 th April	Parents Evening
9 th April	Parents Evening
9 th April	Y3 Racket Skills
11 th April	End of term achievement assembly End of term
28 th April	Summer Term begins

Enrichment Clubs

We have a variety of Wednesday Enrichment Clubs available this term. Clubs start on Wednesday 22nd January and run for 4 weeks until 12th February 2025. Clubs are,

Dance & Theatre	Y4, 5, 6
Multi Sports	Y4, 5, 6
Choir	Y3, 4, 5
Cooking	Y1, 2, 3
Art & Craft	Y1, 2, 3
Animation club	Y1 - 6
Book Lovers Club	Y1, 2, 3

Additionally, there will be 2 clubs taking place at St. Michael's for Y5 & Y6, these are **Trampolining** and **Ukulele**.

Please remember to sign up for Wednesday Enrichment Clubs on the MCAS App. There is limit for numbers on clubs, so please sign up asap. If children do not get their first-choice club this term, there will be more availability next half term.

My Child at School App

Thank you to everyone for making the transition to ordering school lunches on the MCAS App so smooth.

Moving forward we want all messages, letters, and other communication to be sent through MCAS so that we are not wasting paper or ink! Please contact the school office if you are finding it difficult to download or use the App.

Parking

May we remind you **not to park** on the yellow zig zag lines outside of the school gate or on the grass verge on Low Grange Avenue. The lines & verge are there to ensure the safety of our children and families. When the weather is wet and cold it is tempting to park close to school, but please consider the dangerous consequences of these actions.