

Dear parents,

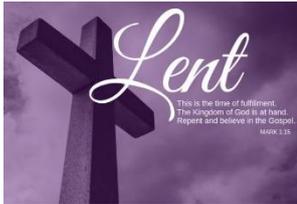
We are fast approaching the Easter break and I would like to thank you for your continued support of our school. It is especially wonderful to see so many welcome parents in school for assemblies, Masses and parent workshops.

Our Values this half term

Our values this half-term are Faith-filled and Hopeful. Faith filled – learning to keep our faith and trust in God almighty even when things are difficult, or we are challenged.

Hopeful – keeping our faith and believing in hope – the hope and trust that our prayers are heard, God knows us, loves us, hears us, and helps us. Having hope in our faith in Lord Jesus Christ

The Holy Season of LENT



During this season of Lent we are reminded of the time Jesus spent in the desert being tempted to make wrong choices and turn away from God the Father. Jesus kept his faith, stayed strong and did not give into temptation. He did this for 40 days and 40 nights. In solidarity with Christ we are asked to pray, fast and give alms during Lent and there have been opportunities for the children to do this in school throughout Lent including a series of special assemblies culminating with the Stations of the Cross. Throughout Lent the

children also have the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross both in extra assemblies and in their own classrooms.

Good Shepherd Appeal

We have always had very good links with the Good Shepherd Appeal in Wolverhampton, and they are so very grateful for our donations of food and toiletries during Lent and Advent. To continue to support the Good Shepherd Friday **15th March will be a non-uniform day** and we are asking, if you can, to donate a tin of food or anything you can in support of the Appeal. Thank you so much.

CAFOD's BIG Lent Walk



Thank you so much for your generous donations on CAFOD's Lent Fast Day. On the day during Merit, Prayer and Liturgy we looked at how our donations are used to support our brothers and sisters around the world.

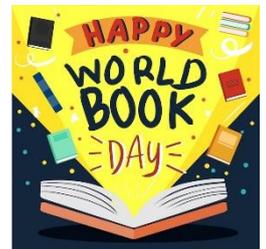
The children will be taking part in CAFOD's BIG Lent Walk sponsored event on Thursday 21st March. Please complete the sponsor forms and make any donation you can to help us answer Pope Francis' call to support our brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you.

St Joseph's Pantry

You may have noticed St Joseph's Pantry at the front of our school. Our Mission Team have filled the pantry with a range of food and drink items which are there if you need them, no questions asked. As the slogan says, donate if you can – take if you need.

World Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday 7th March. Children are welcome to come to school dressed in costume, or if they prefer, some comfy clothes in which to share and re4ad stories together during the day. This is a non-uniform day.



Mission Awards

If children would like to apply for our school's Mission Awards, please help and encourage them to complete the form for their year group which demonstrates how they live out the Mission of our school both in school and out! Application forms will be sent home soon and the deadline to return these is Tuesday 19th March.



Safeguarding

If you are worried about the safety of your child or any child in our school, please speak to one of our safeguarding leaders immediately. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is me, Mrs Chapman and the Deputy DSLs are Mrs Cheema, Mrs Buckley and Mrs Hickman.

Help is available

I'm sure everyone is aware of the rising cost of living and the impact that this is having on all of us. From increases in petrol prices, gas and electricity along with increases in food prices. If you find yourself in need of some extra support, due to rising costs or a change in your personal circumstances, please pop in for a chat to let us know as we might be able to help. We have lots of links with outside agencies and can offer support to families in need – please don't suffer or worry in silence – we are here to help.

**IT'S OK
TO ASK
FOR
HELP**

Ace Attendance

Our Ace Attendance initiative began on Monday 19th February!

All you have to do is get your child / children to school on time for a week to get a place in the draw that takes place each half term! You get an entry for each child so if you have three children who are on time for school for a week you get three entries into the draw.

At the end of each half term a winner will be drawn, and the parent will win a £50 voucher and the child a £10 voucher!

**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS.**
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

How does occasional absence affect my child?

Missing occasional days from school may seem unimportant at the time; however, this can have a significant impact on your child in the long term:

% of attendance in a school year	Number of days absent	Weeks missed
98%	4	Less than 1 week
95%	9.5	Nearly 2 weeks
90%	19	Nearly 4 weeks
85%	28.5	Nearly 6 weeks

A pupil with 85% attendance is missing nearly half a term of learning time each school year.

Regular absences can result in poorer outcomes over time. Research shows that pupils who miss between 10% and 20% of school (which is between half and one day per week on average) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.

Late arrivals also add up over time – being 10 minutes late each day adds up to two weeks of lost learning time over the whole school year.



