



*"With Christ as our guide we let our light shine."*

### *A Message from Mrs. Blincow...*

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely week and have managed to dodge the rain and wind?

Next Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent. As we have been learning about the Virtue of Simplicity, we have also been thinking about the Lenten Promises we will make, which will help us prepare our hearts and minds for this special Liturgical Season in the Church's calendar, and we were reminded that,

*"You know what really matters in your life. You live simply and don't look out for the next thing to buy or follow. You are not afraid to live with less things. Little by little you realise that you don't need many things to live a happy life. Living simply gives you time to think of others, do good and care for creation. Living simply helps you put more trust in God."*

May the Lenten Promises we make, help us all to live a little more 'simply'.

*Have a lovely weekend*  
*Mrs Blincow*



## Catholic Life and Mission At St. Mary's



Throughout this term, the children have been able to participate in many prayer opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom, making regular planned visits to pray in the 'Marian Room', with our chaplain, as well as joining her for morning prayer, which is led by members of the Mission Team. Parents meet with our chaplain on a Friday morning, where they have 'Tea and Chat', while our Prayer Garden has had a 'make-over' and is open for all to use. Staff too have regular 'Reflection' in the Marian Room with our Chaplain, time to pause before the start of a busy day, while our Peacemaker Group, have had a tremendous impact on the Catholic Life of the school, through various actions and activities, guided by Mrs. Yuen. Our pastoral work for the vulnerable continues too, with food, uniform and book donations just the tip of the iceberg.

## Term Dates

**Term Begins**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Ash Wednesday**

**Start of Lent**

14<sup>th</sup> February

**Half Term**

19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Parents Evening**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday

14<sup>th</sup> March

**Term Ends**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March (3.15PM)

**New Term Begins**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

## Atlas Work In Year 2



The children in Year 2 have been reading a book about a little girl who goes to Gambia to meet family she has never been seen to before. In their lesson the children were asked to find Gambia on a map and then find out information about it. This led to a discussion about whether any of the children had connections African countries and where else in the world the children came from. They discovered that we have a very diverse school but were glad we were all part of the family of St. Mary's.

## Joseph – A Story of Things To Come ?



With the story of Joseph and his brothers finally at an end, Rev. Roger drew parallels with the story of Jesus. The flight into Egypt, the feeding of many people, the temptation and betrayal of both, and while Joseph was left for dead and 'reappeared' 17 years later, to save a nation, Jesus was crucified and rose again to save us all. And all God's will, for the greater good. Re. Roger certainly left us with a lot to think about.

## Recorder Razzamatazz



As part of their music lessons, the children of Year 5 have been learning to play the recorder. This week, Mrs. Bincow dropped by as they were rehearsing for their final performance and what a fantastic sound they produced. Well done everyone.

## Thank You

Anna, from the McCarthy-Dixon Foundation, joined us this week to tell us a little bit about the charity's work and to give us our official 'partnership' certificate. We look forward continuing to support this good cause, helping us to support those in need in our society.



## Aspiration-Resilience-Awareness-Compassion

