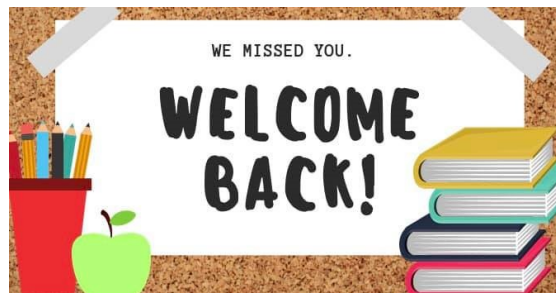


# St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

## March Newsletter 2021

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I want to say 'WELCOME BACK!' to everyone. Since school re-opened on Monday 8th March, we have really felt that we are back at the centre of our community. The children have come back with smiles and have shown fantastic resilience during the lockdown, and I can see how happy both the children and parents are to be back at school!



In order to keep our school fully open, we need to abide by the COVID-19 rules at all times—I ask all parents and carers to wear a face covering when waiting by the play-ground gates to collect your child, and please do not 'stay and chat' with other parents.

As you know, school needs to still monitor any new COVID-19 cases from our community over the Easter break.

If any child / staff member should test positive over the school holiday, school will respond according to government guidance and work with Public Health. We would initially inform any year groups affected on ParentApp – it is **crucial** that all parents have access to the app to ensure timely communication from school.

To inform the school of a Coronavirus case in your family over the holiday please email:

**[head@st-nicholas.blackpool.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-nicholas.blackpool.sch.uk)**

Or ring the school mobile and leave a message on: **07393 914673**

Many thanks,

Miss Taylor



St Nicholas School will be supporting Red Nose Day by inviting the children and staff to come to school in 'Non-Uniform' on Friday 19th March. Donations will be collected at the gate.

A huge **THANK YOU** to 'It's My Party' on Wood Street in St. Anne's for their donation of a wonderful balloon creation which welcomed the children back into school last week.



## **Parents' Evenings**

We are going to run **two** parents' consultation evenings on video link on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. These meetings will be a short video conversation with your child's class teacher to discuss lockdown learning, emotional wellbeing and the return to school.

The meetings will be held via an app called 'SchoolCloud'.

Each parent will get a 5-minute appointment with the teacher – you can use a phone / laptop / tablet to access the system. To book click here: <https://stnicholasblackpool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

## Dates for your diary in March & April 2021

Friday 19th March -	Non-Uniform Day for Comic Relief
Tuesday 23rd March -	Parents Evening on 'School Cloud'
Wednesday 24th March -	Parents Evening on 'School Cloud'
Friday 26th March -	Easter Bunny Hunt (run by PTFA)
Friday 26th March -	School Closes for Easter holiday

### Home Testing Kits for Adults

If you have a child who goes to nursery, school or college in your household or bubble, get peace of mind by taking a rapid Covid test twice using a simple home test kit which gives results in 30 minutes

You can collect your test kits from:

**Yeadon Way COVID testing site ☎ 1pm – 8pm, Monday to Sunday**

Also, from Monday 22 March, you can also collect tests from any of the symptom-free testing hub sessions listed on the council website →

[www.blackpool.gov.uk/GettingTested](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/GettingTested)

No appointment needed - just give your name and contact details on arrival

If you are unable to get to a testing site, you can order tests online → <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>



**Smoking and dogs  
are not permitted  
on school grounds**

## Worship Theme

In worship we are focusing on Lent.

Lent covers the 40 days ahead of Easter - starting from Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday – and has become a time when people traditionally give something up.



People give up a different things for Lent , but one of the most popular is chocolate especially for children eyeing up Easter eggs. We are encouraging the children to do something extra for Lent instead of giving something up, like keep their room tidy—ask them what they have decided to do!

But what is Lent and why do people celebrate it? Here is our guide to the Christian tradition:

### What is Lent?

In the Christian calendar, Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter which is treated as a period of reflection and a time for fasting from food and festivities.

It symbolises the days which lead up to Jesus' crucifixion and subsequent resurrection when Christ spent 40 days and nights alone in the desert.

### When did Lent start?

Every year Lent starts on Ash Wednesday (the day after Shrove Tuesday) and this year it fell on March 6. Lent finishes on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday and so this year the end of Lent falls on Saturday April 20.

While Lent is a 40-day period of fasting and prayer, there are 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (inclusive).

The reason Lent is 40 days is because 40 is a significant number in Christian scriptures, but the most notable is perhaps that Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert in preparation for his ministry.