



Newsletter: Monday 28th February 2022
Next newsletter: Monday 7th March 2022

Lent



Lent begins on Wednesday 2nd March, it is a special time in the Catholic Church calendar. The forty-day liturgical season is often a time of fasting, special prayer and almsgiving in preparation for Easter.

Lent allows us to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline. Some people will give things up for Lent; some Catholics do not eat cakes, sweets or chocolate. Others will do something extra either to help others to they might say additional prayers.

To mark the beginning of Lent, the children in KS2 will take part in a service on Ash Wednesday. As part of their witness to this special time, the sign of the cross is drawn on their forehead with a thumb that has been dipped in anointed ashes. Please note that the menu has also changed for this day as part of the Catholic tradition is to abstain from eating meat.

The reason Catholics do not eat meat on Ash Wednesday and on the Fridays of Lent is because abstaining from meat or fasting from food in general is a form of sacrifice. This reminds Catholics of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross on Good Friday. No one expects children to fast, but we shall be adhering to not serving meat on these days/



ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC



The Royal Academy of Music

As you may know, we have entered into a new collaboration with The Royal Academy of Music. Our Reception class children have been receiving weekly lessons from Fellows of the Academy and will do so for the remainder of the academic year. In time, all the children in Reception Class will then move on to learning a string instrument, which again, will be taught by the team from the Royal Academy of Music. This is part of a new initiative from them as part of their Widening Participation Programme. The parents of the children in Reception Class will be invited to a short recital in the coming weeks, as well as the opportunity to visit the Royal Academy itself, which is situated on Marylebone Road.

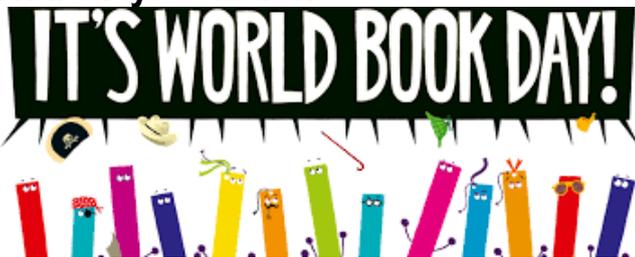




Wednesday 2nd March

Please make sure you have returned the appointment slip for the Spring Term Parents' Evening. It is very important that you make the effort to attend; it gives you a chance to discuss how your child is doing in class and in school generally with their teachers.

Thursday 3rd March



Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day. **Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.** Please make sure your child brings the book that features this character with them to school on the day as well, so that they can share it with their fellow students and teachers.



Year 4 Swimming and the National Curriculum

Since 1994, swimming and water safety has been a statutory element of the National Curriculum for Physical Education in England. This means that every child should leave primary school with the skills to keep themselves safe while enjoying swimming with friends and family.

Each pupil is required to take part. If your child is not well enough to participate in swimming lessons then you will need to collect your child from school on Wednesdays at 1pm.

Please help your child to be responsible for remembering their own swimming kit every Wednesday.

KS1 Assembly

Kindness



Last week our children in KS1 focused on 'Kindness' during their assembly. The children talked about kind people that they know, how people show kindness and how it feels when someone is kind to you.

**"Let us learn to live with kindness,
to love everyone,
even when they do not love us."
Pope Francis**

The children discussed how they could show kindness to each other over the coming weeks. Perhaps by being generous, or trying to be compassionate and patient with others; or by praying a blessing on people around us – even those who aren't very friendly.

**Dear Lord Jesus,
please give us the strength to be kind to
everyone we meet,
even those who we find difficult. Amen**



Please support your children in their efforts to be kind to others, perhaps ask them about their acts of kindness or show them other ways they can be kind.