

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. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Mrs Readman and her family as Mrs Readman's mam passed away just before the holidays.

Mass and Liturgy

We thank Class 2 for preparing and leading our Mass before half term. It was a beautiful celebration with confident readers and beautiful singing.

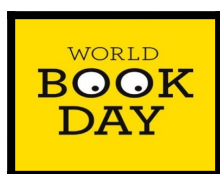
Please join us for our next **whole school Mass on St Joseph's day on Thursday 19th March at 9.15am**. This Mass will be **led by Class 1** and you are all warmly invited to attend with refreshments in the school hall afterwards.

This will be followed by a **whole school Mass on Thursday 2nd April at 9 15am** with children from each class planning and leading the Mass.

Class 2 will lead a **Class Liturgy** to which you are all invited to. This will take place at **9 10am on Tuesday 24th March** in the school hall.

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 2.45pm to share the wonderful world of reading with your children.

Parents' Consultations

Please come along to school to find out about your child's progress on Tuesday 3rd March and Wednesday 4th March. Further details will be sent out shortly.

Lent



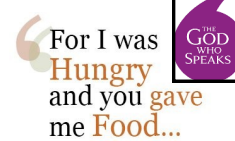
We are journeying together through Lent to prepare ourselves well to celebrate Easter.

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.

During Lent in school, children will have the opportunity to create and explore a range of prayer spaces. 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 Lent there will be a box in the main entrance 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 the messages that he shares.



— Matthew 25:35

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our children receiving Sacramental preparation will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) On Tuesday 3rd March at 5 30pm in church.

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.

Christmas Activities

Reading and Homework

Thank you for supporting your child with his/her reading at home. We fully believe that the support from home is really important to your child's progress and also to the development of a life-long love of reading. The communication from home to school is very important too so I would ask that you continue to complete the Home/School Record books, giving us any feedback on your child's reading at home so we can build upon this in school. Thank you.

Building upon this success, we will be sending out a homework menu this half term which gives children the opportunity to consolidate their learning in school while at home. We want the best for all our children and we believe that a regular, small amount of homework will be very beneficial for their learning. If you have any questions about this when it comes out, please ask.

Packed Lunch

Please can I ask that for health and safety reasons, you do not put nuts or grapes into your child's lunchbox. Also, please make sure that lunches are healthy and contain either



Dates for your Diary!



Author-Liz Million in school all day	Tuesday 25th February
Parent's Evening	Tuesday 3rd March
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 4th March
First Reconciliation Service	Tuesday 3rd March
Class 2 assembly	Friday 6th March at 2 45pm—all welcome
Whole school Mass led by Class 1	Thursday 19th March 9 15am
Class 3 Liturgy	Tuesday 24th March-9 10am -all welcome
Whole school Mass	Thursday 2nd April 9 15am
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

Please keep checking our school website on

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