Behaviour – The St Joseph's Way



Our Behaviour Curriculum – The St Joseph's Way – can be viewed on our website and outlines all of our behaviour principals and how we teach these to children. This has been shared with all of the children collectively and in each class by the class teacher. With the older children (Years 5 and 6) the behaviour principals will help them in their transition to secondary school, especially if they are moving to a secondary school within our MAC, because as a group of schools we have worked on common themes. We have been talking to the children about the link between behaviour and our values, e.g. telling the truth and not changing the version of events when talking to different staff in school and then at home, along with Catholic Social Teachings where we have to respect the rights of everyone by following the rules and taking responsibility for our own actions and behaviour. We are also working with children to help them understand that following rules is something we all have to do, as children and as adults as rules are made to keep everyone safe and happy.

Staying Safe Online

Staying safe online, keeping children safe online and keeping safe from online hoaxes can be very difficult. The NSPCC provides excellent information and resources for parents along with guides on how create parental controls.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Pupil Premium – you can help us access precious extra funding – very easily!



Please apply for free school meals if you are on a low income and / or receive benefits. As well as receiving a free school meal or sandwich every day (if you choose to take it), you will generate significant funding for our school for many years to come – funding that is all spent on better provision for the children.

Please visit <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/> for full details and to apply instantly online.

Ofsted Parent View

Parent View is used by both Ofsted and the school to monitor and respond to the thoughts and opinions of parents. Ofsted use Parent View to inform their evaluation of the school, and school leaders use it to plan for improvements and to check that parents are happy with what is provided at the school.

It's really important we have as many reviews on Parent View as possible. **All we ever ask is that if you are not happy with something you let us know first so we have the chance to put it right.** Equally, if you are happy with what the school provides – it would be much appreciated if you could tell us and Ofsted by submitting a review!

Please go to www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk and leave your review – we are very grateful for your support.



Mini Reports – out on Monday 18th March

We will be sending out a mini report to keep you up to date with your child's achievement and progress at school. We send out mini reports in between parent's evenings and the full written report at the end of the year. There will be a parents' evening and a full written report in July – the mini report is designed to keep you informed in-between. Don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you need to discuss anything with them – **you never have to wait for parents' evening!**

Events in school

Please find attached a list of dates for the term ahead. Class teachers will also be letting you know dates for Parent Workshops where you have the opportunity to come into school and take part in a lesson with your child – the focus this term is English.

Don't forget that we have Mass in school every Tuesday at 9.15am and Merit. Prayer and Liturgy each Friday at 9.15am too where everyone is welcome to join us.



Keep in touch

Your satisfaction with our school and the happiness, safety and academic progress of your child are the reasons we are all here.

Trinity Club

Our Trinity Club continues to prove very popular with parents as it's an opportunity to get help, advice and support on a range of topics. The next meeting takes place on Thursday 7th March at 9.15am where the focus will be online safety. Please join us if you can – tea, coffee and toast are provided!

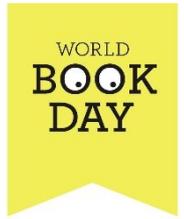


If you have any concerns or worries, no matter how small, please let us know so we can do everything we can to make things better and resolve your concerns.

There is always a senior teacher on duty at the school during school hours and there is always someone who can help.

Never hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs S Chapman
Principal



- Tuesday 27th February – Year 4's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Friday 1st March – Year 6's Assembly – 9.15, please join us if you can.
- Monday 4th March – RISE Theatre in school all day to work with all children.
- Tuesday 5th March – Year 3's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Thursday 7th March – Trinity Club for parents at 9.15am and World Book Day

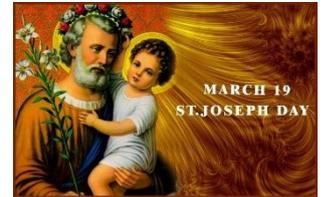
- Friday 8th March – Reception's Assembly – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Monday 11th March – Science Fair in school – details to follow!
- Tuesday 12th March – Year 2's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Thursday 14th March – Year 3 FHC Parents meeting at 2pm.
- Friday 15th March – B-Tales in school to share their Easter Production.
- Friday 15th March – Non-uniform day, donate to the Good Shepherd Appeal if you can.



- Monday 18th March – Mini Reports to go home to parents.
- Monday 18th March – Year 3 Palm Sunday Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Monday 18th March – Lenten Service in Church at 5pm.
- Tuesday 19th March – Year 1's Mass – 9.15am, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 19th March – Year 4's Last Supper Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Tuesday 19th March – Mission Award Deadline.



- Tuesday 19th March – ST JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY!
- Wednesday 20th March – Whole School Lent Retreat.
- Thursday 21st March – Year 5's Agony in the Garden Liturgy 2.30pm, please join us if you can.
- Thursday 21st March – The BIG Lent Walk.
- Friday 22nd March – Year 6's Stations of the Cross Liturgy 2.15pm, please join us if you can.



FRIDAY 22nd MARCH 3.15pm SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR THE EASTER BREAK.

HAPPY EASTER