



I can hardly believe we are nearly into October already—although the temperature reminds me every time I go outside now! Like the children, I am going to have to start to remember my coat again.

As promised, here are some key dates for the term. While I try not to change any of these dates, if it is necessary for reasons beyond my control I will try to give as much notice as possible. On the reverse are more dates plus some key points to help things run smoothly.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries - we really do value our close partnership with you to support the children.



## Key dates for the first half of the Autumn Term

<p>Speak Out, Stay Safe (NSPCC)</p> 	<p>This week I will be using resources from the NSPCC including videos with Ant, Dec and the mascot, Buddy the speech mark to support the children in Years 1 to 6 (at age appropriate levels) to know how to be safe and get help when they need it.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 4th October - weekly for 5 weeks</b></p>  <p>We Eat Elephants</p>	<p>Problems children (and adults) face often seem big like elephants. If you were faced with the challenge of how to eat an elephant (or a large pumpkin if you are vegetarian!), how would you do it?</p> <p>Class 4 will be working with Laura Pickering who is a Wellbeing Practitioner to learn how to tackle problems by breaking them down into chunks.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 5th October at 6.30pm</b></p>	<p>Royal Shakespeare Company First Encounters performance of 'Twelfth Night' Tickets on sale for families and KS2 children— see letter home sent home on 23.09.2022</p>
<p><b>Monday 10th October</b> Harvest Festival</p>	<p>Our Harvest Festival service will be in school on at 2.30pm. Accompanied by Frances (St Mary's Church choir mistress) on the piano, the children in Year 5 will be singing. If any parents and carers of children in Year 5 are able to join us they are more than welcome. Please come at 2.20pm. Unfortunately we can't invite everyone due to space.</p> <p>Our new group, 'Think Global, Act Local' will be sending out a letter shortly about their plans to mark this year's Harvest Festival by helping people in our</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 11th October</b> NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Workshops</p>	<p>The children in Years 5 and 6 will be working with trainers from the NSPCC to further explore the messages about the 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' campaign - a separate letter has been emailed which has lots of links you may find useful</p>
<p>Friday 21st October</p>	<p>School closes for the Autumn half term break</p>

It has been necessary to make some slight changes to the class PE days. From now they are as follows:

Reception	Monday	Friday
Class One	Monday	Friday
Class Two	Tuesday	Wednesday
Class Three	Tuesday	Thursday
Class Four	Monday	Wednesday
Class Five	Tuesday	Friday
Class Six	Tuesday	Thursday

*Our visits to Cockerton library have started. Each class walks to the library once every three weeks to choose a book to bring back to school. This is a lovely link to our local community and gives the children a chance to read a wide range of books alongside all their other reading.*

There are lots of sporting events planned too for the children—we have a team entering the Darlington Cross Country this week. After our success of being awarded the Gold Games Mark last year, we're going for Platinum this year!!



## Key dates for the second half of the Autumn

<b>Monday 31st October</b>	School reopens for the 2nd half of the Autumn Term
<b>Monday 31st October</b>	As a part of their annual Bonfire night safety strategy, Firefighter Alex Kinney from Darlington Red Watch will be talking to the children about fire safety in preparation for Bonfire night.
<b>Thursday 10th November</b>	<b>Parents Evenings 1*</b> Appointments letters will be sent home in the week beginning 17.10.2022
<b>Monday 14th November</b>	Individual and sibling group photographs
<b>Wednesday 16th November</b>	Class 3 would like to invite parents and carers to their class assembly about World Toilet Day at 9.15am. Tea and coffee will be available in the hall from 9.00am
<b>Thursday 17th November</b>	<b>Parents Evenings 2*</b>
<b>Thursday 8th December</b>	Childhood Flu Immunisation Programme Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Friday 9th December</b>	Christmas jumpers again, reindeer ears, Santa hats needed as the children run round the grounds for our Annual Santa Dash!
<b>Tuesday 13th December</b>	KS1 Christmas Performance at 2.00pm
<b>Wednesday 14th December</b>	KS1 Christmas Performance at 5.30pm
<b>Thursday 15th December</b>	Years 4, 5 and 6 Christmas parties Whole school Christmas lunch
<b>Friday 16th December</b>	Reception Nativity for parents and carers at 9.30am (coffee and mince pies for families from 9.00am) Years 2 and 3 Christmas parties
<b>Monday 19th December</b>	Reception and Year 1 Christmas party
<b>Tuesday 20th December</b>	End of the Autumn Term
<b>Thursday 5th January 2023</b>	Beginning of the Spring Term

*\*Please do remember that you can arrange to speak with your child's class teacher at any point in the year, you do not need to wait until the next Parents' Evening. Please let the office know so arrangements can be made.*

### A few general reminders now that term is well underway:

- Please remember that dogs are not allowed in the school grounds, unless previously arranged for a specific purpose
- The children must be in school by 9.00am—the gates will close at 9.00am, so if the children have to enter school through the main entrance they will be marked late. If they arrive after 9.15am when registration has closed, they will be marked as absent for the morning session.
- Earrings cannot be worn for PE - the best solution is to take them out and keep them at home on PE days. PE kits are House Team colour t-shirts, black or grey shorts/joggers, trainers/plimsolls and a school coloured jumper or hoodie. Please do not send your child in clothing in other colours as the PE kits is still a part of school uniform and it is important that the children look dressed for a day at school
- The children are fabulous at remembering their water bottles and understand the importance of staying hydrated. Any juice will be removed and replaced with fresh water unless you have made alternative arrangements with the school due to medical needs.

Please take time to have a look at our new website at [stmaryscockerton.org.uk](http://stmaryscockerton.org.uk) There are also regular posts on our school Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stmaryscockertonschool>