



St Begh's Catholic Junior School

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Dear Families,

Welcome to our newsletter for the first half of the spring term. The first weeks of term have flown by with much activity and great things achieved.

Whole school attendance stands at 94.3% (compared to 94.6% nationally). Thank you for your continued support in helping your children attend school regularly. Your commitment makes a real difference, ensuring they benefit fully from the learning, friendships, and opportunities that each school day provides. By working together, we can give every child the best start in life and help them grow with confidence, curiosity, and a love of learning.

Here is a great app you can download for lots of child health information. Among a whole host of benefits, this would be a good place to get advice about whether a child can come to school or not when they're borderline poorly (or are pushing for a duvet day ☺). Follow this link:

<https://hdfatchildrenshealthservice.co.uk/download-our-app/>



- ✓ Health Chat – Message health workers direct
- ✓ Up to date contact information
- ✓ Childrens Health information
- ✓ Video Library covering health, sleep and infant development
- ✓ Push Notifications keeping you informed
- ✓ Essential services Tracker – Find all the services you require within seconds
- ✓ Activity Tracker – Walk, run and cycle. Have fun gaining medals and trophies along the way
- ✓ Plus many more features

For genuine cases of illness, you can now report absence on Studybugs through a link on our school website home page.



Walking hand in hand in the footsteps of Christ. We are His hands; We are His feet.



Dates:

- Tiny Tales: This session will run in school during half-term (in Candlestick – the classroom at the very back).
- Parents' Evenings: 23rd & 24th March. Teachers will be in touch on Class Dojo nearer the time for appointment times.
- Half term and Easter Holidays: Half term is week beginning Monday 16th February and the Easter holidays are 30th March – 10th April (children returning Monday 13th April).
- World Book Day: Thursday 5th March. All the usual fun including a (not compulsory) dress-up opportunity. Details to follow. We have book fair that week too.

First Communion

We will begin this year's First Communion programme after half-term. Children from all year groups are welcome. See separate letter being sent out today.

myHappyMind

We began using this brilliant resource in school before Christmas. It is an NHS-backed programme that teaches children science-based, preventative habits to build resilience, self-esteem and positive mental wellbeing. Please download the parent app which is packed full of advice, information and activities for home. Our activation code is **112354**. The children will complete 5 modules across the year. We completed 'Meet Your Brain' before Christmas. Our current module is called 'Celebrate' and we are learning about character strengths. If you are interested in finding out about your own character strength profile (which is really interesting!), here is a short questionnaire you can complete:

<https://www.viacharacter.org/survey/account/register>



myHappyMind

Download your FREE myHappyMind Parent App

...An online resource to support you and your family to learn more about how you can use myHappyMind to support your child.

myHappyMind for Parents

Exclusively for parents with children at a myHappyMind School or Nursery.

Learn all about what your children are learning in school

myHappyMind Parent App

Meet Your Brain

Why not ask your children to tell you what they have learnt? Here are some questions to help you:

Who is Team H-A-P?
Can you tell me about the Team in your brain?

Can you tell me what Neuroplasticity means?
When has your brain grown?

Why does Happy Breathing help you and when could you use it?

A cartoon character with a yellow body, green head, and green cap. The cap has the letters 'H', 'A', and 'P' on it. The character has large eyes and a smiling mouth.

Parent Cafe

Open every Wednesday morning from 9am. Call in for a chat about any aspect of your child's learning or wellbeing. Details of any invited speakers will be posted on Class Dojo.

We will be running some short workshops using resources from myHappyMind soon. Details of these will be put on Class Dojo.

OPAL Bingo

Our OPAL Play continues to develop. Thank you to Ian Reid for building our shed for us! After half-term, we will be asking every class to play 'OPAL Bingo' in order to get some more resources. Details will go on Class Dojo. Our next big mission is to get a mud kitchen made. If any handy people are interested in helping, please call Julie Schofield.

Family Dinners

Please see dates for family dinners. Places can be booked on School Gateway. 11:30am start. You are then very welcome to stay for some OPAL Play on the yard!

