

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we've made it to half term – and half way through the school year! It's only been a short term, but I think staff and children alike are really ready for the break – and looking forward to lighter evenings when we come back after the holiday.

It was great to see so many of you at our Parents' Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday – I hope you found them useful. Thank you to all of the staff for their time and preparation for this event.

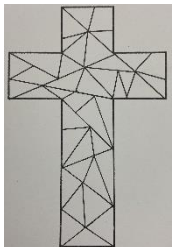
This week, our Year 2 children had a super Great Fire of London drama day, as part of their learning in history. They even had a visit from Samuel Pepys and his maid! Arya in 2NW writes: 'I loved pouring things when I was acting in the inn. It was also fun when we had to pretend to escape the fire in a small boat'. Max 2ML writes: 'I loved dressing up and I enjoyed the show, especially when they got me to smell the plant that they used to stop themselves getting the plague!'

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr Sparks took a team of children from Year 5 & 6 to a netball tournament at Bournemouth School for Girls. Chloe E writes: 'I really enjoyed playing with other people from different schools. It was really fun!' Chloe H writes: 'I had lots of fun because I enjoyed playing against the other schools. We worked really well together as a team.'

The 40 days of Lent starts on the day after Ash Wednesday – Thursday 15th February. This morning, the Year 5 and 6 Chaplaincy Team led our assembly, and explained to every one the activities we will be doing during Lent to help others, and to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter. To help people in the wider world, we are going to take part in the CAFOD Big Lent Walk – we are sending out a separate letter and a sponsor form about that today. We will be doing the walk in school, and will confirm the date of that after the holiday. Please help your child to get some sponsors so that we can raise as much as possible to help others!



To help in our local community, we will be having a Food Bank collection throughout Lent. After the holiday, we will give each child a 'donation date' – like we did at Advent. They can bring in their donation on that day, and build up the collection in each class.



We have also sent home a cross, which is divided up into 40 sections.

Each day, encourage your child to do something to help others, or give something up. Each day that they do this, they can colour in one section of the cross. By Easter, every section should be coloured in, and your child can bring their card back into school, so we can put them on display and see how we have all prepared ourselves for Easter.

RE Learning

After half term, our learning in RE will focus on Lent. The children will learn about Lent as a time of seeking forgiveness and doing penance. The children will be introduced to different ways of getting ready through the example and teaching of Jesus and by being open to change. Parables will be used to reinforce these themes such as the lost sheep, the unforgiving servant, the rich man and Lazarus and the real account of the

Samaritan woman at the well. The children will develop and explore how prayer, fasting, almsgiving and living out the Beatitudes help us prepare for Easter. The children will discuss and comment on the Temptation of Jesus and the symbolism used in Lent.

NSPCC Number Day

We hope your child enjoyed maths & number day last Friday! We saw lots of number related outfits – some were very creative! We raised £182.50 for the NSPCC, thank you for your support.

World Book Day

Just a reminder that we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday, 7th March and your child is invited to come into school dressed as a book character – giving you plenty of warning in case you want to get creative over the half term break!

Choir news

There is no choir on Friday 23rd February – it will start again the following week.

Hot meals

The deadline for ordering hot school meals for the first week back has now passed – so if you have not ordered, please ensure your child has a packed lunch.

Parenting Course

We've had a great response to our proposal of running a Parenting course here at the school, with the support and input of the Early Help team. We are still reviewing the level of interest, so that we can see if this is viable. We would really appreciate it if you could complete this form, <https://forms.office.com/e/dzKRHWZhtp> indicating if this is something that might be of interest to you. You are also more than welcome to get in touch with Mrs Symes if you would like to discuss your interest further. Many thanks.

School Councillors:

Well done and thank you to our School Councillors who have served us for the first half of the year: 1JC: William, 1WH: Edie; 2ML: Darcey; 2NW: Connie; 3BM: Lara; 3NL: Lenna; 4CY: Noah; 4CR: Samuel; 5RD: Antoni; 5RH: Lila; 6PM: Evie; 6KB: Emilie.

Well done to all our Stars of the week:

Super Role Model:

RP:Hudson, RJ:Gabriella; 1JC:Finley; 1WH:Rio; 2NW:Joshy; 2ML:Sebastian; 3BM:Zak; 3NL:Elisha; 4CY:Ruben; 4CR: Cillian; 5JC:Sam; 5RH:Tom; 6KB: Noah; 6PM: Max.

Learning Champion:

RP: Ethan; RJ:Maja; 1JC:Conor; 1WH:Luca; 2NW:Franklin; 2ML:Ariana; 3BM:Lara; 3NL:Ralph; 4CY:Amaya; 4CR:Hilina; 5JC:Valentina; 5RH: Kuba; 6KB:Amelia; 6PM: Rocco.

Dates for your diary:

Mon 19 th Feb	8.40am	Children start back after the half term break
Mon 19 th Feb	Pm	Year 6 Swimming Lessons Start
Mon 26 th Feb	2.15pm	1JC Liturgy – <i>parents & carers welcome</i>
Tues 27 th Feb	2.15pm	1WH Liturgy – <i>parents & carers welcome</i>
Thurs 7 th March	All day	World Book Day

Wishing you a lovely half term break with your family,

Veronica Woodward

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