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Headteacher: Mrs C Toner

10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. Further to my newsletter on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, I wanted to write to give you some further information about our upcoming Lenten almsgiving activities.

### **Adoration – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March – 10am**

Next Tuesday morning, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will take part in an Adoration service in church. This is a beautiful opportunity for us to encounter Jesus during Lent. We will spend around 45 minutes in quiet reflection as we take time to worship Jesus, present in the eucharistic host. Please do join us if you can.

### **Reception Mothers' Day Liturgy, Tea and Cake – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

The children in reception are delighted to invite their mummies (and other family members) to share a liturgy with them on 17<sup>th</sup> March – 10am for RAW and 2pm for RKD. **Please note, this is open to reception families only.**

### **Lenten Reflection Day – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

Children across school will take part in a day of spiritual reflection to explore the key themes of Lent – to fast, to pray and to give alms. We will look closely at the Easter story and what Jesus' sacrifice means for us today.

### **Reconciliation Service – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 9.30am in school**

Fr Philipp will join us for a Reconciliation Service on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, giving children in Years 4, 5 and 6 the opportunity to receive the sacrament as part of their Lenten journey. Parents are very welcome to join us in the hall at 9.30am.

### **Stations of the Cross – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm in Church**

Please join us as we hold a family Stations of the Cross service in Church on 26<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm. Children will take on the roles of the different people of the time as we follow the way of the cross. If you are able to attend, please complete [this link](#) by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March so we have an idea of the number of families that will be joining us and can distribute readings etc in good time.

Each year group has produced a piece of art work to represent the stations of the cross, which will be displayed in church from 21<sup>st</sup> March to the end of Lent.

### **Sponsored Walk for Turkey and Syria – CAFOD Humanitarian Appeal – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

This time last year, I was so humbled to witness the generosity of our school community when we came together to support the people of Ukraine. By donating food, toiletries and clothing and raising a staggering £3000, we certainly lived out our school mission to serve others.

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This year, we will show our generosity again by raising money for CAFOD in support of the people of Turkey and Syria whose lives were affected by the earthquakes in early February. Some statistics:

- 52,700 people are known to have died across both countries - many more are still unaccounted for.
- Tens of thousands of people have suffered life changing injuries.
- Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their homes.
- there are 4.6 million children in the earthquake-affected areas of Turkey, with more than 2.5 million children affected in Syria.

Therefore on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, we ask that **children come to school in non-uniform, with the colours red and white represented** (as per the Turkish and Syrian flags). As last year, each year group will spend an hour walking (jogging or running!) round the perimeter of the Helicopter Park, counting their laps as they go. **A sponsor form has been sent home with your child on Monday.** Parents are more than welcome to join us as we walk – it would be great to see you. Please see below for year group timings.

9.15-10.15am	10.30-11.30am	1.00-2.00pm	2.15-3.15pm
Nursery and Year 6	Year 2 and Year 5	Reception and Year 4	Year 1 and Year 3

We also please ask that you bring a contribution for a cake sale, which will take place on both playgrounds at the end of the day.

All sponsor money is due in by Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. You can send cash to the school office, or alternatively, put your contribution on MyEd.

### **Year 5 Easter Production of Resurrection Rocks – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – 6pm**

Year 5 children and staff have been working hard to bring the story of Easter to life. This year there will be just one performance – 6.00pm in the school hall. A letter for Y5 parents with further information will follow shortly. Children in all classes will have the opportunity to watch the dress rehearsal earlier in the week.

### **Spread Hope and Joy this Lent**

Each year group will be doing something special over the next few weeks to help spread hope and joy to people in our community. See the table below to find out what each year group is up to.

Class	Activity
Nursery	Creating Easter cards for each class in school, delivering them themselves!
Reception	Weaving Easter baskets and making Easter crafts to send to vulnerable young people in our community.
Year 1	Go on a walk round the local area, leaving behind messages of hope and joy on painted stones.
Year 2	Litter pick in school and around the local area
Year 3	Posting heart shaped cookies and Lenten prayers through the door of those in our community
Year 4	Attend Monday morning mass and offer it to the SVP. Also take Easter cards and gifts to share with the lonely and housebound in our parish community.
Year 5	Making up rucksacks of essentials for the homeless and giving them to the charity, Emmanuel House
Year 6	Year 6 are posting prayer request cards to streets around Woodthorpe. Prayer requests received back will be taken to the Briars to pray for.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support with our Lenten activities.