



## Ash Wednesday at St Teresa's

Dear St Teresa's Community,

As we prepare for Easter, I'm delighted to share with you the vibrant tapestry of events and experiences that have enriched our school life over the past few weeks. Our pupils have been immersed in spiritual growth, literary adventures, and acts of kindness that truly embody the spirit of St Teresa's.



The solemnity and beauty of Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of our Lenten observance. Our Key Stage 2 pupils participated in a moving mass, their behaviour a testament to the values we hold dear at St Teresa's. It was particularly heartening to hear the parishioners' praise for our pupils' conduct. The Year 6 readers brought the scripture to life with their clear and confident delivery, setting a wonderful example for their younger peers.



Father Sabu's homily resonated deeply with our pupils, challenging them to consider meaningful sacrifices for Lent. His suggestion to set aside phones, tablets, and game consoles in favour of quality time with loved ones struck a chord with many.

For our younger pupils, Sister Andrea's classroom visits provided a more intimate setting to learn about Ash Wednesday. Her gentle guidance in administering the ashes helped our little ones connect with this important tradition.



## Lenten Promises

To make the concept of Lent more accessible and engaging for all our pupils, we introduced three endearing characters: GUS (Give something up), TOM (Take on more), and CHARITY (Give to others). These mascots have inspired our children to reflect on their Lenten promises thoughtfully. In a heartwarming afternoon assembly, the whole school came together to share these promises, written on small hearts. These will form a beautiful display, reminding us of our collective journey through Lent.



### Upcoming Dates:

- 19th March: Year 5/6 Athletics
- 28th March: Year 5 School Trip
- 28th March: Donut Sale
- 1st April: Hot Cross Bun Run (Catholic school event. Selected pupils only)
- 3rd April: Y1 School Trip
- 4th April: Last day of term.
- 22nd April: Children back for summer term.
- 5th May: Bank Holiday (No School)
- 9th May: Y1 Class Collective Worship
- 12th May: Y6 SATS Week
- 20th May: Class Photo's
- 21st May: Year 3 School Trip
- 22nd May: May Procession
- 23rd May: Last day of half term.
- 2nd June: Non-Pupil Day.
- 3rd June: Children return from half term.
- 20th June: EYFS collective worship.

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## Scholastic Book Fair: School's books arrive!

The spirit of giving has been alive and well at St Teresa's, thanks to your generous support of the recent Scholastic book fair. Your purchases have translated into book vouchers for our school library, allowing us to expand our literary offerings. I'm proud to say that our Student Curriculum Council worked diligently with Mrs Darby to select an array of excellent books for all age groups. The excitement was palpable as the new books arrived today, ready to ignite imaginations and foster a love of reading.



## Jubilee Year: Special Icon Visit

In celebration of the Jubilee Year, our Faith Council organised an inspiring visit from CAFOD representatives. This enlightening session deepened our understanding of what it means to be a "Pilgrim of Hope" and allowed us to view the Jubilee Icon in person. The "Visio Divina" collective worship led us in a profound reflection on the artwork, its message, and the significance of the Jubilee year for each of us. My heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Harris and the Faith Council for orchestrating this meaningful experience.



## World Book Day!

World Book Day was a resounding success, with our pupils arriving in an array of creative and inspiring costumes. The sight of children eagerly sharing their favourite books with classmates was truly heartwarming. Throughout the day, engaging reading activities helped to elevate the importance of literature in our school community. Your support in encouraging your children's participation made this day truly special.



## School Jungle Gym

I'm thrilled to announce that our school jungle gym has been fully repaired, thanks to the funds raised at last year's summer fete. This improvement to our playground facilities is a direct result of your generous support of FOST events. It's a wonderful example of how our community comes together to enhance the school experience for all our pupils.



## Final Words

As we continue through Lent and approach the Easter season, I'm filled with pride at the way our St Teresa's family embraces both spiritual growth and academic excellence. The enthusiasm of our pupils, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of our parent community create an environment where every child can flourish.

Let us carry forward the lessons learned from Father Sabu's challenge, the inspiration drawn from our CAFOD visitors, and the joy of sharing stories on World Book Day. May these experiences enrich our Lenten journey and strengthen our bonds as a school community.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the hearts and minds of our pupils. Together, we're creating a school environment that not only educates but also inspires, uplifts, and prepares our children for a bright future.

Wishing you all a reflective and meaningful Lenten season.

Mr J. Bottjer - Head Teacher

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