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19th February 2024

Dear parent / guardian,

Good Shepherd Appeal fundraising challenges!

During this Lenten season, we are reminded of three key elements of what this journey of preparational 40 days are all about...

Prayer

fasting

almsgiving

As in previous years, each week classes take turns to host almsgiving (fundraising activities). For example if your child's class are hosting a bun sale, please support by sending cake donations into school and if your child is not in the class of the bun sale, please send your child with money to purchase the cake.

Almsgiving will take place as follows:

Week 1: Friday 23rd February ~ Nursery, Reception & Year 1 bun sale (50p a bun)

Week 2: Week of 26th February ~ Year 2: Guess the name of the teddy

Week 3: Week of 5th March ~ Year 5: smartie tube challenge (see page 5 below)

Week 4: Friday 15th March ~ whole school non-uniform: day of fasting (see page 4)

Week 5: Week of 18th March ~ Year 6: guess the number of sweets in a jar

Week 6: Week of 25th March ~ Years 3/4: Chocolate raffle (raffle ticket sale)

Throughout lent our Chaplaincy team will be running a photo challenge as detailed on page 3.

Monies collected are in aid of the Good Shepherd Appeal. This money is used by our Bishop, Bishop Marcus to support local charities within the Diocese of Leeds.

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Lenten reflection:

“Well, now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation.”

2 Corinthians 6:2

It can be all too easy to put things off. To think about doing something in an hour, a day, a week, at any more convenient time. But as St Paul reminded the Corinthians, now is the favourable time.

Lent is upon us once again and there is no time like the present. This is the season when we are called to take stock of our lives, to renew our relationship with God and with one another.

It is a time to repent, to seek forgiveness, knowing that God is “all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness and ready to relent.” It is a time to pray, to fast and to share what we have with others.

So, let us commit to not putting off until tomorrow what we can do today. Let us approach this Lenten season filled with the joy of God’s help, and open our hearts to be transformed in prayer and reflection, inspired by the stories we will read and the actions we choose to take.

Prayer

Lord, you are rich in mercy and you call us back to you. Open our hearts as we seek this Lent to draw closer to you. Fill us with your love and lead us in turn to act with love towards all our sisters and brothers. Amen.

Lenten travelling prayer boxes will be coming home for 1 night, for you to share a moment of quiet reflection as a family for the evening. The boxes contain items of support the prayer time together.

I often feel that we as Christians, prepare for Advent so well but do not always give Lent our full attention and yet the events of Holy Week are equally, if not more, important than Advent. We hope that you our preparations together will provide the mindful thinking and build in time for reflection.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Gibbons

Headteacher

Miss Goodall

Religious Education Leader

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Chaplaincy Team Lent Fundraising

Lent Through A Lens competition



Lent is a time to look carefully, so we can repent and change for the better. Looking carefully can also help us to appreciate things more.

Why not practise by getting involved in the 'Lent Through A Lens' Competition!

To take part, you will need to take a photograph of what Lent means to you. Look out for something that best represents Lent. It may help you to make a list of all the things that come to mind when you think of Lent.

Remember that Lent is the old word for Spring, so you could also think of Spring images e.g. snowdrops, buds on trees, chicks, lambs.

Once you have taken your photograph, please hand it in to Mrs Pearson along with 50 pence.

The photograph can just be printed on paper. If you can not print it off at home, please email it to the school office so they can send it on to the Chaplaincy Team.

Make sure you include your name and class on the back of the photograph.

You have until Wednesday 27th March to enter the competition.

The Chaplaincy team will pick their favourite photographs on Thursday 28th March and the top three winners will each win an Easter egg! Good luck!

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Day of fasting

During Lent, we often make promises to sacrifice eating something that we enjoy, to remind us of the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

However, there was 40 days when Jesus was in the wilderness without food before his ultimate sacrifice for us all. We will be remembering Jesus' final weeks in the build up to Holy Week by having a school fasting day.

What will this look like?

Our Mini Vinnies are planning to take over lunchtime by encouraging as many members of our School community to have soup and bread for their lunchtime meal. This will take place on Friday 15th March. If your child is to take part, 4/5 of their dinner money on this day will go to our fundraising appeal.

We understand that for some children this may not be possible, so we are also having a non-uniform day (£1 donation) on this day too, to allow everyone to be involved in our special day of fasting.

More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your kindness and understanding,

Minni Vinnies

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Good Shepherd Appeal Year 5 fundraising challenge!

This year, during Lent, we are once again collecting money for the Good Shepherd Appeal. Our class challenge is the 'smartie tube challenge'!

To take part in the challenge, all you need to do is:

1. Purchase a tube of Smarties – available in school for a £1 donation to the Good Shepherd appeal.
2. Eat the Smarties – but you need the empty tube!
3. Collect spare change or parts of your pocket money during Lent.

Most importantly...

4. Return the tube **filled with coins** to school by Thursday 28th March.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity,

Mrs Pearson, Mrs Fedzin & Year 5 children

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