**Chicken Pox**

We have two reported cases of chicken pox since the return to school. For many reasons it is good that this is experienced as a childhood illness rather than later in life however it is highly contagious until the spots have dried up so children are not in school during this time. Those recovering with some dried up spots will be in school as long as they feel well.

If you and your children are regularly around anyone in the early phases of pregnancy or having treatments that cause low immunity then as a precaution tell them that we have children with children pox.

**Corona virus**

You will be aware that over the last week new concerns about the coronavirus have been reported on the news. There are now more areas in the world where travel has been restricted and actions are being taken to limit the spreading of the virus.

If members of your family have travelled in recent weeks or are planning to travel please do let us know.

In the meantime we are all asked to take sensible and practical hygiene measures to limit the spread of cold and flu virus.

**Diary Date updates**

**St David’s cake sale this Friday**

It is St David’s Day on Sunday 1st March so we have been learning some facts about St David, who by all accounts was an extraordinary person. We have found at this week why the daffodil, leek and dove are all symbols connected to as well as the connection he has to Wales. A reminder that this Friday 28th March there is a St David’s Cake Sale after school for the PTFA.

Children are in one of four houses at St Mary’s which are based on the four patron saints in the UK.

St David, patron saint of Wales – colour Yellow ( daffodil )

St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland – colour green ( Irish flag / four leaved clover )

St Andrew, patron saint of Scotland – colour blue ( flag )

St George, patron saint of England – colour red ( flag )

**World Book Day Thursday 5th March**

Books are such a source of joy and learning. Giving children a love of words is a gift for life.

As a school we will be marking world book day across our school in a variety of ways. Children can bring in their own favourite book and will have time in the day to enjoy reading the book. Eagle Class will share some time reading to and with Robin and Woodpecker Class. Owl and Kestrel Class are going to have a teacher swap story telling time. Owl Class are doing an optional homework to use potatoes as to make their favourite book characters. A separate letter has gone to Owl Class parents about this.

We sincerely want to celebrate story telling, books and children’s love of books which is why we are **not** asking children to dress up. Over time we have found that the pressure to find a dressing up outfit that fits a book sometimes means that children are not sharing their actual favourite books.

A special thank you to all parents who give time to book sharing and supporting your child with home reading. A reminder that if you are experiencing any difficulties in encouraging you child to regularly read at home please do talk immediately to their class teacher.

Home reading at all ages significantly supports a child’s success as a reader.

**Lenten fund raiser for Cafod**

This Friday, 28th February, we will welcome Bea from Cafod to our morning celebration assembly. Bea works regularly with us to deliver a range of workshops for the whole school and for individual classes to share knowledge and understanding of ways to support the most vulnerable across the world.

This year Cafod have a Lenten fund raiser that links to the work we have been doing this year on improving our world. Children in this generation are bombarded with news that the world is in a critical condition and many find themselves worrying about what is going to happen. As a school we have been working to make the children feel more knowledgeable and active about what they can do.

The Lenten fund raiser uses football fun as a way to ask children to set goals and at the same time to raise some funds to help the situation in the Amazon rain forest.

Children will be learning more about this over the coming week.

**Sports Relief**

We have planned a sports relief event for later in the year so that we are not having two fund raising events this half term. Details of the event will be shared after Easter.

**Parents Consultations**

These are being planned for the last week of this half term on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th March after school. Letters will be sent out today via the office for you to book appointment times.

We are very fortunate to have your support as the first educators of your children. The children and teachers look forward to you coming in for these reviews to talk about their progress, next steps and to have a look in their books.

If you have any worries at any time please do not leave these until the parent consultations. You can speak to teachers at the end of each day or make an appointment via the teacher or school office.

**Easter Gardens and Bonnets**

This year the PTFA are asking that children take part in the annual Easter competition. This year the theme is Easter gardens and Easter bonnets. As in previous years every child will receive a prize for taking part. If you haven’t taken part in it previously then please do consider it as children do love the event and have produced some beautiful creations.

**Holy Week events**

We break up on Friday 27th March, which is much earlier than the official Easter celebrations. In our last week of school, beginning Monday 23rd March we will look at the important events in the Christian tradition of Easter:

Monday 23rd Palm Sunday

Thursday 26th Owl, Kestrel and Eagle Maunday Thursday

Friday 27th at 9.00am kestrel Class will lead us in our Good Friday service

Friday 27th at 3.00pm Whole School Easter Assembly.

Parents and families are welcome to join us on Friday 27th for the beautiful reflection service for Good Friday and the Celebration Assembly.

**Sponsorship money**

Thank you to everyone who has handed in their sponsorship money for the ‘jump for rope’ event we held just before half term. If you have any sponsorship money still to be handed in, please could you do so by Monday 2nd March. We will let you know how much was raised as soon as all the money has been counted.

**Taming gaming**

Please find attached leaflet which you may find useful.

**Clubs**

**Just a reminder that there are no clubs during the last week of term. As such, all clubs will finish on Friday 20th March.**