



Newsletter | Spring Second Half Term 2019

A copy of this newsletter can be found on our school website – just click on the Newsletters pencil icon.

If you would like a copy of all of our newsletters emailed to you, you can sign up and subscribe on the website - www.washingtonstjosephs.com

Don't forget that you can keep up to date with everything that is happening at school on our school website, or by following our Facebook and Twitter feeds.

www.washingtonstjosephs.com

 www.facebook.com/stjosephswashington

 @stjoswashington

Welcome back after a very pleasantly surprisingly warm and sunny February half term! We have a very full six weeks ahead of us between now and the Easter holidays, here are some important dates, times and information for the various activities happening during this half term.

Lent and Easter worship

As we move into Lent next week, we have a number of Masses, Liturgies and other celebrations planned in both church and school between now and Easter:

- Year 5 will mark the start of Lent by leading our Ash Wednesday Mass in Our Lady's church at 11:00am on Wednesday 6th March. All are welcome to join us for this holy day of obligation.
- Year 4 will lead a Liturgy in their classroom on Tuesday 12th March. Parents, grandparents and carers are warmly invited to join with Year 4 for their Liturgy.
- Year 2 will lead a Liturgy in their classroom on Tuesday 19th March. Parents, grandparents and carers are warmly invited to join with Year 2 for their Liturgy.
- Year 6 will lead the Stations of the Cross on Friday 5th April in church at 9:30am. All are very welcome to join us.
 - *Class liturgies may be held in the Reflection Garden – weather permitting!*
- Our Journey Through Easter will take place in school during Holy Week on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th April. Parents are invited to join each class in visiting the stations set up around the school. A timetable will be released closer to the date to confirm times for each class.

Easter events in school

- We will be holding our annual Easter egg raffle on Friday 5th April (all eggs kindly donated by staff). Tickets will be on sale from Monday 1st April – 20p each.
- Children will have the opportunity to enter an Easter designing competition on Thursday 4th April – the competition will take place in class during the afternoon and will cost £1 to enter.

Easter in EYFS

Our wonderful Early Years staff have planned a fantastic range of events this term:

- Living Eggs arrive on Monday 25th March for two weeks as part of their Spring and New Life topic.
- RSPB will visit to explore habitats of living things.
- Easter Crafty morning on Thursday 28th March at 10.45am.
- Easter Parade on Monday 1st April – Easter bonnet parade, egg hunt and songs.

For Crafty morning and Easter Parade there will be more information on how to sign up from EYFS nearer the time.

The Selfish Giant

We are delighted that Image Musical Theatre group will be coming into school to perform The Selfish Giant for Years 1 to 6 on Friday 8th March as part of World Book week. Each class will be reading the story and doing work on it in the week leading up the performance, and watch out for our new Selfish Giant hall displays next time you visit school!

World Book Day 2019

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 7th March 2019, and to celebrate our love of literature we once again ask the children to come to school dressed as their favourite characters from a book. Throughout the morning, children will move to different year groups and paired up to read with younger or older children, and in the afternoon our teachers will be moving to a different class to read a story!

Tiny Tweeties will visit EYFS on Tuesday 5th March as part of their World Book Day activities – using music and drama to explore traditional tales.

Reception class will be enjoying a visit to Washington Library in their costumes to look at the books and hear a story!

Book Fair

Our Book Fair will take place in school from Monday 11th March to Thursday 14th March. The book fair will be open to visit and purchase books before school starts between 8:40am and 9:00am on those days, as well as on Monday evening straight after school at 3:15pm. In addition, children will have the opportunity to visit the book fair with their class during the school day, and a timetable for this will be released closer to the week.

School Photographs

Our photographer will be in school on Thursday 21st March to take individual and family photographs of the children. Family groups with siblings who are not in our school will be taken in the school hall from 8:00am. Family groups of siblings who are in our school will take place throughout the morning.

