

Parents Association News

What a fabulous evening we had at the Hollywood Arms last night! It was such a delight to see so many of you and I for one thoroughly enjoyed myself. Furthermore, we raised some money through ticket sales to help the school upgrade its router.

I am delighted to announce the launch of the beautiful Oratory hair accessories. Mrs Birkert has kindly donated the first exclusive batch and if you didn't see them last night you'll be able to catch them at the next coffee morning on the 12th March. Once we have it up and rolling you'll be able to order the products directly from us.

Don't forget there's a Forum coming up on the 11th March so do contact your rep with any suggestions or concerns you may have. Thank you once again for your continued support of the Parents Association, it is much appreciated.

Alex Yates
PA Chair



Lent begins next Wednesday. Why is it important to us as Catholics?

Lent lasts 40 days, not including Sundays, and is a time of preparation for Easter. Lent finishes on Easter Sunday morning. It begins the day after Shrove Tuesday (Ash Wednesday); in some parts of the world Shrove Tuesday is called 'Fat Tuesday', in France 'Mardi Gras' and in the Caribbean 'Carnival' (Latin for 'going without meat'). In Britain, Shrove Tuesday is often known as Pancake Day. For Christians this means one last party and celebration, eating up all the nice, sweet, enjoyable things in the cupboard before beginning Lent.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. In the Bible if you were really sorry for something you had done you would wear sackcloth and put ashes on your head so everyone could see you meant it. Today Roman Catholics and many members of the Church of England go to church where the priest will burn last year's Palm Sunday crosses and use the ash to put a mark on a person's forehead. Father Edward will be distributing ashes for the children on Wednesday.

Why is Lent important to Christians? Lent reminds Christians of Jesus' time of temptation and fasting (going without food) in the desert which lasted for 40 days and nights. Christians believe that by copying Jesus' example they can become better Christians. By eating less, fasting at certain times or giving up their favourite food they will have more time to focus and think about their faith, to read the Bible and pray. They become more self-disciplined and stronger willed at resisting all types of temptation. They appreciate all the things they do have and become more aware of other people's needs. In assembly today we talked about being like caterpillars turning into butterflies: Lent is like a period of time we can spend in cocoons, transforming ourselves for Jesus. Next week, we will begin our annual Lenten collection for the Catholic Children's Society, and we will display our Lenten promises. The children will be raising money through a sponsored 'danceathon' later this month (more information to follow).

Safeguarding children: technology

Mrs Griffiths sent an email via parent reps today regarding some concerns reported in the news about online safety. Please check your mail and follow the advice if you have any concerns about this specific issue.

Also, a general reminder to parents that children should only carry mobile phones to make calls if they travel to school by themselves. The internet facilities should be disabled so that you can always supervise your child's online access.

Early help: Presentation for Parents

Families living in Kensington and Chelsea with children aged 0-19yrs can access support for the whole family when you are facing challenges or if you are worried about one of your children. 'Early Help' offer support to families when issues are just starting, their aim is to work with you to help identify your families unique strengths and to build these with you whilst also working to improve other areas of your family life.

A member of staff from Early Help will be attending our next coffee morning to let parents know all about their service. Do come along!