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7th March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

Class photos

The children will be taking their class photos on **Friday 11th March**; please ensure that your child is in the correct school uniform.

Parents' Conference Meetings

A letter regarding parents' conference meetings was sent out last week. The meetings will be on Wednesday 16th and 17th March for years 1-6. The meetings for Nursery and Reception will be on Friday 18th March; school will be closed to Nursery and Reception on this day.

Class assembly

There will be a class assembly for 2G on Friday, 18th March 2016 at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

Book Week

Last week's Book Week was a fantastic experience that created a real buzz around reading through the various activities; I hope we have helped to further ignite our child's love of books.

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.

Holy Week Assemblies

In order to focus our minds on the Passions of Christ during Holy Week; the children will remind us of the very important moments including his death and resurrection in a series of assemblies as follows:

Monday 21st March at 9:05 am - Year 3 Holy Week assembly Tuesday 22nd March at 9:05 - Year 4 Holy Week assembly Wednesday 23rd March at 9:05 am - Year 5 Holy Week assembly Thursday 24th March at 9:05 am - Year 6 Holy Week assembly







Year 1 Easter Performance

In KS1, the year 1 children will also remind us of the sacrifices made for us during this special time during their KS1 Easter performance on Tuesday 22^{nd} March at 9:45.

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 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.

N. Scott Head Teacher





