



Headteacher: Mr D. Stitcher BA (Hons), PGCE (Dist.), NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Ms V. Moore BEd (Hons), NPQH

Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of the Spring term! I'm sure many of you are exhausted as you balance the demands of the current situation. It has been wonderful to see all of our children in school – happy and learning, and I'm delighted to say that, due to everybody's vigilance and care, we have not had to close any bubbles since the full return three weeks ago.

It does seem as though we have only been open for three weeks. But as you know, since January 5th, our staff have been providing remote learning, looking after critical workers' children and ensuring that everybody received the support they needed. I would like to thank all the teachers, support staff, office staff, lunchtime staff and premises staff who have worked tirelessly in extremely challenging conditions to make sure that, as a school, we have continued to provide the best education and care possible.

I would also like to thank you all for making me feel so welcome in my first term here at St James' – I have loved every second!

Finally, I hope you enjoy the two-week break and use the time to rest and spend time with those who mean the most to you. Everybody here at St James' is looking forward to welcoming all the children back on Monday 12th April for what we all hope will be a far more 'normal' Summer term!

Yours sincerely,

Mr D. Stitcher
Headteacher

Year Group	Information	Action required?
Whole School	<p>Questionnaire – As parents evening takes place next week, please can parents complete the questionnaire regarding remote learning and virtual parents' evenings. This can be found on the School Spider App. All parents that complete the questionnaire will be put into a raffle with a chance to win a HUGE Cadbury Easter egg on Friday 16th April.</p> <p>Please click here for details of a message from Gov.UK regarding Lateral Flow Testing kits for adults in households with school age children.</p> <p>Holidays (COVID-19) - We will not be providing home-learning during the holidays so please take the time to enjoy doing non-school related activities! School will re-open on Monday 12th April 2021 for the 2nd half term of Spring. If your child has been attending school and receives a positive COVID test up to and including Thursday 1st April, please email school at schoolclosure@stjames.blackburn.sch.uk</p>	Complete questionnaire on School Spider app

EYC	No news this week.	
Reception	<p>We hope everybody has a lovely Easter holiday.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing the children back at school in April, where we will begin our new topic 'Under the Sea'.</p> <p>During the holiday, please practise your phonics sounds and practise blending the sounds together. You could use phonics play to help you (Phase 2).</p>	<p>Click here for Phonics Play</p>
Year 1	<p>Have a wonderful half-term and thank you for your continued support throughout this difficult time.</p> <p>Please continue to read with your child and sign their planner.</p> <p>Also, please log onto Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots, and begin to become familiar with the websites.</p>	<p>Home reading</p> <p>Access learning websites</p>
Year 2	<p>It is really important that pupils are provided with the opportunity to read to an adult at home and that this is regularly recorded in planners. This will provide pupils with additional opportunities to apply the reading skills taught in class whilst also developing their own reading abilities.</p> <p>Once pupils have completed their text they will be asked to carry out an Accelerated Reader Quiz about the story that they have read which will test their understanding of the story.</p> <p>Reminder: Pupils need to practise times tables and spellings in planners before the weekly test on a Friday.</p>	<p>Reading with an adult</p> <p>Times tables and spellings</p>
Year 3	<p>As we approach the end of the term, we'd like to thank you for your help and support with the Online Learning. It has been tough but we have got through it!</p> <p>Please ensure children are reading and practising their timetables over the holidays! Have a lovey break!</p>	<p>Reading and Times tables</p>
Year 4	<p>Well done Year 4 for a fantastic return back to school! Over the Easter holiday, we will not be setting any extra homework apart from reading and spelling.</p> <p>Please remember that you are starting swimming lessons from the first week back after the holidays. 4N have swimming on Wednesdays and 4B on Fridays. Please bring a swimming cap, swimming costume, or trunks and a towel on the day you have your swimming lesson.</p>	<p>Wednesday 4N & Friday 4B: Boys – swimming cap, swimming shorts with netting inside, towel, named bag. Girls – Hair tied in bun, swimming costume, towel, named bag.</p>
Year 5	<p>Next term, Year 5 will be going swimming every Wednesday and this will start the first week back after the holiday.</p> <p>Boys will need to wear swimming shorts with netting inside, not football shorts. Girls should have their hair tied up into a bun before arriving to school every Wednesday.</p> <p>Children will need to bring their swimming costume, including a swimming cap and a towel in a named bag.</p> <p>Children will not require goggles for the swimming session.</p> <p>Children must not bring deodorant for medical reasons.</p>	<p>Wednesdays: Boys – swimming cap, swimming shorts with netting inside, towel, named bag. Girls – Hair tied in bun, swimming costume, towel, named bag.</p>

Year 6	<p>This week, Year 6 have been discussing their dream jobs and created videos explaining the skills needed for their dream job. We have also had a visit from the school nurse.</p> <p>As this is the last week before the holiday and the Christian celebration of Easter, the children will be creating Easter crafts before they have a relaxing 2 weeks off.</p>	
--------	--	--

Prayer for the week:

Dear God,

I go forth today into the Easter holidays,
In the brightness of the sun,
In the stillness of the clouds,
With the knowledge I have gained,
With the friends I have made.
I go forth today in the hand of God.

Amen