



We were able to start Lent with Ash Wednesday Mass this week for which the Chaplaincy Team had prepared bidding prayers. The CAFOD Club have worked with classes for each student to make a pledge for an act of care for the world, inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si. The Chaplaincy Team are visiting classes to inspire pledges for kind actions to others during Lent too. Some ideas have been spending a little less time on a digital game themselves to instead play a board game with the family; to try to be positive in first reactions to things and to talk to someone at school you have not spoken to so much.

Please do join us, if you can, for the Stations of the Cross each Wednesday during Lent if the weather is dry – for readings, reflections and prayers together.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"To celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation means to be wrapped in a warm embrace."

- Pope Francis

Pupil of the Week: Pupils who gained a certificate this week are:

Year R - Patricia

Year 1 - ** to be announced next week**

Year 2 - Jo-Simeon

Year 3 - Nicholas

Year 4 - Lara

Year 5 - Shreena

Year 6 - Patryk



House Points: Well done to **St Paul!**

St Bernadette – 180 points

St Francis – 132 points

St Paul – 213 points

St Theresa – 157 points

St Thomas More – 145 points

St Anne Line – 188 points



Stations of the Cross during Lent: If the weather is dry, please do join us for the Stations of the Cross which are said outside. Please come to the School Office for 9am.

For other times to join the Stations of the Cross at our local Parishes, please do see the websites on the right of this newsletter.

Ash Wednesday and Lent: As we begin the journey of Lent together do see this link to the CAFOD [website](#), which has some beautiful ideas for prayer within the home.

CAFOD "Walk Against Hunger": We will be taking part in a sponsored daily mile to raise money for CAFOD "Walk Against Hunger" appeal this year. Further information and sponsor forms will be shared soon so please do look out for these!

Your support will be very much appreciated. This money will be used by CAFOD to support people living in poverty in Africa and Ukraine.

Illness: If your child has a sickness bug (vomiting/diarrhoea), please ensure they have a period of 48hrs without an episode before sending them back to school. Please find attached poster from Public Health Agency of when to keep your child off school, further guidance can also be found [here](#) on the NHS website.

NCCTS: When the world seems an uncertain place or world events are frightening, our children look to us for reassurance and advice. Sometimes knowing just what to share with them or how to answer their questions can be confusing for parents and carers. Please see attached tips for parents and caregivers on media coverage of traumatic events from The National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.

Packed Lunches: While encouraging our students to make healthy choices we expect children who have packed lunches to reflect this. Therefore, chocolate bars, sweets and fizzy drinks must not be brought into school for lunch or as a snack. Please remember we are nut-free school, (peanut butter and Nutella contain nut extract).

Uniform: Please remember that should you wish to purchase any items from our Nearly New uniform supplies to contact the school office with your requirements adminstalbands@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk to check availability as supplies are regularly restocked.

Do refer to the parent handbook for uniform details. Please remember hair ties are to be in school colours.

School Website: Please do remember to regularly check your [child's class page](#) and the [school website](#) for all the latest news on what our children have been up to.

Dinner Menu: Our school dinner menu can be located [here](#) on our website and next week we will be on Week 1 (Monday 7th March).

COVID-19: On Monday 21 February, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response '[Living with COVID-19](#)'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains. Please find attached new flow chart in relation to the recent government changes.

Vaccination of 5-11 year olds - The JCVI have announced that all children aged 5-11 years old will be eligible for two low doses of the vaccine 12 weeks apart. Roll out may be during April and parents are asked not to contact the NHS until further details have been announced. More information [here](#).

Gate Opening Times:

8:40am – 8.55am - after this time your child will be marked as late.

3.15pm – End of the school day

Mass Times:

Usual Sunday Mass times are 10am and 6pm
<http://www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk/>

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Mass times are
STM Church Sunday 8.30am

OLF Church: Saturday 6pm

Sunday 10.30am, 12.15pm (Polish)
<https://olfstm.weebly.com/>

Upcoming Dates:

Thursdays KS1 and KS2 PE (PE kit reqd)

Weds 9th Mar

Year 4 class trip

Fri 11th Mar

Year 1 class workshop

Thurs 17th Mar

Year 3 class trip

Fri 18th Mar

Red Nose Day (non-uniform)

Fri 25th Mar

Year 1 class assembly 9.05am

Tues 29th Mar

Year 3 & 4 Easter Play 2.15pm

Weds 30th Mar

Year R Ugly Bug Session 2.45pm