Date	Year Group
Wednesday 4 th March	Year 3
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 4
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 6
Wednesday 25 th March	Year 5

Always Welcome: Join the Prayer Life of Our School

Class Masses at Quay Street Chapel, (usually) 10:30am. All welcome:

-  Thursday 5th February: Wellington (this one is 9:30am).
-  Thursday 26th February: Beacon.
-  Thursday 5th March: Haig.
-  Thursday 12th March: Solway.
-  Thursday 19th March: Harbour.

Join us for a Penitential Service on Wednesday 11th March at 9:30am in Church; the Stations of the Cross during the week beginning 16th March (date to be confirmed) and for an Easter Mass on Monday 13th April 9:15am in Church. We will also be doing the CAFOD Big Lent Walk the week beginning 16th March. We will be choosing the best weather day that week!

Midday Supervisor/Play Leader Vacancies

We have two vacancies on our lunchtime team. Please follow this link for full details:

<https://www.stbeghs.co.uk/admin/sites/page/information/recruitment-1>

Volunteers

We are always looking for any volunteers to come in give a bit of extra help with reading. Even if you can only spare half an hour a week, it all helps. Get in touch with class teachers if you can offer any help.

Life to the Full Parent Portal.

This is the resource we use to deliver most of our PSHE curriculum (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education). This includes sex education. As parents, you need to be aware of this content, particularly in Year 6. Follow this link:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

Parent portal

As part of your subscription to "Life to the Full" and "Prayer and Liturgy", all parents will be able to access the Online Parent Portal with the following login credentials:

Username	st-beghs-ca28
Password	three-peaks
Parent Portal	https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/

Children's Commissioner's resource: 'What I wish my parents or carers knew'.

This is a really good resource from the Children's Commissioner. She has spent time collecting information from children themselves about the online world they inhabit. Lots of useful and sometimes frightening insights: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Why Money Matters

The Northern Community Bank have donated this little suitcase containing a book to educate children about money. The idea is that each child has a turn taking it home and sharing the book with an adult. We will start passing this round the Year 3 and 4 classes.



Cumberland Holiday and Food Programme

Follow this link to see what's going on during half-term. Free places for those in receipt of free school meals. <https://eequ.org/cumberlandhalf>

Parent Governor

Alison Shimmin is our new parent governor. A big thank you to Alison for volunteering for this role.

Wraparound Care and After-School Clubs

Our Breakfast Club is available from 7:30am each morning. After-school care is available until 5:30pm each evening. Bookings can be made on the School Gateway app.

Information about next half-term's clubs will go out soon on Class Dojo. These are also bookable on the School Gateway app. These clubs finish at 4:30pm.

Baa-ttery Campaign

What's in it for your school?

Primary/ junior schools have another chance to win up to £300 in vouchers to spend on brand-new books for your students! All prizes are generously donated by Cumberland Council.

Why it matters:

Batteries are creating real challenges in the waste industry because too many aren't being recycled safely. The Baa-ttery Campaign turns this problem into a fun, hands-on learning opportunity for pupils and families - helping them protect the planet and our industry *while competing for prizes*.

Competition dates:

3rd November – 13th February. During this time, we're encouraging families to bring their used batteries into school to be safely collected in our special Baa-ttery boxes.

General Reminders

School Opening Time

The gates open at 8:45am. At this time, children make their way to class in time for registration at 9:00am. There is a waiting area cordoned off at the bottom of playground simply to keep the queue away from the road. This is not supervised. If your child is using this waiting area without an adult, you need to be sure that they have the maturity needed to be left unsupervised and that their behaviour is trustworthy.

Class Dojo

It's really important that you all connect to Class Dojo. Lots of whole school and class/ year group messages go on there, as well as homework and pictures of what goes on in school day to day. This is how you can keep fully up-to-date with all that is going on and keep in touch with teachers.

Teachers are able to answer these during working hours not including teaching time. If you have an urgent query during the school day, please ring the School Office instead.

Car Park and Side Gate

This isn't available to use at the beginning or end of the school day except for a very small number of children whose families have permission from the Church due to disability needs. The Church car park was closed off to parents a number of years ago because of safety concerns. Please use the bottom gates for drop-off and pick-up.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Mallard