



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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23rd February 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome Back

We hope you had a lovely half term! The second half of the Spring term is a very short time in school with lots of activities so please keep up to date with the weekly newsletters and the school diary on the school website.

Online Safety Week

Thanks to all the parents who attended the Parents' Online Safety Workshop; we hope you found the information useful to support your children's online activities.

Lent

It is an important time in our liturgical year as are in the season of Lent. Lent is really about denying yourself of something that you enjoy in order to be reminded that it's God that you depend on in life; that it's your heavenly Father that you most need in life. Lent mirrors the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. He voluntarily removed himself from the pleasures of life and company of people so that he could draw close to God, hear from Him, and prepare Himself for what was to come. **Please do make an effort to attend Mass for that day either at 8:00 am, 12:15 pm or 8:00 pm at St. Francis Church.**

Afterschool Clubs

Afterschool clubs begin on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 as a result **all clubs must be paid for by that time as the clubs list will close on Parentpay.** There is currently no waiting list for the clubs that are paid for through Parentpay.

CAFOD 2016 - Make a Splash

As you are aware each year during Lent St Francis' supports the CAFOD appeal. In 2012, CAFOD's Lent campaign focused on water, as a result £9million was raised which was doubled by the UK government to £18million. That money helped to make a big difference in communities like Simatelele in Zimbabwe. As water is such a vital resource this year CAFOD has focused on water again in it's **Make A Splash** appeal. World-wide it is estimated that women and girls spend 140 million hours a day collecting water. For some girls this means walking several hours to and from a water point when they could be going to school, studying or playing with friends. Lack of access to water at home and at school, prevents girls from gaining the education that can change their lives and the lives of their families.

Pope Francis has called this year the Year of Mercy, where we reflect on the place of God's actions in our lives. As a result, St Francis' will support the **Make a Splash** appeal and every pound you give to



Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott

CAFOD up to the value of 3.5 million will be matched by the UK government. Your children will be coming home with the CAFOD envelopes this week; **they are due back at school by Tuesday 22nd March 2016.**

Please support this very important appeal.

Book Week

During the week beginning the 29th February we will be celebrating Book Week; this year the theme is *Heroes and Villains*.

Throughout the week the children will be involved in a variety of activities to promote the love of reading:

- Visits to the local library (so please send in their library cards as soon as you can) we will return them after our visit. If your child has not got a library card then talk to their class teacher who will give you a form to fill in.
- Drama workshops and activities
- Junk modeling
- Story swap where your child can choose which class he or she wants to go to and listen to a story
- Reading café/ book club where children share stories and comment on books they have read over a cup of hot chocolate and biscuits.

Lastly but by no means least, our World Book dress up day! **On Thursday 3rd March 2016, we will celebrate World Book Day where the children should wear a costume for a character that is a hero/heroine or villain from a story.** It should be a character that your child is familiar with so they can tell the rest of their class about the character and why they chose that person.

Class assembly

There will be a class assembly for **3B Friday, 4th March 2016 at 9:05 am**; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

N. Scott
Head Teacher



Newham London