Red Nose Day 2019

This year's Red Nose Day will take place on Friday 15th March. The theme for this year's appeal for Comic Relief is "All singing, all dancing – get on the party bus!" Children can bring in a £1 donation to wear their party clothes for the day, where we will enjoy a dance-a-thon in the school hall! Children can also bring in an additional £1 to play a game of 'Pin the red nose on Mrs Black' in each class!

The day will start at 8:50am with a big Cha Cha Slide on the yard for children and parents, and then Mrs Black will conga the children into school!

Mini Vinnies

A very big well done to our Year 6 Mini Vinnies who raised £145 from their 'bring and buy' book sale before half term. In the coming weeks, the Year 4 Mini Vinnies will begin work planting our Easter garden and our Year 5 Mini Vinnies will be creating prayer cards to be given out to members of the parish community.

Bikeability

The children from Year 5 will complete their Bikeability program from Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th March. Bikeability is government-recognised, practical and professional cycling training program, which is designed to teach the children to be safer, more skilled and more confident cyclists once they've taken part. Mr Morris will be sending out a more detailed letter this week to let parents know what the children will need to take part in the program.

Mathletics and Spellodrome

The Computing room is available on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes from 12:00 until 12:20pm with Mrs Tate, as well as our Wednesday morning club with Mrs Matters, for any KS2 children who would like to practise their spellings or complete maths tasks. Children can also use their login details at home – each Friday the best performing class in Mathletics and Spellodrome win a special trophy to keep for the following week!

Friday breakfast club and Fit for Fun club

Please note that on a Friday morning, breakfast club starts in the hall at 7:45am while Fit for Fun starts at 8:00am. Therefore, could those attending these activities please arrive no earlier than the specified time.

Holy Island – Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Summer camp

Summer camp Applications for Children are now open for boys currently in year 5, 6 or 7 at school and girls in year 5 or 6 – please see the link below Cost per child: **£115** per week <http://svpholyislandcamp.co.uk/>

Masses and Liturgies

Here are the dates for the upcoming Masses and Liturgies this half term. Everybody is welcome to join us at these celebrations, which are a huge part of our school life. The children really value the support of their friends and families, and love to see you all there.

Please note the earlier start times of school liturgies.

Date	Celebration	Time	Location
Wednesday 6 th March	Ash Wednesday Mass, led by Year 5	11:00am	Our Lady's Church
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 4 Liturgy	9:05am	Year 4 Class
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 2 Liturgy	9:05am	Year 2 Class
Friday 29 th March	Reception Class Liturgy	9:10am	School Hall
Sunday 31 st March	Family Mass	11:00am	Our Lady's Church
Friday 5 th April	Stations of the Cross, led by Year 6	TBC	Our Lady's Church

Important dates for your diary

- Tuesday 5th March – Tiny Tweeties visit EYFS
- Wednesday 6th March – Ash Wednesday Mass, led by Year 5, 11:00am, Our Lady's Church
- Thursday 7th March – World Book Day 2019 (including Reception class visit to Washington library)
- Friday 8th March – Image Musical Theatre performing The Selfish Giant in school
- Tuesday 12th March – Year 4 class-based Lent liturgy
- Thursday 14th March – Year 1 dance festival at St Robert's
- Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day – Bring in your £1 donation to wear your party clothes and £1 to pin the red nose on Mrs Black!
- Monday 18th March to Wednesday 20th March - Year 5 Bikeability
- Tuesday 19th March – Year 2 class-based Lent liturgy
- Monday 25th March – Living Eggs arrive in EYFS
- Thursday 28th March – EYFS Crafty Morning
- Friday 29th March – Reception Class Mother's Day liturgy
- Monday 1st April – EYFS Easter Parade
- Tuesday 2nd April – Top Table Tuesday
- Wednesday 3rd April – Journey through Easter
- Thursday 4th April – Journey through Easter
- Thursday 4th April – RSPB visit EYFS to explore Habitats
- Friday 5th April – Year 6 stations of the cross

Please note, all times and dates are correct at time of printing.