



Dear parents/ carers

Welcome back to the new half term!

It's a very short one – but – as ever – will be jam packed!

Lent:

We have now entered the period of Lent and during this time Catholics are asked to do the following:

Fast, Pray and Give Alms.



Fasting is where you give something up for the period – sometimes (those with strong willpower) children give up things they love – such as sweets, chocolate or crisps

Pray – pray more and spend some more time thinking of the needs of others and asking for help for them

Give alms – give to those less fortunate.

Over the period of lent we will, again, be taking part in the Big Lent Walk. Ex Head of School and current Cafod Volunteer Jon Grattidge will be at school next week on Tuesday to launch this year's Big Lent Walk..... details to follow after the launch!!

World Book Day:

It's World Book Day on Thursday next week – 5th March. To mark this we will:

- Have a pyjama day at school – come in wearing your PJ's and dressing gowns and slippers – ready for bedtime stories.... (make sure this are appropriate and suitable for outside play!!)
- An opening of the day assembly
- Move into other classes for stories
- Write stories with word limits to promote exciting vocabulary
- Create artwork for a book cover
- Themed school dinner day



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For I know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future – Jeremiah 29:11



And – I am very excited to say we have a visit from a local author who will spend some time in school – and will be selling copies of her book (further details to follow on this). The author is Sue Law and she is a teacher at St Thomas CVA in Ilkeston – some information about her book – and it's inspiration – is [here](#). I worked with Sue for many years at St Thomas' and – whilst I may be a bit biased – I think the book – and it's theme of true power coming from doing good – is wonderful.



Survey:

Last year we completed a short parental survey to gain the views of parents about the school.

After a year where there have been many changes (which I hope you think are positive) it is the right time to repeat this.

The questions are very similar.

There is an additional section at the end about the school's Mission and Values. I would really appreciate parent's views on this too.

The survey shouldn't take too long to complete and will really help us make St John Fisher the best school it can be.

The link to complete it is [here](#)

PE Kits:

Children should have their PE kits in school every day. There were too many children this week in school without kits – please make sure they have them next week!

Free school dinners:

Might you be eligible? While children in Years R-2 get their dinners free every day anyway – school does get extra funding for children who are eligible – details [here](#) if you think that might be you! (Or speak to Miss Willmott in the office)

There will be changes to eligibility in the next school year – I will communicate more on this when details on how to apply if you will now be eligible when we have them.

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Sacramental Preparation:

Fr Mark has confirmed that First Holy Communion this year at church will be on Sunday 24th May at 2pm (Pentecost)

Preparation will begin after Easter, and the forms will be available at church the week before Easter

(I will try to get some at school too and let you know when you can collect them)

Confirmation classes – for Year 6 and above - will begin on Saturday 23rd June at English Martyrs Church from 10.30 am. The Bishop will preside at the Confirmation on 12th July at the 11 am Mass.

Big Dig:



We are still looking to develop school lunchtimes – to help this we need somewhere to store all the new extra play equipment. To prepare for a big new shed – can you help? Saturday 14th March... Remember – many hands make light work.....

Best wishes

Graham Lobb

Headteacher

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March:

- Monday 2nd - Parent's Evening
- Tuesday 3rd - Parent's Evening
- Wednesday 4th - Year 4 Celebration of the Word (9:15am - preceded by Y4 breakfast at 8:30am)
- Thursday 5th - World Book Day
- Wednesday 11th - Year 3 Retreat Day
- Saturday 14th - PTFA Big Dig
- Wednesday 18th - Year 3 Celebration of the Word (9:15am - preceded by Y3 breakfast at 8:30am)
- Thursday 19th - Mass at English Martyrs Church (11am)
- Friday 20th - World Poetry Day Celebration of the Word (preceded by Poetry breakfast)
- Friday 27th - Easter Celebration of the Word (2pm)
- Break up for Easter holiday