

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first five weeks of the Spring Term have flown and we approach the Half Term break already - too soon I hear you cry and I think we are all in agreement, but the timing of Easter has shaped the term and as its early this year, the holiday week is too.

It is a pity that we will miss the start of Lent in school as we look forward to the Ashes ceremony as this is something special that the children tend to remember. We will be having a Lenten Mass this Thursday though, commencing at 9.30 and everyone who can manage to get along is cordially invited to attend. We look forward to seeing some of the parishioners from Holy Rosary and at the minute we are trying to organise tea and coffee for afterwards.

Thanks to Mr Balls for pointing out that the second date we set for the visit of the School Photographer clashed with Y5's visit to Thurston. Having decided that we couldn't possibly go ahead without the handsomest class in the school, a third date, Thursday March 22nd, has been agreed. Pre School siblings from 08.30 and individual, family and sports teams will all be covered across the morning.

We seem to have been beset with a range of flu and virus symptoms across the school especially the older children. So much so that the attendance rates have dipped alarmingly in some classes, Y6 in particular. Let us hope that the remainder of the term sees an upturn in fitness and health as vital days are being lost and catch up opportunities are diminishing. I know that parents / carers make every effort to see that their children get to school, certainly our Y1 and Y2 children have had splendid returns over recent weeks and very much enjoyed their full day MUGA sessions as reward. Keep up the good work!

We are focusing on Internet and On Line Safety this week and we have a special assembly led by Y3 and Y4 on Wednesday at 11.30 as well as activities across the school. This is such an important area and I think that our children are increasingly aware of dangers that can occur but the on line world is evolving at a frightening speed and we do need to help the children to be vigilant. There is a lot of good advice already on our website and Mrs Blackwood and Mr Faircloth will be reinforcing the positive messages this week in the planned assembly.

You will recall that the school will close at the usual time on Thursday evening, February 8th and reopen again at 08.52 on Monday February 19th. Staff will attend an In Service Training Day, alongside colleagues from the Catholic Cluster on Friday February 9th.

I do hope that the children enjoy half term and that working parents do get the chance to have some family time.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

K J Smithson: Head Teacher.