



12.2.21

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we begin half term, we want to thank all of you for your hard work and support this half term- those of you at home who are home schooling, those of you who are key workers getting up and out to work on these bitterly cold mornings to keep our essential services running and those of you who doing a mixture of both.

Everyone, including the children and the staff has worked so hard this half term and we all need that recognised 'Well done' for coping with new routines and pressures in our lives. I'm sure we are all glad and ready for a week off the school timetable.

On **Monday 22nd February**, as well as being our teacher training day, the Government are due to make an announcement about plans for school opening. We are really looking forward to welcoming more children back to school and once we know more, will update you with relevant details.

Fencing Work

Over half term, our boundary area fencing work will be completed, including the nature garden area. This has been requested by us to the academy headquarters for a long time so we are delighted that it will finally be complete.

Questionnaires

Thank you for the remote learning questionnaire feedback which will close at the end of today. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of praise and encouragement many of you have made about the school's efforts and support at this time but we also appreciate the suggestions some of you have made on making the remote learning experience even better for the children. We will discuss these on part of our INSET day and will feedback some of the outcomes later that week.

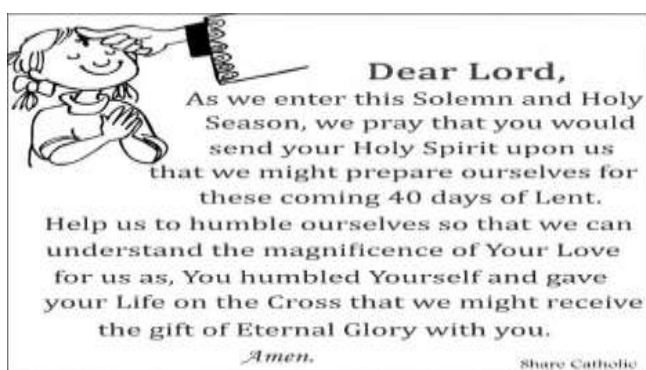
Lent

Lent begins next week with Ash Wednesday on 17th February which marks a holy day of fasting and prayer. This Church season lasts for 40 days and guides us into that natural need of reflection and thoughtfulness. When at school, the children are given the opportunity to think about what they can do more of to help others or possibly give something up that will enable them to help others. We refer to these as our Lenten promises and will have the theme of a Lenten journey. Perhaps, you can join us by making your own personal Lenten promise. Catholics usually signify this day by going to Mass and marking the cross on our foreheads with ashes- a simple symbol reminding us of that we are all equal with similar needs.

More details about the history of this day can be found on the following link:

[ASH WEDNESDAY - February 17, 2021 | National Today](#)

Below, I have copied a prayer for you and your child to read on this day if you wish.



COVID19

Please remember that if you do test positive for COVID19 during half term, please email us on covidalert@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk

Half term Activities

Please find below some links which may interest you for half term.

[21 free \(or very cheap\) ways to sprinkle joy for kids over half term \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](https://moneysavingexpert.com/21-free-or-very-cheap-ways-to-sprinkle-joy-for-kids-over-half-term/)



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MoneySavingExpert.com](https://moneysavingexpert.com/21-free-or-very-cheap-ways-to-sprinkle-joy-for-kids-over-half-term/)

Many families will take a break from homeschooling next week - just listen closely to the collective cheering of the nation's kids (and parents). If you're running out of steam to keep them entertained for less over the February half term, we've come up with some tips to help to bring young children joy for little or no money.

www.moneysavingexpert.com

Parents free workshop

Free workshop for parents around home schooling [Positive approaches to engage with home schooling Tickets, Sat 20 Feb 2021 at 11:00 | Eventbrite](#) *This free talk will guide parents through some practical approaches to home learning that will help with engagement and motivation.*

Best wishes and keep safe everyone,

Mrs Christopher