

ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

DEAR PARENT/CARER

TOMORROW AND EVERY TUESDAY OUR PARENT AND TODDLER MEETS 9.00am – 11.00am IN SCHOOL. If you are a parent or carer with a young child and you would like to meet with other parents with toddlers please come to this club. Refreshments are available and toys for the children and our Parent Involvement Worker will be in attendance to answer any queries you may have about the school and education and related matters. **If you are free do come along.**

THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS this Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) and to mark the beginning of this season there will be a Mass at 9.30am in Church for all KS1 and KS2 pupils and for any other folk who would like to attend. If you are free please come along and celebrate with us.

ON WEDNESDAY AT MASS Father Solomon will make the sign of the Cross in ash on the forehead of those who come up to the altar. This is to remind us of the sacrifice Jesus made which enabled us to have eternal life and to encourage us to take part fully in the season of Lent.

LENT IS A TIME OF PREPARATION FOR EASTER AND LASTS FOR 40 DAYS ENDING ON EASTER SUNDAY. It is the same length of time that Jesus spent in the desert to fast and pray before he began his ministry. Pope Francis said "Lent is a powerful season, a turning point that can foster change within us". The season of lent during this Extraordinary Year of Mercy is a great opportunity to be strengthened. It is a time when, for our own good, God calls us to make a special effort by giving something up, or by doing something more, maybe as a family.

IN SCHOOL WE WILL GIVE CHILDREN OPPORTUNITIES to reflect on their lives and how we can grow closer to God by listening to his word, praying, and by showing mercy to and for others. Our Lent fundraising will be for Catholic Care, (who support children and their families within the diocese). Cafod, (who help people of all faiths to make a living, and help poor communities to build their lives by providing means of support and Mission Together, an overseas charity for children who's motto is 'Children helping Children').

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR HUGHES'S CLASS 4Hu who have won our Magnificent Attendance Trophy for their excellent attendance last week. **Haven't they done well.** They will receive extra play this week and will receive points for our termly attendance competition the winning class of which receives a special prize. It is tremendously important that every child comes to school as often as possible so please do all you can to ensure your child never misses even one school day unnecessarily.

SCHOOL CLOSSES THIS THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY at the end of the school day and re-open on **MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY.** Over the holidays there will be many events taking place around Bradford including a "Horrible Science" exhibition with activities for children at the National Media Museum.

THURSDAY WILL ALSO BE A "NON-UNIFORM DAY" and you may if you wish send your child to school on that day in his or her out of school clothes providing you pay a forfeit (school suggests 50p). All proceeds will go towards the charities the school supports.

READING AT HOME EACH EVENING/WEEKEND/HOLIDAY IS (after ensuring your child's good attendance) the major thing you can do to help your child make good progress at school. At the end of each school day and at the beginning of a holiday, your child will come home with material to read that evening, weekend or holiday. Some children will be able to do this on their own and others will need you or another family member to read with or to them. Please ensure this reading work is done and ensure that the record sent home to show this is signed and returned.

P Spillane