



Headteacher's Update

1 April 2022



surrounding the crucifixion of Christ. According to the Gospels, Christ's trial and execution took place at around the time that the Jewish people were preparing to mark the festival of Passover. Christ is supposed to have celebrated Passover before being crucified. For this reason, The Orthodox Church will never celebrate Easter until the festival of Passover has been marked by the Jewish faith.

Key Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we break up today, I wanted to thank you for all your support this term. I hope that all our families enjoy a peaceful, healthy and happy Easter holiday. We look forward to seeing all students back on our return to school on Tuesday 19 April at the normal time.

Please see below a message from Mr Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director) who has written an informative piece based on the 4th week of Great Lent and the commemoration of St John Climacus which is always marked on the 4th Sunday of Lent.

Best wishes,

Mrs I. Warwick (Headteacher)



Faith- πίστη

St. John Climacus: The Forgotten Saint (4th Week of Great Lent)

First of all, for all our students and families preparing to celebrate Easter during this break, we wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy Easter and sincerely hope that the resurrection of our dear Lord Jesus inspires us all with renewed hope and energy.

Greek Orthodox Christians along with other Eastern Orthodox churches, have a little longer to wait as you might remember from our previous editions where we explained why it is that the Orthodox church always celebrates Easter at a later date to the western churches. This is predominantly to do with preserving the sanctity of historical events

Orthodox Christians will be celebrating Easter at the later date of Sunday 24th April. For now, however we prepare to enter the 4th week of Holy and Great Lent. The start of the fourth week of Lent also commemorates St John Climacus.

St. John Climacus is one of the great saints of our Church. He was so special that the Church remembers St. John, not once, as we do with most saints, but twice a year. His feast day is always celebrated on March 30th, but the Church also devotes the fourth Sunday of Great Lent to this church father.

The early life of St. John is shrouded in mystery. While we know that he was born in Palestine in the year 579 A.D., not much is known of his parents or of the days of his youth. All we know is that St. John received a general education and

that he entered into the monastic ranks at the age of sixteen. From that early age, St. John embraced the life of solitude and asceticism (life as a hermit), as he progressed greatly in the spiritual life.

To really understand what St. John represents, one has to be familiar with the Book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible. Understanding Exodus is important, because the people of his day revered St. John so much that they saw in him another Moses. Like Moses, St. John spent forty years in the desert. Not only that, but St. John even ascended the same mountain as Moses, Mt. Sinai. He was likened to Moses because, like the great prophet of old who brought down the tablets of the Law, he too brought down a gift to share with the people. That gift, a book called -The Ladder of Divine Ascent - still being read by Orthodox Christians today. The Ladder of Divine Ascent is a book that describes how the faithful can ascend to God, like the Ten Commandments tells the faithful how they will find order and harmony in their lives.

The writing of The Ladder of Divine Ascent took place at the end of St. John's life. Our tradition says that a certain monk begged St. John to write a book that would help Christian's progress in the spiritual life. That monk asked St. John to write such an authoritative book because he, like others, observed that the people of the day were losing touch with the tradition that was handed down to them.

For our modern society what St. John says is too demanding or perhaps too radical for our way of life. St. John speaks of finding silence; he speaks of fasting and entering deep moments of prayer; he speaks of withdrawing from the world we live in, and even of dying to its wisdom. St. John speaks about turning our back on pleasure and comfort. He speaks against gluttony and self-indulgence. In short, he speaks out against so many things that are sometimes unashamedly promoted in our daily lives.

Finally, regardless of when you will be celebrating Easter; whether this is the Western Easter or that of the Orthodox Church on April 24th, we wish you a blessed and happy Easter. For all our students, families, and staff, we are reminded that the overall message of Easter is one of perseverance and renewed hope.

Mr M Vassiliou (STA Spiritual Director)

Easter Activities in Barnet



With Springtime now finally here, it's a great time to go out and get active and fit. Why not sign up to a Health Walk or see what's happening at one of our leisure centres?

Events and activities include:

[Leisure centre activities](#)

Activities include swimming crash courses, gymnastics camps and multi-sport camps

8 April – 22 April

[Make a Splash](#)

Children under eight swim for free and young people aged 8-15 years swim for £1.

Available Monday - Friday at Barnet Copthall, Finchley Lido and Church Farm Leisure Centres. Register for a FAB Card to redeem your free or discounted swim

[Eggtastic - Egg Hunt & Egg Decorating](#)

14 April, 2.30-5pm, at Stephens House & Gardens, Finchley N3 3QE. £4 per child per hunt and egg.

[Animal Easter Trail at the RAF Museum](#)

8-21 April, 11am – 3pm, RAF Museum, Colindale, NW9 5LL £3 per child. For more details call the museum's 24-hour information line on 020 8358 4964 or visit

BACE Holidays is back - book now for Easter 2022!

BACE HOLIDAYS

REGISTER NOW

Sign up at:
barnetyouth.uk/BACEHolidays

Dates: Easter Holidays
Ages: 5-16 years
Location: Online and venues across the Borough of Barnet

FREE

FAMILY FRIENDLY
Department for Education
YOUNG BARNET
BARNET

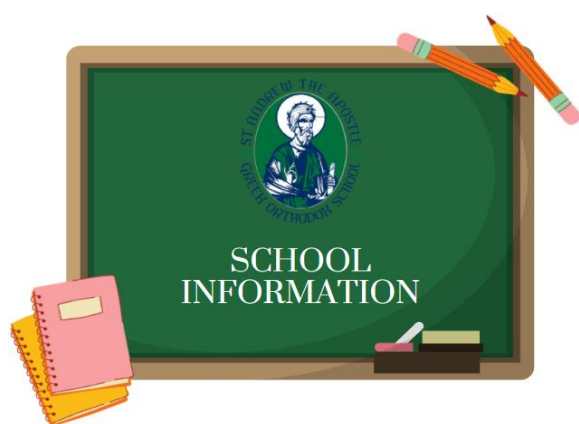
Click here to: [BOOK NOW](#)

BACE Holidays is back again for the Easter Holidays 2022! Once again, bringing a wide range of free daily activities/camps with a hot healthy lunch included for young people aged 5 - 16, who live in, or attend school in Barnet and are in receipt of free school meals, funded by the Department of Education.

