



NEWSLETTER: 10th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We end our week in a winter wonderland! Very picturesque! I am sure, however, that this morning may have been more than a little stressful for many with the snowy conditions. Thank you, all, for your resolve!

Thank you, to all those who were able to make the parents' meeting sessions this week. I hope you found these to be a very worthwhile experience. These open and honest conversations are extremely helpful, ensuring a shared understanding of how well your child is doing and what further work is needed. At home, we ask that you continue to focus on reading with your child and follow the homework expectations set by your child's class teacher.

Thank you, also to those who attended our phonics and key stage 1&2 SATs briefings.

Next week, we have **Science Week!**

As we are part of a partnership with The Ogden Trust, we are following their theme of Earth and Space. Pupils will be working in groups to create an activity or game based on this theme. Year groups in key stage 2 will hold a competition. The winning team for each class will go forward to represent their year group at a school partnership event at the end of the month. Our Y5 winning team will have their activity/game shared by pupils in Y6 as our Y5 children will be at the Youth Village.

First Holy Communion

Year 4 children will make their Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at 4:15 on Tuesday 14th March. Parents and carers all welcome.

Staffing update

The current staffing arrangements in Nursery and Reception will remain in place until at least Easter.

Year 5 residential evening

Miss Ryan will hold a meeting for parents Thursday 16th at 3:20pm to discuss the upcoming trip to Emmaus Youth Village.

Fitness Festival

Next week, KS1 and KS2 will be taking part in the Derwentside Virtual Fitness Festival in school. This will be an hour long session in which the children will take part in some moderate exercise. Children will need to come to school wearing appropriate clothing (t-shirt, shorts, tracksuit, trainers). KS2 will be taking part in this on Monday 13th March and KS1 will be taking part on Tuesday 14th March.



As you know, attendance is hugely important and we report attendance on a weekly/ monthly/ termly basis. We monitor attendance/lateness very closely in school and will raise any concerns with parents/carers on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with regards to your child's attendance/lateness please contact us as soon as possible so we can work together to resolve any issues.

This week's attendance is: 91%

Nursery	Reception	Year1	Year2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
89.6%	98.2%	91.2%	90%	78%	94.3%	95.8%	90%



House Points

We have re-introduced the House Points system in school. Children can earn house points from all staff during the week. The house points for this week are:

St Aidan – 377

St Oswald – 472

St Cuthbert – 409

St Bede – 478

Well done to everyone



SVP Holy Island Summer Camp Information



The Week

Camp has 8 dormitories, each with 8 beds. We try our best to keep friends and family members together and each of the dorms have helpers assigned to them. Every dorm helper plays a crucial role in ensuring each child has someone to turn to if needed and they can help the children look after their money, remind them to keep clean and be organised, make friends and also make sure any medical issues or specific requirements are dealt with. Each dorm will do some activities as a team (including keeping their dorm tidy) but the children will have the chance to mix with other children on lots of other activities including 'Silly Sports', a Treasure Hunt, Table Tennis and Football tournaments and the Friday night concert. Many children just love collecting shells or using crab lines at the beach or walking to see new parts of the island. Whether your child's personality is outgoing or introvert, they will have activities to keep them fully occupied every day! Each night the dorms are quietened down with reflections on how they have found the day and a prayer led by the helpers.



Food Glorious Food!

Meal times are important to us at camp! Lots of energy is used exploring the island and we make sure helpers are on each table with the children to make sure no-one goes hungry! The meals are varied and healthy.

Many parents/carers are naturally concerned that their child might be a 'bit fussy' and that they may not eat enough, but this is something we are very vigilant with and our helpers are experienced at coaxing a child to eat something each mealtime.

The application form has a section for you to provide us with as much information as necessary about your child's eating habits. Fresh fruit and juice/water are available in the dining room at all times, for any child who may want something to eat between meals too.

Our Applications Team (Christine and Sarah) are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please email them at

holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk



Visit our website for the application form, additional information, news and updates!

svpholyislandcamp.co.uk

Our Helpers

The staff at the camp are all volunteers who give their time and services freely. Many of them came to camp as children and keep coming back to give other children the sort of experience they enjoyed.

All helpers are subject to an enhanced DBS check (Police Clearance) and no helper is allowed on camp until this check has been successfully completed. A selection process is in place and all staff undergo annual training in Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Diversity, Mental Health Awareness and Ethos.

The helpers are motivated by the fantastic impact that the camp can make on the children who attend. They work as hard as they can throughout the week to make sure that all the children in their care are safe and are having a brilliant time. We want the week that the children spend at Holy Island Camp to be one they will remember fondly for the rest of their lives.

