



**Statements to Live By:**

Week Beg 18<sup>th</sup> April: I can recognise comfortable and uncomfortable feelings.

Week Beg 25<sup>th</sup> April: I know how to help others when they are in trouble.

**Happy Easter! Welcome back** to another busy term but thankfully one that is slightly longer.

As always we are trying to ensure in school that children recognise that Easter is a whole season in the Church's year - not simply one Sunday in the holidays .

**RE Newsletter** - Please see attached. This gives parents/carers information about the topics being covered this term as well as the feasts and seasons of the church so that you can support your child and link R.E. work in school to family life and faith at home.

**Book Factor** Thank you to the Y6 pupils who took part in the book factor judging session at Carmel College. The winning book was 'Wonder' by R.J Palacio and will now feature on the Induction Days at Carmel for our Y6 pupils.

**After School Clubs this half term:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dance Club Y3/4</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Handball KS2</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ballroom Dancing Y1 &amp; Y2</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Football Club Y5 &amp; Y6</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Cookery Club Y5</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Drama Club Y3, 4, 5</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Basketball Y1 &amp; 2</b>

Thank you to the staff who give up their time to run or help with the activities.

Just a reminder that we ask for a contribution of £1 per pupil for each activity (Cookery Club is £2.00 per week to cover the cost of ingredients), to be paid at each session. The fee is used to cover the cost of resources for the different clubs and the use of school facilities. Anyone who has difficulty in providing a donation can speak in confidence to me or to a member of the office staff.

**Money and Work Week** Thank you to everyone who supported this event by buying the items the children had made. All the money raised will be given to charities as per below:

Recep £42.00	Cystic Fibrosis	Y4 £36.00	Great North Air Ambulance
Y1 £21.55	NSPCC	Y5 £105.40	Unicef
Y2 £89.35	Butterwick House Childrens Hospice	Y6 £34.50	Wateraid
Y3 £134.47	HCPT 195		

**Mini Vinnies Chocolate Raffle. Please see the letter from the children.**

**The Big Pedal** started today and it was lovely to see children pedalling and scooting to school. This scheme will run until next Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. Please see the letter that was sent out last week which has details of the Dr Bike sessions and our Big Bike Breakfast. Star Radio would like to interview children and parents about the Big Pedal. Please look out for them on your way to school.

**Swimming Gala** Congratulations to all our swimmers who represented the school in the recent swimming gala finals. Sofia Y6 will be representing Darlington at the Tees Valley School Games Swimming event on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

**Reminders**

- As always the children arrived for the start of term looking very smart in their uniforms Please check that all items of uniform, P.E. kit, coats and jackets are clearly labelled with your child's name. This will ensure that lesson time is focused on teaching and learning rather than on trying to sort out missing items. If you are unsure about uniform please see the detailed list in the prospectus on the website or ask at the school office.
- **PE kits** should be in school from the first day of term. Please check that everything in your child's kit is the correct style and colour and that everything still fits!
- Please remember - no jewellery apart from watches. If girls must wear earrings for a short period of time (i.e. straight after piercing) then small plain studs only. These will

be covered during the school day, to be removed or covered on PE days. Whenever possible earrings should not be worn.

- Children must not wear nail varnish to school.
- It is great to see pupils choosing to travel to school in a healthy way. Although protective headgear is not compulsory please give some thought to ensuring your child is properly protected. A cycle helmet can greatly reduce the severity of injuries should an accident occur. Also please make sure that bikes and scooters have padlocks.
- Please make sure your child has a water bottle in school. It can be brought at the start of the week and taken home each Friday for thorough cleaning.
- **School Grounds.** Children should be on the playground at the end of each school day. They should not be on the field. The bushes at the edge of the playground are out of bounds at all times.
- **Swimming** Y3 Monday & Y4 Tuesday Please see the letter sent home at the end of last term.
- **Cello** Just a reminder that lessons take place on Wednesdays. Please ensure your child has his/her 'cello with them on this day and remembers to take their instrument home each week. A little practise every day makes a big difference in the children's progress.

### **Key Dates for the Summer term 2016**

We do our best to provide accurate dates and times but sometimes changes are unavoidable. Please make use of the newsletters. Spare paper copies are always available outside the school office and a copy is always available to read via the school website.

**Y6 SATs** - The national tests take place from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. It is very important for the Year 6 children to be in school during that week and of course all the days leading up to it.

Any absence can affect the school's overall results.

Tests have to start promptly each morning so it is also essential that children arrive at school in good time. Late arrival can be unsettling for the child who is late and is disruptive for other children and staff.

**Y2 SATs** - Work on these will begin soon and continue over a number of weeks. A lot of hard work goes into the timetabling and organisation of staffing for these tests so please ensure that your child is in school on time every day.

Even if your child is not involved in national tests, Please try to make sure that any appointments (e.g. dental/medical) fall outside of the school day and remember that holidays should not be taken during term time.

Thank you.

**Major Projects in School** Directors have approved plans to update our KS2 Quad to include an outdoor dining area and make surfaces, steps etc. safer. I am working with Library Services and pupils to update and develop the school library. Fundraising via the PFA and the Governors Fund is always necessary to help us continue to improve the school and its resources for your children. The next fundraising event is the 80's disco on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May at the Parish Centre (PFA letter to follow). Please try to support this event and contribute to the fundraising efforts which helps enrich the experience of pupils.

Best wishes

**Mrs M McCollom**

Head of School

### Key Diary Dates

<u>Date 2016</u>	<u>Event</u>
<b><u>April</u></b>	
Tues 12th	<b><u>School Re-Opens</u></b>
Thurs 21st	Tees Valley School Games Swimming event
Fri 22nd	Primary School Games Orienteering Festival
<b><u>May</u></b>	
Mon 2nd	May Day - School Closed
Mon 9th	Y6 SATs Week
Fri 27th	Celebration for the Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury
Fri 27th	Mass in School
Fri 27th	Tempest Photography – Whole school.
Fri 27th	<b><u>School Closes 3.25pm</u></b>
<b><u>June</u></b>	
Mon 6th	<b><u>School Re-Opens</u></b>
Sat 18th	First Holy Communion 10.30am
Mon 20th	First Holy Communion Photographs
Mon 20th	New Starters – Parents Meeting
Wed 22nd	Sports Day 9.30am
Wed 29th	Mass for St Peter & St Paul 10am
<b><u>July</u></b>	
Fri 8th	End of Year Reports sent home.
Mon 11th	Open Evening 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Tues 19th	Y6 Leavers Mass 6pm followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre
Thurs 21st	<b><u>School Closes for Summer Break 3.25pm</u></b>
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016</b>	<b><u>School Re-Opens For Teaching</u></b>