



Welcome Back

Welcome back! We hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all! We are looking forward to having the children back in school for the Lent term.

R.E.

We have started our fourth topic of the term, 'Community', in which we will be thinking about our local church, diocese and community. We will investigate reasons for many actions of Christians who give service to the parish community and the various ministries which enable them to do this. Following this, we will begin our fifth topic, 'Giving and Receiving', in which we will investigate and consider the actions and symbols used within the celebration of the Eucharist. As always, the Knowledge Organisers for these topics can be accessed on the class webpage.

On the afternoon of Tuesday February 6th, we have CAFOD presenting a workshop on Catholic Social Teaching (the idea that God built his kingdom on love, peace and justice).

Excitingly, on Tuesday 13th February (Shrove Tuesday) Mardi Gras day is returning to St. Elizabeth's! The children are invited to **wear purple, gold and green** and may bring in whistles, maracas etc. for our parade. Our bright gold P.E. kit is a great costume if you are stuck for ideas! The children will spend the day learning about the history and significance of Mardi Gras... and of course there are pancakes for lunch!

Year 5 will be leading our Ash Wednesday mass on Wednesday February 14th at 9.30 with Father Colin Patey (our visiting priest). **Year 4** will be attending, alongside the rest of our school and everyone is welcome to join us.

English

PADLEY LENT 1

Writing: Following our non-chronological report writing, last half term, this half term we will be creating our own character descriptions. Our model text will focus on the description of Roald Dahl's Willy Wonker. The children will consider writer's tricks to build imagery such as similes and metaphors, the power of three, using a name that reflects their character and integrating show not tell to describe the effects on the character's body.

Spelling: We are continuing with our Read, Write, Inc spellings, with three fifteen-minute spelling lessons per week. Assessment throughout each unit is ongoing, and each week children will log 6 words that they have found difficult in their 'Spelling Logs'. It is important to note that these words are personalised to each child, and therefore there is no 'set' spelling list each week.

Reading: In Year 4, the children's reading is coming along wonderfully, and we are really noticing the impact of home reading! As a reminder, the children should continue to utilize their reading bookmarks at home, on which they are to write down any words that they are unfamiliar with or have struggled to pronounce. Your child is expected to bring their home reading book into school once a week, on a set day (which the children are aware of). This is so that teachers and teaching assistants can listen to them read and track progress. If your child fails to bring their book two weeks in a row, you will receive a letter making you aware of this.

In our Talk for Reading sessions this half term, we will be covering extracts, lyrics and videos from texts such as *The Last Firefox*, *Escape from Pompeii*, *Bill's New Frock*, *Zelda Claw* and *the Rain Cat*, *Funky Chickens* and *The Greatest Showman*.

Maths

In Maths this half term, we are continuing to build knowledge of Multiplication and Division. Following this, we will be learning about Area and Fractions. As always, practice on Times Tables Rockstars as part of regular homework, greatly supports the children's knowledge and recall of their multiplications. In Year 4, as we continue to prepare for the 'Multiplication Check', a statutory assessment which takes place in May, the children regularly practice on the Multiplication Check within class. There is a link to the MTC, which the children will be using in school, on our class webpage.

P.E.

The children will have two P.E. lessons each week. This half term, our P.E days will be **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays**. We will be continuing with our swimming sessions on Tuesdays and on Wednesdays, the focus of the sessions for the children will be gymnastics. Children are to come to school in their active uniform on these days. Outdoor kit should include plain black tracksuit bottoms, yellow polo shirt, yellow sweatshirt and outdoor trainers. Please ensure all items are fully labelled! For convenience, I politely ask that long hair be tied back, and earrings removed on P.E. days. Whilst we advise against it, if your child's earrings are new and unable to be taken out, they must be taped over with surgical tape, brought in from home. However, earrings cannot be taped over for swimming, as the tape clogs the filters and is therefore not allowed by the swimming baths.

Brass Lessons

For music, Year 4 will be continuing with our brass lessons from a qualified brass instructor. These will fall on a Friday afternoon, so please ensure that the children **bring their instruments in on Thursdays**, ready for our lessons. Children are expected to practice their instruments at home to support their progress.

Compass Mental Health & Wellbeing

On the afternoon of Monday 5th February, the children are attending a mental health and wellbeing assembly ran by Compass (a mental health support service for children and young people in Derby and Derbyshire). They will introduce children to the '5 ways to wellbeing': connect, give, learn, be active and notice. Ask your children if they can verbalise to you what this means and what steps they are taking to protect their own mental health at home and in school. As always, if you ever have any concerns about your child's mental wellbeing, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Homework

In Year 4, homework will be set every Thursday, due to be returned the following Thursday. Homework will be sent home in their personalised homework journal. Alternatively, overarching homework projects may be set. These will span over a few weeks/a half term and details of each project will be sent home in plenty of time.

Water Bottles

Please make sure that children are sent into school with a refillable water bottle each day. In Year 4, the children are encouraged to keep water bottles next to them in lessons.

Year 4 Residential

We are so excited for our class trip to Thornbridge Outdoors for our Year 4 residential on Thursday 15th February to Friday 16th February. The children are very excited for the trip and we will be sure to keep you updated with our adventures on the class Twitter feed.

Upcoming events in the Lent 2 term

-Monday 26th February: INSET Day.

School will be closed to all pupils (with the exception of KidZone).

-Thursday 14th March: Year 4's Celebration of the Word.

Y4 parents and family welcome to attend in the hall from 3pm.

- Thursday 7th March: World Book Day.

Further information to be sent home before February half term.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to us at the end of the school day once all of the children have been dismissed. If, at that point, you feel you require a longer appointment, we can arrange a meeting via the school office (01773 822278). We are really looking forward to an exciting term and a fun-filled year!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Miss Hickling & Mrs Adams

Dates For Your Diary		
05.02.24	3-3.30pm	Mental Health and Wellbeing Assembly KS2 children Led by Compass: Changing Lives
06.02.24	2.05-3.05pm	KS2 CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching Workshop
13.02.24	All Day	Mardi Gras Day All pupils – wear green, yellow or purple – or all three together!
14.02.24	9.30-10.45	Ash Wednesday Mass Led by Y5, all members of the school community invited to join.
w/c 19.02.24	FEBRUARY HALF TERM	
26.02.24	INSET Day School closed to all pupils (KidZone remains open)	
27.02.24	Children return to school	