

Ramadan Mubarak to everyone observing the holy month of Ramadan.

If you haven't already signed up, it's not too late to reserve a place at this Wednesday's Iftar event. The event is open to Muslims and non-Muslims to come along and enjoy some FREE delicious food and drinks – book a place via the sign up form on Class Dojo and come along to the Turf pavilion from 5.45pm on Weds 13th March. <https://forms.office.com/e/8c3LSV8pkD>

Reading

Thank you to everyone who joined us last week for our World Book Day breakfast. What a great event, and it was so lovely to see so many children taking away a book from the book fair!

The book fair is with us until Wednesday, so if you've not had a chance to get along yet... be quick!

Attendance and punctuality

A reminder that the attendance policy can be found on the school website.

The gates into school are locked promptly at 9am. After this time, children must be brought to the office where their time of arrival and reason for being late is recorded. Repeated late arrival to school may trigger the involvement of the school's attendance officer, Mrs Harrison.

On a more positive note, well done to Year 3, who this week only had 5 minutes late last week so chose the reward of a non-uniform day. Mrs Bewick will let parents in Y3 know which day.

We've had a number of cases of chicken pox in lower Key Stage 2 in the past few weeks. Please don't send your child to school if they have any new spots – get them checked out by a pharmacist or GP first. The rules around absence with chicken pox are to stay at home until the last spot has dried up.

Uniform

Our uniform policy can be found on the website

http://www.stjohns.newcastle.sch.uk/website/school_uniform/92756 Children should be wearing black or grey trousers or a skirt, NOT jeans or non-uniform dresses. Please let us know if you need support with uniform because we can help.

Remember, for safety reasons, hooped earrings are not allowed in school AT ALL and we will ask children to remove them if they are worn. False nails are not appropriate for children (for safety reasons) and we will ask that they are removed.

PE kit

The number of children without the correct PE kit has increased recently. The kit is a plain white t-shirt and black or navy shorts (available to buy from the school office). Children need trainers and a sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE.

Any child without the correct kit will be loaned a set from school. All children must take part in PE sessions unless they are physically unable to do so due to injury.

Term-time holidays

You might have seen on the news that the fine for taking a holiday in term-time is set to increase from £60 to £80 (per parent, per child). You can avoid a fine by booking a holiday during the 13 weeks of breaks we have scheduled – or, as a last resort, by tagging a holiday onto an existing school holiday, so your child only misses a day or two. This can bring down the cost of the holiday, minimise the disruption to learning on your child and mean you don't get hit with a fine when you return.

Don't forget, we also have a two week half term in May/June, when most other schools only have one week. This is often a great time to bag a bargain!

We also still have some dates available in the school caravan. The cost is still only £60 per break – to cover gas/electricity and cleaning. Information can be found on the school website www.stjohns.newcastle.sch.uk where you can also find the booking form.

Easter chocolate raffle

Tickets on sale from Weds 13th March – 50p a strip

Training and workshops – details coming soon on Class Dojo.

Autism workshop

27th March (morning)

Making Money Go Further

22nd March 9am – 10.30am

Comic Relief – Friday 15th March

We are holding a non-uniform day to raise funds for Comic Relief. Children can come to school in non-uniform, football kit, fancy dress or in a silly costume for a minimum £1 donation.

Spring Term

Monday 8th January - Thursday 28th March

Easter holiday - break up **Thursday 28th March**, return **Tuesday 9th April**

Training day Monday 8th April

Summer Term

Tuesday 9th April - Friday 19th July 2024

Bank holiday **Monday 6th May**

Half term holiday - break up **Friday 24th May**, return **Monday 10th June**

Training day Fri 14th June

Remember, all term and holiday dates for 2023-24 and 2024-25 are on the school website <http://www.stjohns.newcastle.sch.uk/website/2023-24/668530>

Please do not book holidays outside of the scheduled holiday dates.