



27th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Spring Term Week 7 Headteacher Update

I hope you have had a lovely half term break and managed to spend some quality time with your family and friends. We really are moving swiftly through this second term. We have several events taking place during half term four. As always Mrs Pickles will be writing to you with the key events letter to allow you to plan accordingly.

As I said in my last letter before half term on Thursday this week, we have our Year 8 Parents' Evening taking place via School Cloud. If you have not already made appointments with members of staff, I would encourage you to do this as a matter of urgency. Dr Guscott has already written to you if you have a child in Year 8 with full details on how to book appointments in advance of this evening.

On Thursday this week it is World Book Day, we will be celebrating with a range of activities taking place across the school. This year we have decided to focus our World Book Day celebrations on the works of Roald Dahl. As one of the nation's favourite children's authors, Roald Dahl's books have influenced the lives of so many children (and adults) and are a perfect example of how much fun reading can be. All children in the school will have the opportunity to read one of Roald Dahl's famous short stories and hear from several members of staff about their favourite Roald Dahl tale. There will also be fun activities taking place in the library throughout the day, coordinated by our Reading Ambassadors. These will include Roald Dahl themed art and crafts, storytelling games and even experiments inspired by George's Marvellous Medicine. We hope the day serves to remind our children of the wonders of reading and inspires them to pick up a book from the school library.

This coming Friday, 3rd March, is CAFOD Family Fast Day when we raise as much as possible to support our brothers and sisters in need. Form Tutors will share with their Forms this week, the story of Distry in Bangladesh and will encourage the children to sacrifice a break time snack and instead donate the money to CAFOD. If you wish to find out more about the work of CAFOD, please follow [this](#) link. As a cashless school, we would ask all donations be made via ParentPay. We recognise the challenging circumstances some of our families may find themselves in so we are extremely grateful for any donations.

Last Wednesday marked the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday. We may think about Ash Wednesday as a day when non-Catholics point out to us that there is something on our forehead, something I am sure we have all experienced. Yet the symbolism is so important, as, through this, we recognise the beginning of Lent reminding us that this life on earth is fleeting and we will be nothing more than dust at the end of it. It is also a time for us to reflect on our own relationship with God and through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we can be guided towards the proper disposition of the heart. We should make our sacrifices in secret with the assurance that "your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you." These are comforting words as we begin this penitential season of Lent.

Have a great week and thank you for your continued support. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in contact headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk





ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



With God
all things are possible

Matthew 19:26