A Brief History of Camp

The camp on Holy Island has been run by the St Vincent de Paul Society since 1954. The aim of the camp is to provide an enjoyable and affordable holiday for children from a variety of backgrounds, in a safe and caring environment and within a Christian ethos. For the first 16 summers, the camp was simply a number of tents in a field. The success and popularity of the camp led to a building programme which saw the first dormitories open in the summer of 1970. This was followed by the completion of the remaining dormitories and the dining room. This was all made possible thanks to the hard work of a number of volunteers who gave up numerous weekends to travel to Holy Island and help build the camp as we now know it. Many more improvements have been made since then, and today the children are accommodated in eight dormitories, each with four bunk beds for eight children.



The Island

Holy Island is a small tidal island off England's north east coast. It is located about 9 miles south of Berwick upon Tweed. The island has a long and colourful history and became the centre of Christianity in the north east of England when St Aidan founded a monastery there back in 635AD. Northumberland's patron saint, St Cuthbert, became Abbot at the monastery and settled on the island. The remains of the priory can still be seen on the island, despite several Viking raids and its suppression during the reign of Henry VIII. The island is the perfect place for a children's camp. It boasts some of the finest beaches in the UK and the children really enjoy the wide open space and beautiful scenery. There are only around 150 permanent residents on the island, many of whom are great friends with the staff at our camp. Tourists tend to come and go with the tide and most do not stray far from the village, so we often find we have the island and its beaches to ourselves for large parts of the day.

Holy Island is a very special place and the opportunity we have to use it for the camp is a huge privilege. We hope your child will find the place as magical as many others have over the years!



Applications online

Applying for a place at camp for your child couldn't be easier! Just go to our website. Click on the link. Fill in the form and send it to us.

svpholyislandcamp.co.uk

We will then send you a confirmation email, which will include details of how to pay. The cost for a week at camp is a donation of £150.

If your child wants to attend with a friend, you can make a note of that on the online form and we will try our best to place them together, but please make sure they talk to each other and apply for the same week otherwise it might not be possible to do so.

PLEASE NOTE...

Further emails may be sent to you before your chosen week, so we ask, if you change your email address or phone number can you let our team know.

Our weeks fill up quickly, so the sooner you apply, the better.

If the week you wish your child to attend is full when you apply you will be offered an alternative week or your child may be put onto a reserve list and we would contact you if a place becomes available.

We always keep a small number of places available for children who are in particular need and that schools or SVP conferences identify for us.

Parent's feed-

A well organised camp where the helpers have years of experience and get the balance perfectly right around keeping your child safe whilst giving them the opportunity to be independent.

Your child will be well cared for with lots of support from the older kids and helpers. The whole homesick worry is a worry for parents, not the children. The children have far too much fun to worry about home!

My daughter got to spend a week being active outdoors with other children and away from screens while learning to be more independent.

It is a fantastic experience for your children and for us as parents too. My child grew in confidence and had a great time away!

We were really worried about our son going away on his own for a whole week. I don't know why because he's never stopped talking about all the things he's done since he got home! Thank you!

A rare opportunity to get your child away from technology, being active outdoors and meeting other children.

Could you help parents give their child the best start in life?



EMPOWERING
PARENTS
EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES



EPEC is for local parents, led by local parents

Becoming a parent group leader gives you the chance to help families gain the skills they need to give their children the best start in life. EPEC is a parenting approach that trains local parents to lead groups that support other local parents.

As part of the EPEC programme we are looking for mums, dads and carers to become group leaders to deliver parenting courses in your local area. As a volunteer group leader you will:

- Receive amazing free training and support from our local EPEC team.
- Learn to lead practical, caring groups for local parents.
- Share tried and tested methods that give children the best start in life.
- Join a group of like-minded parents to make a difference to your local community.
- Develop your skills and confidence.
- Gain experience that will help you fulfill your ambitions.
- Have your transport, meal and childcare costs paid for whilst undertaking and delivering training.
- You will have access to a varied career development programme.

By completing a short 12 week course one day per week (09.30-14.30) you could become a group leader.

Once you have completed your training, you and another parent group leader will deliver course(s) to other parents across County Durham over a 9 week period. You should allow 5 hours per week for course delivery, evaluation and supervision. We will work with you to make this work for you.

For more information please email
EPEC@durham.gov.uk

[* Watch Sue tell us about how she became a parent group leader](#)

[* See what parents get out of the courses, courses led by people like you!](#)

* You may need to download Adobe Acrobat to view the above links.



Free online safety session for parents

Our friends at East Durham College are delighted to invite parents to an online safety presentation so you can learn about the online dangers facing your children. The session will cover everything from monitoring your child's device, the risks of certain apps, like TikTok and Snapchat and the dangers of being negatively influenced by people online.

Monday 20th March from 6pm-8pm

at Willerby Grove, Peterlee, SR8 2RN - click [here](#) to register

Monday 27th March from 6pm-8pm

at Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG - click [here](#) to register

**Don't
miss out!**

Tickets are
free but limited
so make sure
you get yours
soon.

Session provided by:



If you have any queries, please contact us at

stjs@stjs.bwcet.com

