



12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

### Year of the Word

As part of our on-going support of the Year of the word, this month's scripture which we would like to share with you is:

#### Corinthians 4: 5-7

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

### Welcome Back!

A huge welcome back to all of our pupils in school, you have all been a huge miss and the way you have all skipped in and joined into your classes has been a joy to behold. Year 5 & Year 6, we cannot wait until Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March, when you will all be together again too. Thank you also to the parents and families who have worked so hard with their children during the most recent lockdown, please know that whatever you have been able to do, however big or small has certainly helped all of our children return so positively. Once again, please be reassured that all staff are keeping the emotional well-being of your children in the forefront of their minds as they return and all staff are committed to working with your children to help them make the best of their return and the rest of this academic year, despite COVID-19.

### Attendance

Now that school is fully open again, schools have once been asked by the Government to track and report on attendance. If your child is isolating at home due to COVID-19, under instruction from the school, they will always be counted positively, so please do not worry about that. This week, our whole school attendance has been 98.1% which is excellent.

### Drop off and collection arrangements

Pupils should be being dropped off and/or collected by only ONE person, this week the number of family groups coming onto the school grounds has reduced and I really appreciate your support with this. Please only arrive at your child's time slot.

### Facemask wearing on school premises

Whilst we continue to educate your children, under the government guidance on COVID-19, all adults collecting children, for the 5-10mins they are on school premises are asked to wear a face mask. The mask is not about protecting yourself, it is about protecting others around you and reducing the spread of COVID-19. As many of you will have seen, a large number of the adults collecting after school are grandparents and by you wearing a mask you are helping to protect them. I appreciate that mask wearing is not the most pleasant, however for the short time you are on school grounds and mixing with other adults during the collection time, the schools risk assessment, which has been approved by the Local Authority, all the unions, governors and staff states that adults entering school grounds must wear masks, unless medically exempt.

To all the adults who are helping us by wearing a mask, I appreciate your support, and to the small minority who simply refuse because they don't believe in masks, I ask that you think about your parents and your child's grandparents being protected, please wear a mask for the short time you are on school grounds. Those adults who are exempt, I appreciate you wearing your lanyard, denoting that so you will not be asked to wear a mask.

### **Mother's Day Cards**

All pupils were offered the opportunity to make a Mother's Day card for a Mum or Grandmother at the start of the week. They have then been quarantined ready to be sent home today. I felt it was really important to give the children the chance to say thank you to their parents and talk about what they have appreciated most about their families during the most recent lockdown. You would have all been so proud of the things they said and the love and emotion they feel for all of you, so to the Mum's and of course dads out there – a huge thank you from all of us and your children for being so amazing!

### **Golden Book Assembly**

I am continuing with the new Golden Book Assemblies, but this week I have had the privilege of speaking to every class individually and speak to each child in person. It is wonderful to see how proud the children are – if your child comes out with a Golden Book Head Teacher Award sticker then please ask them how amazing they have been; you will be so proud. Now, as the children are all back in school, every week 2 children per class will come home with a Golden Book Award sticker – please keep an eye out for when it is your child!

To everyone who has managed their recent 10-day isolations, please give yourselves and your families a huge round of applause. You have been amazing and the engagement on Teams has been super, so you should all be really proud of yourselves.

### **World Book Day**

Last week, the staff uploaded 'Masked reader' video clips – could your child guess who they were? There were some amazing clips and so I look forward to hearing all about your ideas of who read which book! Since the children have been back in school we have heard some wonderful ways in which you all thought about and celebrated world book day, keep up all the good work!

### **International Women's Day**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March was International Women's Day and there are some wonderful resources on the website <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/> Indeed throughout history there are amazing and inspiring examples of women in action and we want all of our children to be inspired to become bigger and better people because of the examples they follow.

### **Commonwealth day**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March, it was also Commonwealth day – our collective group of nations all celebrated together. <https://thecommonwealth.org/commonwealth-day>

### **Young Carer Action Day**

<https://carers.org/young-carers-action-day-2021/young-carers-action-day-2021>

This is a really important day, for our young children who work to provide care for their families. During COVID-19 we have become aware of more and more children providing essential care to family members and we need to keep these children in our thoughts and prayers. Within school, any child who asks for extra help is always offered it. Please feel free to contact school yourself, if you think your child is carry out this type of role and may need additional support and help.

