



**Koinonia Federation**  
**St Mary Magdalene C of E Through School**  
**Woolwich Campus**  
**Spring term 2 2024**



**Headteacher's Message**

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been lovely to see the children retuning to school, and hearing about their half term break.

Lent is a special time for spiritual growth. The Church invites us to be introspective, and to prepare for the celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

It can be a challenge for us to give alms; we will encourage each other to practice giving in a way that provides an opportunity for generosity. We will be thinking about how we can be courageous and give gifts that do not cost money. We will be giving kindness, praise, and showing respect to all.

Having positive behaviour in school, is a priority for all staff and we have began our weekly professional development sessions with a focus on improving team work, positive behaviours and living out our mission of treating others as we would like to be treated for both the children and us. We will be looking out for shining examples of good behaviour, for behaviour that shows we have love and respect for one another. Lent is the perfect time to have this focus; a time of reflection and giving. We ask you to join us in working on this focus and encourage your children to show the very best behaviour they can.

Best wishes, for the term ahead, Mrs Savva-Brown



**It takes a village to raise a child coffee morning**

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 9 – 9.50 am
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 9 – 9.50 am

**National Offer Day – Y6 pupils find out which secondary school they have been allocated.**

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

**World Book Day**

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Children will dress up as a character from an adventure story for a gold coin donation. Parents will be invited to read in school with the children.

**Year 4 School Journey**

- 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Comic Relief**

- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – more information to follow.

**Lent Cake Sale**

- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – more information to follow.

**Easter week**

- 25<sup>th</sup> March – more details of events to follow.

**Last day of Spring 2 Term**

- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – school closes at 1.15pm

**School Opens Summer 1 Term**

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

This term we will be thinking about **Courage**, and how we can be responsible in our lives.

**Please talk to your child/ren about how they can be courageous in school, and how they are helping others to also be courageous.**



## Lent

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February we saw the start of the Lenten season. Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, the most important date in the Catholic Liturgical Calendar. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and finishes at Easter. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

### What is the meaning of Lent?

Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days before beginning his work for God. Jesus was tempted several times, but was able to resist. Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus' fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline. There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy; such as cakes or chocolate. We also remember those less fortunate and we give alms to those in need.

### How is Lent celebrated?

Shrove Tuesday - In western Christian churches, the day before Lent starts is Shrove Tuesday. This is also known as Pancake Day. This day was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent.

### Ash Wednesday



On Ash Wednesday many Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong-doing. Ash Wednesday marks the start of our preparation for Easter.

### Almsgiving



During Lent many Christians make an extra effort to give to those less fortunate than themselves.

### Prayer



Dear God, at this time of reflection, teach us to be thankful for the goodness you have given us.  
Let us remember to treat others as we would like to be treated.  
At this time of fasting and giving up our favourite things, teach us to be thankful for the food that we eat.  
Let us remember that everybody is not so fortunate.  
At this time of forgiveness, teach us to be thankful for the gift of your mercy.  
Let us remember the sacrifice of your son, Jesus Christ.  
At this time of prayer, teach us to listen to your word.  
Let us remember the lessons of our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

We are looking forward to the last week of term, where we will be celebrating Easter, and welcoming you to join us in services, and other celebrations. **Please look out for the Easter dates coming to you.**

## **A message from the School Chaplain, Rev Dom**

This week, our schools have been joining with schools around the country to consider **EMPATHY**. Empathy week in our schools have seen students and staff consider the feelings of others as a life skill. We have considered what our schools would be like if Empathy was a strong skill across our sites.

What would our classes be like if we considered how we respond to others who were struggling? What would the breaks and lunchtimes be like if we reacted with empathy rather than immediate emotions that could make a situation worse?

Jesus considered the needs of others before he reacted in the same way as others.

The woman at the well, the lady about to be stoned, the family of Lazarus, the hunger of the crowds, the loneliness of the sick and outcast.

It is easy sometimes to go with the flow, listening to others rather than making our own choices. It is far easier to react to others' judgments than consider what might be happening.

Let us pray that we might follow in Christ's footsteps,  
Slow to anger and swift to show care and compassion.  
Let us consider the needs of others, their struggles and their anxieties.  
And may we pray about what we can do to make the world a better place.

Amen.

**Rev. Dominic Hubbuck**

**Federation Chaplain**

Koinonia Federation Schools

Assistant Priest with East Greenwich Team Ministry