



Newsletter - January 2020

Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back, we hope that you have had a lovely Christmas and that 2020 brings health and happiness to you and your families.

Sacramental Preparation

Please keep the children in Year 4 who have started Sacramental preparation in your prayers. There will be a presentation of these children, to the Parish, on Saturday 25th January at 6pm Mass. It would be wonderful if as many people as possible could support them and join them at Mass.

Winter Weather

Please make sure that children come to school with warm outdoor clothing. If school has to close due to severe weather conditions, a **text** will be sent to the first contact as soon as a decision has been made.

In wintry conditions, it is very important that you follow the following procedures:

- ◆ Pedestrians, please use the routes in and out of school that have been cleared and gritted. These routes will be clearly marked by cones.
- ◆ In the event of severe weather conditions, parents will be asked by text, to drop children off near the main entrance, without parking their car at all. Staff will meet children and take them into school via the main school entrance (reception).
- ◆ In the event of snowy conditions, parents may receive a text message to pick their child up at a given time. This is to enable us to stagger the number of cars entering or exiting the car park, helping us to co-ordinate the children leaving school safely.

School closures will also be posted on our school website.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings will take place on **Tuesday 3rd March** and **Monday 9th March**. This will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to gain an up to date insight into the progress that they are making and ask any questions you may have. Appointment times to follow.

Attendance

We have always been very proud of our excellent attendance throughout the school. In order to maintain our high standards, and ensure that children are not missing out on valuable learning, please make sure that children are only absent from school when absolutely necessary. Please phone school on the first day of your child's absence and everyday thereafter.



Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning will continue to take place this term and will begin with **Classes 1, 2 and 3 each Friday**. Please make sure that on a Friday your child brings to school:

- Warm clothes that can be worn outside, that you don't mind getting dirty (old clothes are perfect!)
- Wellies or old trainers

A waterproof coat is preferable for this activity, we have now got a bank of new spare waterproof coats in school for learning outdoors.

Fairtrade Fortnight

What is Fairtrade Fortnight?

For two weeks each year thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Fairtrade Fortnight this year will take place from Monday 24th February-Sunday 8th March. In school the children will be learning all about cocoa, the special role women farmers play in the journey to living incomes, and will work on ways of promoting and encouraging people to choose to buy Fairtrade chocolate, as well as other Fairtrade products.

Parking

Ensuring the safety of everyone on our school premises is paramount and therefore we ask for your continued support in carefully following the systems that we have in place for parking vehicles safely:

- Reverse into parking bays
- Hold your child's hand or ensure that they are supervised closely when moving through the carpark
- Move through the school grounds when safe to do so, directed by staff

It is by following these systems carefully that we can work together to safeguard everyone on site.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns, questions or queries please let one of our safeguarding team know. The key members of staff responsible for safeguarding in school are:

Mrs Ashton– Headteacher (Lead)

Mrs Wright– Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Ferguson

Mrs Smith

Packed Lunches and Dinners

If you wish for your child to transfer from packed lunches to school dinners we require at least **one week's** notice. This is to allow for the correct amount of stock to be ordered as all of our lunches are prepared and served on site.

ParentPay

Please ensure your ParentPay account is kept up to date with payments. It is essential for school dinners and breakfast club to be credited on a regular basis to enable provisions to be bought. ParentPay allows payments to be made at anytime of the day and for future payments to be made to keep your account in credit. Thank you for your support.

School Uniform

Jewellery

I would like to remind you that jewellery is not to be worn by children during the school day. For health and safety reasons earrings **must** be removed before children come to school. On the rare occasion where there is a problem, and earrings cannot be removed, then they must be taped up prior to coming to school— please come into school and see us if this is the case.

We have noticed that more and more children are wearing watches for school, some of which are 'Fitbit' style watches. Whilst we see the benefit of wearing a 'Fitbit', and encourage children to improve their fitness as well as skills of telling the time, we do recognise that these watches are expensive to buy. It is for this reason that I am reminding you that we cannot accept any responsibility for these items if they are lost or damaged whilst at school; allowing your child to wear a Fitbit for school is at your own discretion. Any watches with access to photography or internet access **are not** allowed in school for safeguarding reasons.

Our children always looks so smart in their uniform and wherever we go people comment on their appearance. We appreciate your co-operation in ensuring that your children wears the correct uniform for school. You can order school uniform at any time, from Tots to Teams, our online supplier. **Please could I ask that only yellow polo shirts are worn as part of our uniform, and black sensible school shoes are worn—no trainers please.**

You can access our supplier at <http://www.totstoteams.com>. The site is very easy to use, following the procedures below:

- ◆ <http://www.totstoteams.com>
- ◆ Click on schools icon on the top bar.

Choose **O** from the alphabet on the right hand side, and you will see the link to Our Lady of Lourdes School. Orders can be delivered free to school. Further details can be found on our school website.

School Uniform	Cost	Optional items	Cost
Sweatshirts from	£8.95	Polo shirts from	£7.45
Cardigans from	£10.45	Fleece from	£10.45
PE t-shirt from	£4.70	Showerproof coat	£15.45
PE shorts from	£3.50	Waterproof parka jacket	£16.50
PE bag	£3.60	Book bag	£6.00

PE Kits

Please ensure that P.E. kits are available in school at all times. Kits are to be brought to school at the beginning of term and go home at half-term to be washed and to be returned to school on the first day back each term.

Children from Year 2 to Year 6 should also have an outdoor PE kit consisting of joggers, sweatshirt and trainers.

Fundraising

I would like to thank you for your generosity and support leading up to Christmas. All money raised last term went towards the Christmas activities and trips. The Christmas Fayre and Raffle **raised £1,429.45**.

Our Schools App - reminder

OurSchoolsApp is a personalised app for our school and will allow us to keep you all updated with school information, news, calendar events and contact information. Search for **'ourschoolsapp'** and download the app. Once downloaded, use the search bar within the app and enter the postcode or the name of the school.



Dates for your Diary



Wednesday 15th January-am	Y3/4 Football Tournament at Beacon (no spectators)
Wednesday 22nd January-9.30am	Whole School Mass led by Class 3
Wednesday 29th January-5pm	Y6 SATs Meeting
Wednesday 29th January—am	Y5/6 Football Tournament at Beacon (no spectators)
Thursday 30th January— 9.10am	Class 1 Liturgy
Thursday 6th February-9.10am	Class 4 Assembly
Tuesday 11th February	Internet Safety Day
Wednesday 12th February-am	Y5/6 Multi-Sports at Beacon (no spectators)
Wednesday 12th February 9:30am	Whole school mass led by Class 4
Friday 14th February	Break Up
Monday 17th to Friday 21st February	School closed for half-term
Monday 24th February-Sunday 8th March	Fairtrade Fortnight
Wednesday 26th February	Ash Wednesday
Thursday 27th February 9.10am	Class 6 Liturgy
Tuesday 3rd March	Parents' Evening
Monday 9th March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 18th March	Y1/2 Football Tournament at Beacon (no spectators)
Wednesday 25th March-5pm	Year 2 SATs Meeting
Friday 3rd April	Whole School Mass led by Reception Class
Friday 3rd April	Break up for Easter
Monday 20th April	Return to school
Week beginning Monday 11th May	Key Stage 2 SATs week

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<http://www.ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk/>

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