



Ash Wednesday

Fr Carlos led our Ash Wednesday service for KS1 and KS2 pupils to mark the season of Lent. The school council and chaplaincy team took part in the burning of palms on Shrove Tuesday in preparation of the service.

"The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan. Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. We participate in abstinence, times of fasting, confession and acts of mercy to strengthen our faith and devotional disciplines. The goal of every Christian is to leave Lent a stronger and more vital person of faith than when we entered." (Catholic online.)

A very good resource to help us as adults reflect on themes of mercy can be found by signing up to the free 'Living Lent Daily'

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily>

Children's Mental Health Week 2019

As a school we focussed on the national theme "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind". Across the school children were enthusiastically engaged in writing, group discussions, role play and mindfulness activities. The week seemed to boost the children's confidence, helped them to identify and share ways of being healthy and how to begin to deal with stress, disappointment and anxiety. Their work was thoughtful and teachers felt that they really enjoyed the focus. Some teachers felt the benefits of the mindfulness themselves! (Mrs Foster, PSHE lead)

E-Safety Week 2019

The school celebrated safety day on February 5th with a special assembly led by Miss Bull, our computing lead. The pupils then created their own safety lyrics to songs, which led to some very creative word play! Some of our favourites included revised lyrics to Katie Perry and Ed Sheeran songs.

Pupils also enjoyed the e-safety workshops which were provided prior to half term where the importance of keeping safe online was reinforced.

It is important to stress that every computing lesson delivered at school has an element of safety as an introduction. Our pupils do have a good idea of the SMART safety rules which we promote from childnet international: <https://www.childnet.com/young-people/primary/get-smart>

Another very useful website to help parents keep their family safe online and is well worth visiting is: www.internet matters.org

Attached with this newsletter is a copy of the online safety news produced by Herts for Learning.

88 pianists

Five of our pupil's designs have been shortlisted for the 88 pianists challenge with Cambridge University. The team were very impressed with the creativity of the pupils in KS2 and the concepts behind the designs, some more possible than others!

Sporting News

Congratulations to the Year 5/6 indoor athletics team who showed fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship finishing 4th in the local schools competition.

We are drawing to an end of our K.A.S season and it couldn't have gone better. Our Gold team have enjoyed an undefeated season with only one fixture left. Some really impressive score lines and performances. Our Silver Team have also enjoyed a successful season losing only one of their fixtures. Again, we were treated to some fantastic games and performances. As always, our sportsmanship and compassion towards others has been outstanding! (Mr Doherty, Sports leader)

Spring Term Report Cards and Parent Consultations Updated
spring report cards for your child will be sent home next week, prior to the consultation evenings on Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th of March. The booking system for appointments will be open from Tuesday 19th March at 8.00pm.

As with the autumn term consultations, these will be held in the hall and you will have the opportunity to go through your child's core subject books after the appointment.

We realise that finding child sitters is not always easy so we will be running a drop in charity crèche on both evenings. This will be for those parents who can't find any alternative arrangements and will only be for children who attend our school - sorry no babies, toddlers or pre-school children. This will be held in Pine class and will be run by some of my teaching assistants who have kindly offered to ensure that children are safe. There will be a suggested minimum donation of £1.00 per pupil to use this crèche with the proceeds going to the Catholic Children's Society. Hopefully this will ensure that we do not have unsupervised children in the hall or dining room during consultations.

Sustrans Big Pedal 2019

Get set... we're taking part in Sustrans Big Pedal 2019, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 25th March to 5th April. It's free and we would love everyone to be involved. On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils and staff cycling, walking or scooting to school. Pupils can let us know if they have cycled, walked or used a scooter by entering their journey as usual on travel tracker in class. Schools will be entered into a daily prize draw for rewards including equipment and accessories if over 15% of the school community cycle, walk or scoot on that day of the challenge

It's a great way to get more of our pupils travelling actively to school and is a simple way to boost their physical and mental health. For more information about the event go to www.bigpedal.org.uk.

DINNER MONEY FOR JUNIORS

Please note: Dinner money must be paid in advance

With effect from 1st April 2019, Herts Catering meal prices are increasing to £2.60 per day, £13.00 per week.

You may pay any amount of your choice to keep your balance in credit. Please pay online using the School Gateway system. All you need to do to activate an account is download the school gateway from your app store or visit the website www.schoolgateway.com and click new user. You will receive a message with a PIN number and you can use this to log in. Please be sure the school office has your up to date email and mobile phone number.

Communication you may have missed sent via schoolcomms

Re Newsletter 28/2/19

E-Safety 1/3/19

Book Fair 6/3/19

Upcoming events:

14th March – Scholastic Book Fair

14th March – Netball match vs High Wych (h)

15th March - School Association Shopping Evening

18th March - Sycamore English set to Mass at the Church

19th March - St Joseph's Day- mass for school

21st March – Reconciliation in school for pupils

25th March to 5th April – Sustrans Big Pedal

25th March- Willow English set to Mass at the Church
26th March – Parent consultations (16.00-19.00)
28th March – Parent Consultations (16.00-19.00)
1st April – LKS2 Performance – Esther (14.00)
1st April – School Association meeting
2nd April - LKS2 Performance – Esther (18.00)
3rd April – Stations of the Cross for KS1&2 pupils
4th April – Reconciliation in school for pupils
4th April - Spring Term Disco
5th April – Awards Assembly (09.15)
5th April – End of Term (13.30)