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Newsletter

Dear Parents

It has been a busy first week of Spring 2 and it has been lovely to see the children settle back in so happily. Year 1 were beside themselves with the excitement of their school trip to the Milestones Museum supporting their learning in history and had a wonderful time. Thank you to the many parents who supported the children on this trip – we couldn't do it without you!

There are many other **exciting excursions this half-term** including the Y2 trip to the British Wildlife Centre next week and then, later in March, the YR trip to Brooklands and Y4's first residential trip with school, to Hooke Court in Dorset. School trips enrich our children's experiences of the world and give them opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in a different learning environment, as well as allowing them to have lots of fun with their friends. We are always keen for all children to take part in all of the school trips we offer, so do please let school know if you find it difficult to meet the contribution requested for any school trip. We will always help if we can.

This week has also seen a gradual build up in **charitable activity**, with both a White Lodge fundraising day and a Fairtrade Awareness assembly as we approach the season of Lent. Lent is an opportunity for us to make reflective preparation for Easter through prayer, fasting and charitable giving. In school, there are lots of spiritual and practical activities for families to get involved in during Lent and I have attached a week-by-week guide for your reference. There is a great "Busted Halo" video here which sums up the season well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo1mjuy1NAO>

On **Ash Wednesday** (6th March), the Prayer Council will lead the distribution of ashes for all children and we have split the liturgies so that we have space in the hall for parents to join us if you would like to. **YR and Y1 will meet at 10am**, with their ashes distributed by the Y4 Prayer Councillors. **Y2-Y6 will meet at 2pm** and ashes will be distributed by the Y5 and Y6 Prayer Councillors. It will be a great start to Lent, joined together as a school community in repentance and reflection and I know the children would love to have their parents with us if you are free. Remember that receiving ashes is not a sacrament, so you don't have to be Catholic to participate – everyone can decide to use Ash Wednesday as an opportunity for a fresh start and a better way of living their life. Do join us.

The Parent Prayer Group will be setting up the "Stations of the Cross" in turn at drop off (from 8:30am) on Wednesday and Friday mornings on the playground under the first canopy (by Whizz Kids). It will be an opportunity for families to light a candle and take a moment to reflect (please ensure your children are supervised when lighting candles). Through Lent the Parent Prayer Group will continue to meet on Friday mornings from 8.50am. The group leader, Melissa Moore, will be away during this time but the group will be led by other members and it would be lovely if you could join them for a few moments of reflection during the weeks of Lent.

As you know, next week is also **National Book Week** and there are lots of exciting activities planned in school, including "Bringing Books to Life" workshops for all children (kindly funded by the Parents' Association), an author visit for Reception and KS1 and "Mystery Readers" for all classes. We will celebrate "World Book Day" in school on Friday with an opportunity to dress up as a favourite book character. I wish you a happy St David's Day and a great weekend.

All best wishes, Catherine Burnham

INSET DAY REMINDER—WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH

A reminder of the INSET day on 13 March, when the school will be closed for children. Mr Sebo will be running an **all day Multisports session** on this day—see attached flyer for more information. Please make all bookings directly with Planet Soccer.

BOOK WEEK—4 TO 8 MARCH

Book Swap Children may bring in a book they no longer want (in good condition and suitable for pupils at our school) from Monday next week for our Book Swap on Thursday.

Extreme Reading Competition Thank you to everyone who has sent in photographs so far. You can still submit your entries to office@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk or bring a printed copy to the office. The closing date is **Wednesday 6 March**.

Author Visit—Reception/KS1 Nicola J Rowley will be here on Monday afternoon. If you haven't already reserved your signed copy of her book "James and the Birthday Balloon", please come along to see her after school in the playground (weather permitting, otherwise in the library).

Dressing Up Day (Friday) - children may come dressed as their favourite book character.

SCHOOL LUNCHES NEXT WEEK Please note that lunch on Ash Wednesday will be meat free.

LOST PROPERTY We have a large amount of lost property. Please can we ask again that anything brought into school is clearly named—uniform, any other clothing, sports equipment and kit, club clothing (judo, ballet, football etc), lunch boxes, water bottles etc. If things are named they are easily returned to their owner. Thank you.

FOUND We still have pairs of glasses in the office, plus a pink watch, a FitBit and a small fluffy penguin toy—please come and see if they might be yours.

MISSING A black micro scooter which was left in the cycle shed on Monday is now missing. Please could you check in case you have taken it by mistake.

ST ERCONWALD SINGERS will be leading Mass on Sunday 3 March at 9.15am - children are very welcome to join them.

THANK YOU for supporting the Prayer Council's Fairtrade stall yesterday, it raised £54.45. We had a very colourful red and white mufti day for White Lodge Centre on Wednesday—we will have the final amount raised next week.

FUNDRAISING FOR MARIE CURIE—FRIDAY 8 MARCH

Aela, Abi and Dorothy (Y5) will be running a craft and sweet treat stall in the playground after school next Friday. They will be raising money for Marie Curie home nursing and hospices. There will also be Marie Curie daffodils in the playground over the next few weeks—suggested minimum donation is £1.

PA NEWS There is a **Year 5 Cake Sale** after school today in the playground. Thank you to everyone who supported the **Valentine Disco**—it raised £475.