



**Parents' Update: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**

Dear Parents

**FOR TRUE HUMAN FRATERNITY**

Pope Francis entrusts his Worldwide Prayer Network each month with prayer intentions that express his great concern for humanity and for the mission of the Church. His monthly prayer intention is a worldwide call to transform our prayer into specific actions; it is a compass for a mission of compassion for the world.

**We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.**

As we enter the last two weeks of Lent and begin to reflect more closely upon the final days and hours of Jesus, it is good that the space and time of an Easter break can help us in this reflection. Yesterday morning children from across the school led us in our commemoration of the Stations of the Cross. It was a beautiful event with reflections and prayers that mirrored the events of Christ's passion with the challenges that we face in our lives. The children joined in with prayers after each station and we also sang "Were you there when they crucified my Lord", "Jesus, Remember Me" and began the service with "Come to Feast of Heaven and Earth". The children's contributions were uplifting.

This morning we held our end of term celebration assembly. It was wonderful to see children receiving awards from their class teachers, but also other items to be thankful for. There was great creativity in both the Easter Egg and the Easter Plate competitions which made things very challenging for our prayer leaders in making the judgements. The winners are:

| Year group           | Easter Egg                                   | Easter Plate |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Early Years</b>   | 1. Aaren<br>2. Michaela<br>3. Ariana         | Seth         |
| <b>Years 1 and 2</b> | 1. Kane<br>2. Leila<br>3. Jethro             | Princessa    |
| <b>Years 3 and 4</b> | 1. Jensen<br>2. Evie<br>3. Anastasia (Y3)    | Francesca    |
| <b>Years 5 and 6</b> | 1. Michelle<br>2. Charena<br>3. Tosia/Shilan | Zoe          |



We also congratulated all of the Year 6 children who have attended the Shine Saturday school as they had taken part in a mini Olympics.



### Events in Ukraine

Our remaining donations have been sent off to Eastern Europe now and we also welcomed some gifts from the children of Cricket Green special school who came to deliver their items earlier this week. You have provided a phenomenal response to our appeal and I am certain that many people will benefit from your generosity.



### Catholic Ethos Matters

The Mark 10 Mission may help you to reflect with your children upon the Gospel message for this coming weekend:

Year 3 – Year 6

Early Years – Year 2

Please find the links to this week's Wednesday Word which covers the Sundays up until the end of April. You can make use of this to help children to reflect on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

We have had a very productive Lenten season in regards to almsgiving. I offer my thanks to all of you who donated to our charitable causes. Not only have you generated many donations to be sent to the people of Ukraine, but the fundraising from year groups and whole school events has produced just under £900 for Cafod! You are superstars!!

### Staffing

After Easter, Mrs Bermingham will take over as the substantive teacher for St Clare class. This will enable the children to make good progress during the summer term in readiness for their transition to Year 3 between July and September. We will be making sure that the leadership for children with special educational needs continues and I am currently working with the local authority's team in managing this.

### School Uniform

As the summer term is arriving shortly, we will be moving into the use of summer uniform. For many children there will not be a change, but you have the option of culottes as an alternative dress option for the warmer weather. Last summer, some children found this more comfortable and dignifying than wearing a skirt.

### Dropping off and Picking Up

Please can I remind parents that they should not be talking on their mobile phones when dropping off or collecting children – this is a crucial time for children in the “letting go” and the reuniting process: a time when they really need their parents' attentions. Furthermore, please can parents arrive at school on time as it is disruptive for the school and moreso for the children when they are late.

### Park Run

Many adults undertake park runs each Saturday morning, as it is a great way to keep fit, but did you know that there is a local park run for children between the ages of 4 and 14. Please click on the link for further details: <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/figgesmarsh-juniors/>.



### **Birthday treats**

As a reminder, this is a section from a message that we sent out to parents back in October. We have been continuing to work on our approaches to reading and really need your further help in promoting reading for the children here at the school

“Often parents ask us if they are allowed to bring sweet treats into school to celebrate their child’s birthday. This can cause issues as we have children with allergies and some who are not allowed to eat certain types of food. In place of sharing edible treats, we would like to suggest that you give a ‘Birthday Book’ for your child to present to their class on their birthday.

We will put a book plate into the book to mark the occasion, and share the book with your child’s class to celebrate their birthday. The books will be kept in your child’s current class and will provide a long-lasting memory of their birthday. We know your children will enjoy sharing each other’s birthday books and will treat them as a very special gift.

Please note, books do not have to be expensive/ brand new. Of course, this initiative is entirely optional- something you may like to do to mark your child’s birthday as well as supporting the children with their reading.”

### **A Prayer for Holy Week and Easter**

(adapted from Cafod)

Jesus, walk with us  
as we take the journey through Holy Week to the joy of Easter  
May we feel the comfort of your love for us,  
and may we turn outwards to share that love with others,  
with the same generosity and gentle loving kindness that you showed to all.

Do keep following our photographs on Instagram.

Wishing you well for the last two weeks of lent, for Holy Week and for Easter.  
We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**David Hennessey**  
**Headteacher**