

# STMS newsletter 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents

I trust you all had a good half term. The children seem to have returned full of energy. Of course during the holidays, we marked the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent is that period leading up to Easter when we take the chance to reflect, look at ourselves and our relationship with the world and consider how we can strengthen that relationship with the world and with God.

We marked the beginning of Lent in our Monday worship, where we reflected on how Jesus was comforted by the angels during his forty days in the desert. We thought about what we can do to strengthen our relation with God and the world around us and prayed for the strength to do so. During Lent we will encourage our children to 'Pray', to 'Fast' and to 'Give'. In that spirit of giving and fasting we have asked the children to reflect on the wealth of wonderful foods we have access to in our country and the lack of food so many people in the world have. We have also encouraged children to consider the wealth of the junk food we have access to and to cut back on these junk foods and give the money we save to CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. With that in mind, you may have heard that during Lent, we have asked the children to work as a family to avoid fast foods like McDonalds, KFC and Burger King, to mention a few, and to give the money saved to CAFOD.

We would also encourage families to celebrate the food we have access to and to make a real effort to stick to wholesome, healthy food this Lent. During Lent we will be having healthy foods only at our Tuck Shop and we hope to organise a Fast Lunch when the children will be able to have a simple meal of homemade soup and homemade bread. The money we save in doing so will be contributed to CAFOD. In the same spirit of reflection, we plan to review our healthy eating policy. A draft will be distributed next week for consultation.

Finally, I would encourage all families to use this Lenten period, to encourage children, at the very least to say a prayer before bedtime and a prayer of thanks giving before meals. If it's not something you do routinely, then I'd urge you to give it a go for the next few weeks and I promise you it will bring you closer as a family and closer to God.

## Morning access to the playground.

It has always been our policy that children will not be supervised by school staff until 8:40am. At the moment, we are seeing a growing number of children being dropped off on the playground at 8am without supervision. I am gravely concerned about the safeguarding risks around this and must insist that from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, children will not be allowed on the playground until 8:30am and when they are on the playground they must be under the supervision of a responsible adult. This gives parents who have been dropping off on the way to work time to make alternative arrangements. Teachers will of course be on the playground from 8:40, but this is to speak with parents and not to supervise children and breakfast club are able to cater for large numbers of children with advance notice.



### Child Care

New child care booking forms will be sent out shortly. Please ensure that all child care accounts are settled or are in credit.

All accounts need to be paid in full by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.

### Coffee Morning

We will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March from 9am-10am. Jackie, a school nurse, will be attending.



Please come along and join us.



### Tommy's Childcare

We offer breakfast and after school club every day. Breakfast club starts from either 7.45 (£4.00 a session) or 8.00 (£3.00 a session), the children are offered a range of breakfast cereals and toast and there are plenty of games and fun to be had!

After school club runs until 4.30 (£5.00) or 5.45 (£10.00) the children are provided with a range of snacks and entertained with fantastic games and activities.

If you are interested in hearing more about our childcare, please contact Mrs Miller.

### Church News

#### Fairtrade Fortnight

26th February - Sunday 11th March.

Fairtrade tea and coffee morning on Sunday 11th March after 10 am Mass.

### Clubs

There are still places on year 4, 5 & 6 Dance club, which takes place on a Friday from 3.15pm-4.20pm.

The start date is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

If your child is interested, please contact the office or Mrs Miller for a letter.

### ITEMS FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Time	Event
Tuesday 27 February	10.00am	Reception Liturgy
Thursday 1 March		World Book Day
Thursday 1 March	9.00 – 10.00am	Coffee Morning
Monday 19 March	TBC	Parent Teacher Meetings commencing this week
Thursday 29 March	3.15pm	Last day of term
Friday 30 March		Good Friday
Monday 16 April	8.45am	First day back after Easter holidays
Monday 23 July		INSET DAY