



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please find below information which I hope you find useful.

Lent

As you will be aware we are in the liturgical season of Lent.



LENT

Within the season of Lent we are invited to do 3 things: pray, fast and give alms. In relation to these 3 things I would like to share with you what we plan to do as a school to develop in our Faith and Learning within St. Mary's.

Prayer

Unfortunately we can not congregated in the Church as we normally would during the season of Lent when we would have the opportunity to attend Mass in the morning before school and pray as part of St Mary's community. Maybe the children could try and say their own morning prayer before coming to school. Within the class and in assemblies we will be reflecting on the meaning of Lent and how we can develop spiritually within this season.

Fasting

We are asked to abstain from unnecessary foods during Lent. Some children may give up sweets, chocolates, fizzy juice etc. This may mean they can use the money they would normally spend on such things to help others, which can link to the 3rd aspect of Lent, almsgiving.

Almsgiving

During Lent we try and focus on people who are less fortunate than ourselves and possibly donate to support people in need. As a school we have decided that our main focus for our fundraising activities during Lent will be MISSIO and Let the Children Live. To raise funds for these charities there will be a tombola, ongoing throughout this season, and a dress down day on Thursday the 1st April, details will follow. To support no cash payments an online lpayment account will be available and there will also be collection boxes in the school if children would like to donate at other times during Lent - perhaps the money they would normally spend on the unnecessary foods mentioned above. We will collect all the money in and then split it between both charities and send a cheque to them when Lent is finished.

Thank you in advance for your support in our development of Faith and Learning within St. Mary's Primary School.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Francis McIntyre (Headteacher)



P7 Transition



This year, as you will be aware, the restriction due to Coronavirus has had an impact on the P7 Transition programme. However as a part of the Taylor High Cluster we are trying to support the children as much as we can. Planned activities will be:

- 'Meet The Teacher event for children' to meet Mr McQuaid (DHT responsible for transition) and Mrs Connell (PT pupil support)
- Parent Information Evening (Virtual Meeting)
- Cluster Mass
- Pupil Induction Day

Dates and links for these activities will be shared in due course.

St Andrew's Hospice

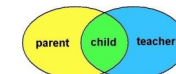
We have received a letter of thanks from St Andrew's hospice for the fantastic amount of £372.15 we raised in support of their Christmas Appeal. Louise O'Donnell (deputy head of fundraising) writes, 'The support we receive is very important to us ... Many thanks for your support which is greatly appreciated.'

Financial Inclusion Team

If you are worried about debt or experiencing financial difficulties, particularly if Covid 19 has effected you, NLC have advisers who can provide free, impartial and confidential advice. You can self refer or contact me and I can support your referral. More details are available at <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/money-advice>

Parent's Evening

As a result of the current restrictions, once again, we will not be able to have a face to face Parent's Evening. The Parent's evening will take place via telephone call (the same way we did in October) on week beginning 29th March. You will receive a letter inviting you to choose an appropriate time. Please return this letter to the school by Monday 22nd March to allow us to organise suitable times.




Sacraments

This year we will celebrate 3 Sacraments. Due to places of worship being able to open from March 26th, we are now in a position to set dates to celebrate these Sacraments. The dates for each Sacrament is as follows: First Reconciliation Friday 7th May (11.15 am) First Communion Saturday 5th June (2 Masses 11 am and 1 pm) Confirmation Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June (both 7pm)



Please keep all the children who are preparing for these Sacraments and their families in your prayers.

Dates for your Diary

15th March	P4 to 7 pupils return to school	
Week beginning 29th March	Parents' Evening	
1st April	Dress Down Day	
1st April	School Closes at 2:30 pm	
19th April	School Returns	