### **Safety in the carpark**

Please ensure that when you are walking out of school across the car park you make sure your child stays next to you. Some of our younger children have been running across the car park and staff are concerned that they will run out of the gate.

### **School Bags**

Before pupils returned to school I asked parents not to send their child into school with large ruck sac style bags. Children do not need to carry lots into school and currently we do not have the space to store them. Government Guidance also suggests that they are a COVID-19 risk. Please could you use a small school book bag instead, which can be purchased for £6 from

<https://totstoteams.com/>

### **Lent**

As part of our work throughout Lent, there are a number of resources we would encourage you all to access at home. These are also all accessible through the Diocesan website.

#### **Lenten Daily Reflections:**

This year as we enter Lent, we are considering what it means to be Missionary Disciples. Reflecting on our calling 'To go and make disciples', the Vicariate for Faith & Mission has worked with Clergy and Laity to produce daily reflections that offer support as you reflect on the readings for the day. The written Short Daily Reflections are available in various formats to view online, download and print, or to receive as a daily email direct to your inbox.

We invite parishes and partnerships to share these Lenten resources with their communities in digital and printed formats, where possible.

Amy Cameron, Coordinator for Faith & Mission.

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#### **'Wait a Minute – It's Lent':**

'Wait a Minute – It's Lent' daily videos are available to watch on [YMT's YouTube channel](#), with daily reflections from across the Diocese. We invite you to subscribe to YMT's YouTube channel.

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#### **Short Daily Reflections:**

Short Daily Reflections are 46 reflections, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday – available to view online or download/print as one booklet for the entire period of Lent or as individual week-by-week reflections.

#### **Would you like to receive a short daily reflection in your inbox each morning during**

**Lent?** Please [click here](#) and register (NB. You should receive a confirmation email from Faith & Mission but if not, please check your Junk folder)

Daily Reflections – Week after Ash Wednesday ([pdf](#))

Daily Reflections – First week of Lent ([pdf](#))

Daily Reflections – Second week of Lent ([pdf](#))

Daily Reflections – Third week of Lent ([pdf](#))

Daily Reflections – Fourth week of Lent ([pdf](#))

Daily Reflections – Fifth week of Lent ([pdf](#))

Daily Reflections – Holy week ([pdf](#))

Daily Reflections – All weeks ([pdf](#)) *NB. this file combines all the reflections across Lent into a single document.*

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#### **Weekly Reflections:**

During Lent Fr. Sean Hall shares his reflections of the weekend readings.

First Sunday of Lent ([pdf](#))

Second Sunday of Lent ([pdf](#))

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#### **Lent At Home:**

New resources and updates are now available at: [godwhospeaks.uk](http://godwhospeaks.uk).

#### **Fr Martin Morris**

Father has very kindly agreed to share both staff and pupil prayers sessions with us over the coming months. He will be popping into school periodically to share moments of peace and prayer with us so sometimes your child will be encouraged to share their thoughts and prayers which they have had with Fr with you at home. I am very grateful to Father for the time he is taking to come and be part of our Catholic School community.

#### **Holy week**

Over the course of Holy Week, all the pupils will be taking part in at least one socially distanced liturgy within the confines of COVID-19 rules and regulations. However, we felt it very important to be able to take time together to refocus and energise ourselves again. Father Martin has also agreed to come into school on the Tuesday morning of Holy week and bless every classroom and all the children in each classroom, we all appreciate him taking time to bless our children.

#### **Year of St Joseph**

An Introduction to the Year of St Joseph; in his Apostolic Letter entitled [Patris corde](#) ("With a Father's Heart"), marking the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. The Year of St Joseph is being launched in schools in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle from March 2021 in time to celebrate Joseph's feast day on 19 March. In the Apostolic Letter Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. We will be celebrating each of those attributes through liturgical prayer each month, reflecting on the Gospel stories about Joseph and commemorating his feast days.

Maybe with all of our collective prayers, the vaccine will bring some much longed for light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully, soon we can start meeting friends, families and reconnect with loved ones. I continue to keep you and all of your families in my thoughts and prayers during this challenging time, as we are not quite there yet.

Best wishes,

*A D Thorpe*

Mrs A. D. Thorpe  
Head teacher