



Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy few weeks with lots of learning taking place both indoors and out in spite of the change in temperature! We are pleased that despite many absences due to Covid with staff and children we seem to be over the worst with only 8% of children absent this week due to Covid. Thank you for your patience and understanding when staffing has had to be swapped due to Covid and in the nursery case when we were forced to close for a number of days. We have all classes and nursery fully open and all staff back in school. It will be lovely when we can begin to mix as a whole school and children can catch up with friends across the school.

We are delighted to welcome new children to Our Lady of the Rosary this term, and our welcome is extended to their families with whom we hope to share a long, happy, and successful relationship. We again hope to begin inviting parents and carers into school as we move towards planning parent and carer coffee mornings and parent/carer workshops.

Attendance

As a school, we are duty-bound to follow up on any pupils who are not attending school or are regularly late for school. To ensure we fulfil this duty please continue to support us with the internal process that we have in place to monitor attendance. We are fully aware of how Covid has impacted on attendance and fully appreciate your support in ensuring that the majority of our children are attending school. We continue to ask parents/carers to keep us informed of any illness by telephoning the school office; if we are not informed non-attendance will not be authorised and could lead to a fine. Please be reminded that holidays in term time will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances and must be applied for. Both parents could be fined for taking children out of school for a holiday during term time. School does not benefit from fining parents and do not receive the money from the fine. We would like to avoid this route in all cases. Please talk to us if you are concerned about your child's attendance and engage with us if we do invite you into a meeting about your child's attendance. Please note no holidays will be authorised for any reason for any of our Year 6 children during SATS week which is **9th May 2022 to 12th May 2022**.

Mrs Myhill has planned certificates and treats for classes that have the best attendance across a week in school, please look out for photographs on our website and Facebook page.

No Absence	10 days absence	12 days absence	19 days absence	29 days absence	38 days absence
190 days of education	180 days of education	178 days of education	171 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education
100%	95%	94%	90%	85%	80%
Very Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start!		Less chance of success. Makes it harder for your child to make progress.		Your child will find it very difficult to make progress. May result in court action!	

Extra-curricular clubs

We are delighted with the extra-curricular clubs that have started this half term by staff and external providers. Miss Lawrence will be sending out flyers with the after-school clubs we will be offering for after half term by staff and external providers. Clubs will be paid for and signed up to via ParentPay and do tend to fill up quite quickly.

School Council

This half term in our Personal Development lessons, the children are building their understanding of the British Values. This has provided a fantastic opportunity for high quality discussions including reflecting on current news stories and special events. As part of our whole school plan to develop pupil voice, we have created a new School Council! Each class successfully used their democracy skills to plan their vote to elect a Class Representative. These children are excited and motivated to fulfil their role as part of the School Council. Our key aims will be to represent the views of all children and to take on projects that support the children's learning and development. Further information to follow.

Reading

At Our Lady of the Rosary, we consider reading to be one of the most important skills that our children learn; it is the key to unlocking the world, affecting all areas of your child's learning and development. We pledge to ensure your child reads everyday through a range of reading rich experiences; we ask for your support in ensuring your child reads for 10 minutes a day at home, to maximise their reading progress!

Pupils in Reception-Year 2



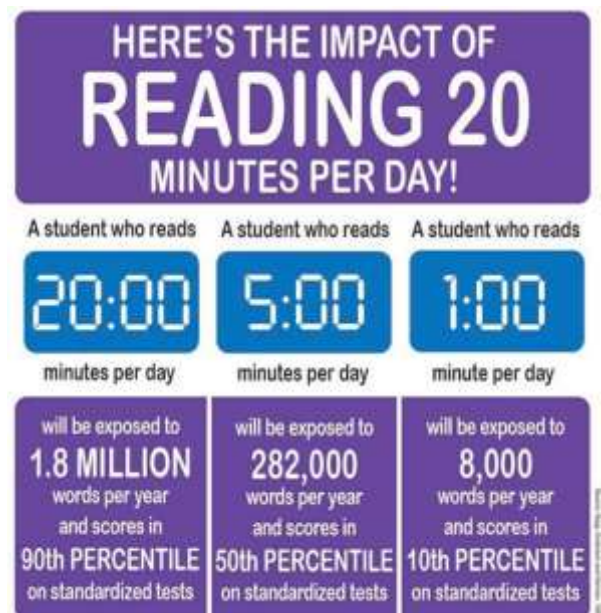
It is vital that your child brings their reading book and reading record to school every day in their book bag, as staff will read frequently on a 1:1 basis with your child and record in their reading record. We ask parents to sign and date when you hear your child read at home and make a comment,

when you feel necessary.

