

# Newsletter March 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

## Bad Weather



During the bad weather, parents commented on the state of the uncleared pathways and estate roads coming into the school. As a school, we are only responsible for the grounds inside the school gates, but please be assured that we fully appreciate and agree with your views on this matter and have brought it to the attention of the Council.

## Heating System

As you will probably be aware, we are having problems with our heating system and currently the temperature in the school is erratic and it can become very cold, with some areas being colder than others. We have been told by engineers that our boilers are no longer fit for purpose and need replacing; however, this is County's responsibility as our landlord and we are waiting for them to let us know when this might be happening.

In the meantime, we have to cope as best we can with the old ones. However, there is a ruling that if the temperature dips below a certain point, we must close (or partially close) the school and send the children home.

Having discussed the situation at length with our Governing Body, we have decided on the following. Should the temperature dip below the acceptable level, we will first try to move children around the school to a warmer area. If this is not possible and more areas are affected for a period of more than 2 hours, a decision will be made to either close part of the school or all of the school and you will be informed of that decision immediately. However, we will keep the children until after dinner and your child has had a hot meal before you collect them, unless you decide to collect them sooner. If we send your child home, their attendance will not be affected.

We thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

## World Book Day

We are celebrating *World Book Day* on **Wednesday 4 March**. Children may dress up in fancy dress costumes depicting their favourite storybook character. Please note that high-heeled dress-up shoes are **not** allowed so please wear normal school shoes with costumes.



## Easter Service

Our Easter Service will be held at St Philip's and St James' Church and will commence at 2.45 pm on **Thursday 26 March**. Parent volunteers will be

needed to walk to church with the children. If you can help, please see your child's teacher.

Children will be dismissed from the church.

### **Celebrations Assembly**

We will be holding our end of term Celebrations Assembly on **Friday 27 March** at 9am where we will have an Easter raffle draw. Please find attached two strips of raffle tickets at 50p per strip. If you wish to purchase them, please return them to school with your name on the back of each ticket with the money.



### **Easter Egg/Toy/Cake Donations**



We are looking for donations of Easter Eggs and toys for our Easter raffle. If you have any of these, please bring them into school before Wednesday 25 March. We would also love any cakes/buns for our cake stall. Please bring these in on the morning of Thursday 26 March. *Any donations would be greatly appreciated.*

### **Egg Decorating**

We will be decorating Easter eggs in school during the last week of term. Could each child bring with them two hard boiled eggs and any materials you might find to decorate them from Monday 23 March.



### **SATs 2015**



KS2 SATs week this year will commence on Monday 11 May and will continue for the majority of the week. During this week can you please ensure your child arrives in school **on time** as late arrivals would be especially disruptive when some children are taking tests.

### **Clubs**

After-school clubs will not be on for the last week and will begin the second week back. *Please note most clubs have a compulsory cost of 50p per session.*

### **School Uniforms**

For the summer term, boys may wear dark, flat sandals and appropriate grey shorts. Girls may wear a blue checked dress, black/white sandals (flat) with white socks. No boots will be allowed in the summer term. Any child not wearing the correct school uniform will receive a letter home.

We have some items of uniform for sale – please ask at the School Office. Don't forget that the school recycles items of school uniform. Instead of throwing away your child's

uniform when they have grown out of them, and if they are still in good condition, bring them into school for recycling.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Your children's attendance and punctuality are monitored closely by us and our EWO. If your child's percentage attendance dips below 95%, it could trigger a letter. Under 85% could result in court action. Please ensure your child arrives before 9am as a late arrival disrupts the education of the rest of the class. We are no longer allowed to authorise holidays in term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances.



Durham County Policy states that all schools must account for the whereabouts of any child who has not arrived at the school. If your child is going to be absent due to sickness or other circumstances, you **must inform the school by telephone before 9.30am on the first day of absence**. If we do not receive a phone call, we will ring you. *Please remember, these procedures are entirely for the safety and wellbeing of your children*, so it is your responsibility to ensure that the school holds an up-to-date telephone number and that you can be contacted.

### Email

We can send you these newsletters and other information (text messages are very limited in size) via email, which will save paper and is the way the majority of people prefer to receive information these days, as they can be received instantly to most mobile phones. In order to do this, please let the office know a current email address.



### Last Day of Term

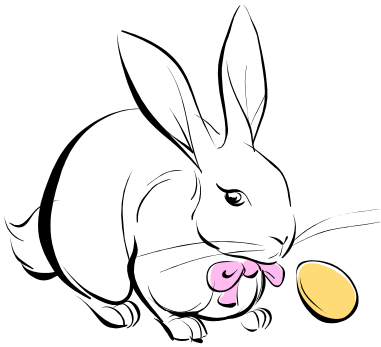
We break up for the Easter holidays on Friday 27 March, and parents/carers may collect children from 1.15 pm. Children are still expected to wear their school uniform on the last day as it is Celebrations Assembly that morning. Please see overleaf for a list of future events and keep for future reference.

### Summer Term

Please have a wonderful Easter break and I will see you all when school resumes for the Summer Term on Monday 13 April.

Mrs L Jackson  
Headteacher





## FUTURE EVENTS

Wednesday 4 March

- World Book Day
- Football match at Parkside

Tuesday 17 March

- Class 1 & 2 visit (to be arranged)

Friday 20 March

- 1 - 3 pm Reception Gymnastics Festival at Parkside

Thursday 26 March

- 2.45 pm Easter Service at St Philip's & St James' Church

Friday 27 March

- 9 am Celebrations Assembly
- 11.30 - 12.30 pm - group of children singing Easter songs at Tesco's Store in Consett
- Collection from 1.15 pm

*Break for Easter Holidays*

Monday 13 April

- School returns

Friday 1 May

- *INSET Day – school closed*

Monday 4 May

- *May Day Bank Holiday*

Monday 11 May

- KS2 SATs week begins

Friday 22 May

- 2.30pm Celebrations Assembly

*Break for Half Term*

Monday 1 June

- School returns

