

Newsletter February 2020

Welcome Back

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful half term holiday. We have lots of exciting events to look forward to over the next half term, with Easter just around the corner.

Lent



We are journeying together through Lent to prepare ourselves well to celebrate Easter.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (26 February this year) and ends on Holy Thursday (9 April this year) in the evening – approximately 6 weeks.

In the Christian Year, Lent precedes and prepares for Easter. It is a penitential season and a time of spiritual growth and a time for discerning and doing good. Traditionally we give more time to prayer, fasting and almsgiving (money given to the 'poor' or good causes). This helps us to say 'Yes' to God's will and 'No' to our selfish ways in order to become better followers of Jesus. The season begins by recalling the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert and prepared to proclaim the Good News. In the Northern Hemisphere, Lent begins in winter. But when the 40 days are over, we know that the warmth and new life of spring are surely coming.

Lent in school

During Lent, in school, children will have the opportunity to create and explore a range of prayer spaces, practically accessing resources and embarking upon a multi-sensory journey towards the Easter story. In addition to this, in order to fully immerse themselves in the act of almsgiving and what this means to them as children, we will be inviting all children and families to contribute and share as little or as much as you wish to our school 'Lenten Foodbank Appeal'. During Advent you all gave so generously to this cause and the result was astonishing, really impacting upon local people and our community. You really showed true faith in action and we are very grateful for your support. During Lent there will be a box in the main entrance and one on the veranda for any donations of food that you wish to make.

This year is the Year of the Word– with a particular focus on St. Matthew's Gospel, children will be looking closely at St. Matthew's scripture during Lent and we are sure that they will be motivated by the messages that he shares.

“For I was
Hungry
and you gave
me Food...”



– Matthew 25:35

We look forward to working together to help those less fortunate than ourselves during this Lenten Season.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our children receiving Sacramental preparation will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) On Thursday 12th March 2020 at 5:30pm in church.

Mass Liturgy and Assembly

Year 2 will be leading their class liturgy on Thursday 19th March at 9.10am in the school hall, their parents and carers are very welcome to attend and join in this special time of prayer.

The Year 1 assembly will take place on 27th March at 9.10 am in the school hall– all Year 1 parents and carers are welcome to attend and there will be refreshments afterwards.

Year 6 will be leading their class liturgy on Thursday 2nd April at 9.10am and are looking forward to their parents and carers joining this time of reflection with them.

Reception Class will be leading our whole school Mass on Friday 3rd April at 9.30am in church. All are very welcome to come along and join us.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Over the next two weeks, throughout the school, we will be learning about Fairtrade. We will be learning all about what Fairtrade means, how we can help people to receive a fair wage for their produce and may even sample some Fairtrade products. Look out on our blogs for updates on what we have been learning.



Attendance and Punctuality

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives full time education and as parents you must ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time.

Over this academic year, we have noticed an increasing number of children who have been taken out of school for holidays. I must stress that regular school attendance is important if you want your child to achieve their very best. The more days your child misses from school, the less likely they are to achieve.

The law states Head Teachers should not grant any leave of absence in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you take a leave of absence without the school's permission, and this absence amounts to 7 days or more, you could receive a fine.

The government has said that any pupil with attendance below 90% is persistently absent and we have a duty to refer families to the local authority if their attendance is poor. This could result in formal warnings or legal action. Please could parents make sure that they contact the school if a child is absent. Without a valid reason for absence it has to be recorded as unauthorised which may lead to a referral to the Attendance Intervention Team. If a child is constantly late then the amount of learning time over the year can be quite significant. This also causes disruption to the classroom and affects the learning of others. If there are difficulties in having children arrive at school by 8.55am, please let me know and there may be support available. We want the best for our children but this can only happen if they are here.

Parents' Consultations

Please come along to school to find out about your child's progress on Tuesday 3rd March or Monday 9th March. Appointment times will be confirmed shortly.

Packed Lunch

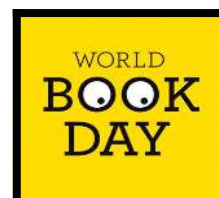
Please can I ask that for health and safety reasons, you do not put nuts or grapes into your child's lunchbox.

School Uniform

As you know we pride ourselves on how smart our children look in their school uniform. Wherever we take the children they are complemented on their appearance in their uniform. In order to maintain this high standard I ask that you please ensure that your child comes to school wearing full school uniform, including black school shoes. Please also ensure that your child has their full PE kit in school at all times, so that they can join in with any additional sporting activities that occur outside of their planned PE sessions. Also, please remember that nail varnish and ear-rings are not to be worn in school.

World Book Day

This year, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March 2020, slightly differently in school. In line with our poverty proofing agenda, children **will not** be asked to come to school dressed as a book character. Instead they will make something creatively during the school day and you are invited into school at 2.30pm to read with your child and to share in their learning from the day.



ParentPay

Can I please remind all parents to check their ParentPay account for any outstanding payments due. Non-payment for school meals and breakfast club may affect the quality of service we are able to offer to the children, therefore we need to ensure that all accounts are up-to-date and remain in credit. Thank you for your cooperation.



Dates for your Diary!



Parent's Evening	Tuesday 3rd March
World Book Day	Thursday 5th March– Parents/Carers welcome to come into school at 2.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 9th March
First Reconciliation Service	Thursday 12th March
Year 2 Liturgy	Thursday 19th March 9.10am
Year 1 Assembly	Friday 27th March 9.10am
Year 6 Liturgy	Thursday 2nd April 9 10am
Whole School Mass led by Reception	Friday 3rd April 9.30am
School breaks up for Easter	Friday 3rd April
Return to school	Monday 20th April
Y6 SATs week	Monday 11th-Thursday 14th May
May Day-school closed	Friday 8th May
School breaks up for half term	Friday 22nd May

2019-2020 Holiday Dates

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Easter 2020	Friday 3rd April 2020	Monday 20th April 2020
May Day 2020 (Friday 8th 2020)	Thursday 7th May 2020	Monday 11th May 2020
Summer half-term 2020	Friday 22nd May 2020	Monday 1st June 2020
Summer 2020	Friday 17th July 2020	TBC