Pupils in Years 3-6

Your child will access an e-book on Scholastic Reading Pro Library. Their access will be monitored by the class teacher on a weekly basis, with the expectation that pupils access this at home for 10 minutes a day. When your child has finished reading the book, they can click the button at the top of the screen to take the quiz. This is not an option on all e-books but will be for most. More information about Scholastic Reading Pro can be found on our school website.

Scholastic Reading Pro can be accessed by following the link using this QR code



NEW: Early Birds Book Club!

We invite, and actively encourage, all pupils from Reception -Year 6 to join our brand new 'Early Birds Book Club' beginning at 8.40am, every morning.

Beginning: Monday 7th February 2022

This is the perfect opportunity for every child to maximise their reading time in a relaxed environment. Pupils will also receive a free breakfast treat!

This week is National Storytelling Week. Getting engrossed in a good book expands the imagination and stimulates learning, which can be great for pupils' mental health too. Try and share some stories with your children this week.

Advance notice of World Book Day in **March** – with the message for all children '**you are a reader**'! This day in school will be filled with lots of exciting, celebratory ways to promote reading for pleasure on World Book Day, and all-year round. Children will be allowed to dress up as their favourite book character. Further information about the exact date of this to follow.

Class Dojo

If you are not already signed up to class dojo please do so; it is a brilliant way to keep in touch with class teachers and senior leaders via the messaging app and you can see what the children have been up to in class!



ClassDojo

Class Newsletters

Class newsletters will be sent out each half term, please look out for your child's which will be shared by Friday the 11th of February.

Safer Internet Day 2022

On **8th February** we celebrate Safer Internet Day – an annual global event promoting safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

This year, Safer Internet Day will focus on exploring respect and relationships online. This is a great opportunity to discuss with your children how they navigate the online world safely. Social Media can be a wonderful tool for keeping in touch with people and also what is happening in the world. For many Social Media accounts there are age limits set as some of the content that is posted is unsuitable for younger children. This age limit is usually 13 which means that, in theory, none of our children should be accessing things like Instagram, Facebook or Snapchat.

Increasingly, we hear about children sending inappropriate messages over these things which can have a knock on effect in school. As far as the school is concerned the responsibility for monitoring Social Media use is down to parents, not the school. However, we continue to promote and teach Internet safety in school. Please speak to us if you need help with keeping your child safe online.

We will upload onto Facebook work produced by the children in school and ideas for how you can support at home.

Early Years

Reminder that in Nursery we take 2 year olds for 15 hours, 3 and 4 year olds for 15 and 30 hours and you can pay for extra sessions at £15 a session. If you would like anymore information please give school a call.

Local Offer

You can access the local offer here: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3722/About-the-Local-Offer-in-County-Durham>

County Durham Local Offer

Our Local Offer information has been developed to allow parents, carers and young people to see more clearly what services are available locally to meet their educational needs and/or disabilities from birth to the age of 25.

A dedicated [Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#) and our [Local Offer](#) section has been created on our website and a directory of services are linked to through our [Families Information Service: Local Offer](#).

Reminders

Children must come to school wearing the correct uniform and black school shoes not trainers. Please note that we allow children to wear a watch if they wish, however no other items of jewellery are to be worn, including ear-rings.

Children's Mental Health Week 2022 - Growing Together

Next week, we will take part in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is **Growing Together**. **Growing Together** is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. For Children's Mental Health Week 2022, we will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow.

Dates for the diary

Holiday	Closing Date for pupils	Re-opening Date
Half Term	Friday 18 th February 2022	Monday 28 th February 2022
Easter Holidays	Friday 8 th April 2022	Monday 25 th April 2022
May Day Bank Holiday	Friday 29 th April 2022	Tuesday 3 rd May 2022
Summer Half term	Friday 27 th May 2022	Monday 6 th June 2022
Summer	Wednesday 20 th July 2022	Tuesday 6 th September 2022

School will be closed for two further Professional Development days this school year:
Friday 1st July and Friday 22nd July 2022

Please note to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee children have an additional holiday date which for our school will be **Thursday 21st July 2022**.



To confirm, the last day of school for children before the summer holidays will now be
Wednesday 20th July 2022.



9:00am-10:00 am

We would like to invite you into school on Friday 11th February for a coffee morning. Now that many restrictions have lifted, we hope this is the first of many opportunities for you to come into school this year. We look forward to hearing your views and thoughts about how we can continue to build our relationships stronger

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Graham
Acting Executive Head teacher

Mrs Sutherland
Deputy Head teacher

'Christ at the centre, Children at the heart'

