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**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Attendance & Punctuality**

Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 was 95.82% this week. This means that we are in the **Amber zone (but very close to Green)** and we are not meeting our targets set by the Department for Education.



Attendance	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Week commencing 31 <sup>st</sup> March	95.60%	96.33%	95.71%	95.00%	97.67%	97.33%
<b>Spring Half Term 2</b>	<b>95.50%</b>	<b>95.87%</b>	<b>96.79%</b>	<b>94.93%</b>	<b>97.13%</b>	<b>96.13%</b>

**Father David's Visit – Supporting Missionary Work in Kenya**

Today, we were delighted to welcome Father David Smith, Parish Priest from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Wallsend, who visited our KS2 pupils to share the inspiring work he is involved in through his mission in Muhorini, Kenya. The mission focuses on empowering women in rural communities by helping them develop skills to support their families and earn a sustainable income.

Last year, we learned about the beautiful sisal baskets the women crafted, and we were proud to purchase several for use in our collective worship. This term, the women have started making rosary beads, and Father David spoke to the children about their spiritual importance. As a school, we have bought several sets, and we're now excited to offer families the chance to purchase their own. All funds raised will go directly to support the missionary work in Muhorini, helping to improve the lives of local families and children. This is another way we can demonstrate our support, walk in solidarity with the women and missionaries of Muhorini and support our global community. Perhaps, pupils might like to forsake one of, I'm sure many, Easter eggs for a set of rosary beads this year.

A set of rosary beads will cost £4.00 and can be purchased at the school office. There are two different types - please specify which you would like to order.



***5 Continents of the Church***



***Bethlehem Olive Wood***

## Parking

You may have noticed additional signage around our school car park reminding users not to park in allocated disabled bays. We are issuing this letter to remind you of how the school park should be used:

- There are three allocated disabled bays for **blue badge holders only** (circled in red on the map). **You should not park in these spaces without displaying a blue badge, under any circumstances.**
- **Drop-off bays are for drop-off only** (blue areas on below map) – the driver should not leave the vehicle when parked in a drop-off bay and should leave immediately (and no longer than 5 minutes) after dropping off children. We ask you to indicate accordingly when arriving/leaving. **Disabled users, who have their blue badge displayed in the windscreen, are an exception to this and may park in a drop off bay if there is not an available disabled bay.**
- We recommend that parents use **available parking bays** (green areas on below map) when dropping off/collecting children. This allows drivers the opportunity to leave their vehicle and escort their child to the school gate, which is the safest option.
- **Drivers should not under any circumstances park their car, or drop off children in any area that isn't an allocated parking bay or drop off bay.** This is outright dangerous, and we will not tolerate the risk to the children that this poses.

We are very fortunate to have such ample parking opportunities for a primary school, however **if there are not any available bays, we ask that you find an alternative off-site parking space** rather than causing congestion in the car park by waiting in the road, double parking and risking the safety of our school pupils.

Please be mindful that greater caution should be exercised in a school car park where effectively over 400 children are in the vicinity each day. Where possible, a member of staff will be out in the car park monitoring parking at drop off and pick up. Staff from St Stephen's or St Bartholomew's may challenge poor parking - be aware that you will be asked to move your car, if you are not parking appropriately. We understand that it is a minority of users contributing to the problem and will consider banning those users from the car park if they are seen parking irresponsibly. We urge families to consider avoiding the use of the car park altogether by walking to school, car sharing or taking public transport, if possible. Our school participates in an active travel reward scheme where pupils can earn badges for participating in active travel.

We thank you for your anticipated support in eradicating the problems with parking.



**Dates for the Diary (as always, dates are subject to change!):**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Spring Sing at Whitley Bay Playhouse

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Active Mile Day

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Awards Assembly 9.00am

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April – INSET Day (School CLOSED)

14<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April - EASTER HOLIDAYS

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Pupils return to school for Summer Term

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May – School closed for Bank Holiday

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Year 5 Newby Wiske Hall Residential Visit

w/c 12<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs

w/c 19<sup>th</sup> May – Sports Week

26<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May – HALF TERM

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Pupils return to school after Half Term