



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Start of term letter

Lent term 2
1st March 2024

Dear Parents, Children and Carers,

I hope you have all enjoyed your half term break and are well rested and ready for another busy and eventful half term ahead.

As we journey together during Lent, I share with you the words of Pope Francis in his Lenten message 2024, which this year takes as its theme these words from the book of Exodus:

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20:2).

The Holy Father reflects on the freedom God wants to bring each of us. He writes:



"It is time to act, and in Lent, *to act also means to pause*. To pause *in prayer*, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan *in the presence of a wounded brother or sister*. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love.... For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us."

Throughout the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our prayer life and is a time to fast from those things or habits that may have become a roadblock to our relationship with Christ. As part of our alms giving, St Mary's will be participating in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk Campaign.

Lent Activities 2024

This Lent we are supporting CAFOD and joining other schools around the country to help fight global poverty. Around the world, 200 million children are at risk of malnutrition. By challenging ourselves to walk and get sponsored, we will be helping children to grow big and strong. Please do have a look at the CAFOD website for details of this National campaign at <https://cafod.org.uk>

Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.



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

This year, CAFOD's [Lent Appeal](#) is helping fishing communities feed their families in Liberia. With your support, together we will change lives. More details of how to make a contribution will follow soon.

Growing closer to God through Prayer

Throughout the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our prayer life. During this time each class will have a special Lent prayer bag that the children will take in turns to take home. Guidance on how to use the prayer bag will be included. Please look out for this and encourage your child to take special care of it, while in their care.



Important dates to Note:

Friday 22nd March – The Lent Walk. The children will walk laps of the field. Our target distance together is 200km. Please support us in this challenge by donating via our CAFOD page



Monday 25th March – Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 26th March – “Here comes Jesus” - a passion play led by year 4

Wednesday 27th March - Afternoon tea for parents and grandparents in support of our Lenten Campaign (more details to follow)

Thursday 28th March – Maundy Thursday Reflections

World Book Day Vouchers Thank you for your support celebrating **World Book Day** Each child will have already received their £1 book voucher to exchange for a book. Please do use these. This year there is a fantastic selection of brand new and exclusive £1 books for 2024 that children and young people can get for FREE with their £1 token. **We want every child and young person to believe they are readers** and to give them the opportunity to have a book of their own that they have chosen for themselves.



The amount a child reads is the biggest factor affecting their academic success!

We really appreciate your support and hope that everyone has fun helping us raise money for CAFOD. Together, we look forward to growing in our faith closer to God during this Lenten Season.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs K. Yuen, Executive Headteacher

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