BACE Easter Holidays dates across the Borough of Barnet are: **Monday 04 April - Friday 08 April & Monday 11 - Thursday 14 April**

If your child needs additional support, please email BACEHolidays@barnet.gov.uk

Upcoming Key Dates and Information



- Please [click here](#) to access previous editions of the Newsletter
- Please [click here](#) to access term dates
- Please [click here](#) to access school calendar for upcoming Term 4

Upcoming Events

- **Easter candle appeal and Easter egg appeal** - ongoing.
- **Easter Holiday: 4th April – 19th April.**
- **Easter service** - Twelve Apostles Greek Orthodox Church on Friday 22 April.
- **The STA Talent Show at the Chickenshed Theatre** – Summer 20 July 2022.

FOSA

Please do get in touch if you would like to join our small group of dedicated parents and carers- by emailing us at admin@standrewtheapostle.org.uk with FOSA in the title. Please mark your email for the attention of Mr Michael.

Mr Michael (Senior Deputy Headteacher)



Friends of St Andrew

Mental Health Crisis Helpline - Reminder



If you're in crisis and need to talk right now, there are many helplines staffed by trained people ready to listen. They won't judge you and could help you make sense of what you're feeling.

- **[Samaritans](#)**. To talk about anything that is upsetting you, you can contact them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can call [116 123](tel:116123) (free from any phone)
- **[SANEline](#)**. If you're experiencing a mental health problem or supporting someone else, you can call
- **[National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK](#)**. Offers a supportive listening service to anyone with thoughts of suicide. You can call the on 0800 689 5652 (open 24/7).
- **[CALM](#)**. You can call them on 0800 58 58 58 (5pm–midnight every day) if you are struggling and need to talk. Or if you prefer not to speak on the phone, you could try the [CALM webchat service](#).
- **[Papyrus HOPELINEUK](#)**. If you're struggling with suicidal feelings, or concerned about a young person who might be struggling, you can call on 0800 068

Please [click here](#) to access helpful advice and support from the **NHS for teenagers and young adults** who need support with their mental health and are coping with bereavement.

Reminder: During school, students needing emotional support can talk to their Form Tutors and their Head of Year. The following members of staff are also available:

- **Mr C Martin, Deputy Headteacher (DSL*)**
- **Mrs C Hammond, Assistant Headteacher (DDSL*)**
- **Mrs I Warwick, Headteacher (DDSL*)**
- **Ms D Moustaka (Safeguarding & Inclusion Manager)**
- **Mr N Anemouri (Pastoral Support Officer)**
- **Ms M Henshaw-Devall (Safeguarding Officer)**

*DSL is the Designated Safeguarding lead.

*DDSL is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead

STEM & Medicine Summer Experiences



We have partnered with world-class professionals across 10 STEM-related industries to create the most immersive and exclusive work experience activities that school students can find this summer.

Brand new for 2022: watch a real-life surgery taking place; explore an aeroplane being converted into a refuelling hybrid jet; work with psychologists on a mental health ward; analyse fingerprints and blood splatter on a crime scene. And much more!

Our Medicine and Engineering experiences are already over 70% full so students should register as soon as possible.

[View & Register: Ages 15-18](#)

[View & Register: Ages 12-14](#)

Life Changing Experience



Architecture: complete design projects in a real studio

Dentistry: shadow dentists in a dental hospital

Engineering: explore a private jet with BA engineers

Forensic Science: conduct crime scene fingerprint and blood splatter analysis

Investment Banking: negotiate a live M&A deal in a City skyscraper

Medicine: shadow doctors on a hospital ward round

Psychology: learn from sports psychologists at a Premier League club

Software Engineering: create your own healthcare app

Veterinary Medicine: learn vet surgery

techniques using dummy animals

Video Game Design: design a game and pitch to industry leaders.

COVID-19 updates - Reminder

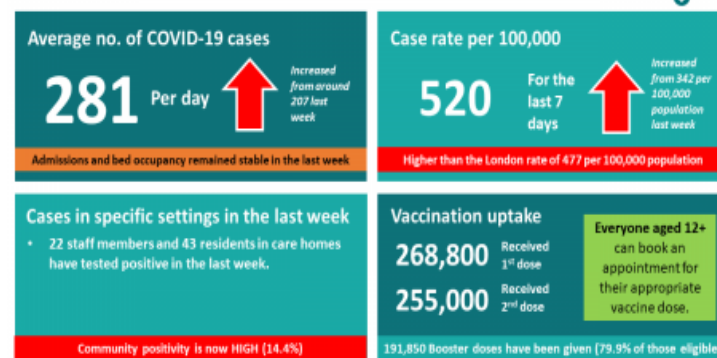
From Thursday 24 March, the government will remove the Covid-19 provisions within the Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations.

From Friday 1 April, the government will no longer provide free to order universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England. The government will update guidance on the steps that people with Covid-19 should take to minimise contact with other people accordingly.

Please [click here](#) if you would like to view the Barnet COVID-19 weekly update.

BARNET COVID-19 WEEKLY ROUND-UP

6 March – 12 March 2022



Data now based on the new cases methodology introduced which includes re-infections

