

11th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,



On Thursday CAFOD came to school to launch their lenten appeal, '[Walk Against Hunger](#)' with the children. The aim of the campaign is to help communities thrive in even the most difficult environments. During the day, the children attended an assembly and then a workshop. They were given more information about the campaign, whilst exploring Catholic social teaching and how we are called to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

March:
14th- 25th: STEM Week
April:
1st: End of Term

In the assembly the children were told that CAFOD do not normally work in Europe. However, due to the awful crisis in the Ukraine, they had been supporting [Caritas](#) based in the Ukraine and surrounding areas, who desperately need our support.

We have been explaining what is happening in Ukraine and answering the children's questions in class. In assemblies we have been praying for all the people affected by the crisis and asking God to end the suffering. Father Emeka also led the children in prayer for Ukraine in the Ash Wednesday service. We have used resources created by [CAFOD](#), [Picture News](#), [Newsround](#) and [Save the Children](#) to help us broach this with the children sensitively. Getting the balance right between responding honestly, with an age appropriate response and wanting to protect children from distressing news can of course be very difficult. After two years of a pandemic, we do not want to cause the children any more anxiety, but we do need to help them make sense of what they are seeing in the news, especially as many of our children have family that live in the Ukraine, Russia and neighbouring countries. If your child is upset by what they are seeing in the news, please follow this [link](#) for advice and support.

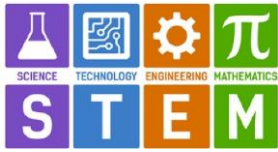
A prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity to our sisters and brothers in need.
May we walk in your ways, so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen.

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Our Lenten appeal this year will support 'Walk Against Hunger', which will support all the CAFOD projects. There will be more details to follow on the planned fundraising opportunities. In the mean time, if you would personally like to donate the [government website suggests](#) financial donations. The Disasters Emergency Committee do have the [Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal](#), as does the [Lewisham Polish Centre](#) if you wish to donate.

STEM Week(s)



Over the next two weeks we will be raising the profile of STEM in school. There are activities and trips planned to support the learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We have some external visitors coming into school to run workshops or to do talks to various year groups. Year 4 will be taking part in the 'Race to Infinity' Maths tournament. There will also be a Science and Maths fair run by Years 5 & 6 for the younger children. It's going to be an exciting two weeks. Please ask your children about what they have been learning.

St Winidred's Peace Garden

The Mini Vinnies would like to ask you all for donations of plants. Now that Spring is almost here, they would like to give the Peace Garden some TLC. They would greatly receive any donations of plants to develop the area.



Covid Update

As you know, all Covid restrictions have been removed by the government and there is no legal need to isolate now after a positive test. The guidance states "Stay at home if you can and avoid contact with other people". Therefore, as a school we are remaining cautious and are asking children and staff, who test positive, to stay at home. We ask that if anyone tests positive that they do not return to school until they have had two negative lateral flows tests, 24hours apart from day 5. We are maintaining this in place, as we do have vulnerable members of our community, that we would like to keep safe. Currently, we do have a cluster of positive cases in one year group.

Play in the Borough

Lewisham Council knows how important play is for our children's and young people's development. They want to ensure they make the best use of play resources to support all children and young people to enjoy play and thrive. They have appointed the specialist organisation London Play to help them develop a plan for play for the borough, and they would like to capture as many views from children, young people, parents and carers as possible about:

- Play facilities in the borough
- The purpose and value of play (what it means to children and adults)
- Ideas for future play development

This will help London Play produce an audit of play in the borough and begin to develop recommendations. Please respond to the survey [here](#).

Vision and Mission

Thank you to those of you have taken the time to complete the survey regarding the school's vision and mission statement. The survey is still open, please follow this [link](#). I would really welcome as many voices as possible.

Technology Workshops

With all the different means of accessing the internet, we know children and young people may spend more time online. Lewisham Council has commissioned the Athena Refuge to deliver 2 x free workshops to empower parents to support their children to access technology safely and positively and what to do if you have any concerns.

We know removing technology from our children can seem like a logical solution but sometimes this can in fact increase risks of unsupervised use.

The purpose of this workshop is to increase awareness and provide some useful skills to support parents, by the end of this workshop you should be able to:

- Recognise how modern technology can be used to jeopardise young people's safety
- Distinguish between different types of technological abuse that could affect children and young people
- Assess the risk factors involved in cases where technology is being used to abuse children and young people
- List different ways in which you can empower your children to use technology safely and positively

There are 2 workshops available via Zoom on April 26th and May 3rd from 6-8pm. Please see flyer for more information.

Eat Them to Defeat Them!

'[Eat them to defeat them!](#)' has started! You will see the children who have tried the vegetables at lunch, as they will receive a sticker. This campaign hopes to bring about real changes in children's attitudes towards vegetables. Research shows that 80% of children are not eating enough vegetables, with a third eating less than one portion of vegetables a day. Through this programme it is hoped that our children will be encouraged to at least try them. Each week there will be a focus on a particular vegetable. The serving hatch will be decorated and the meal time supervisors will be giving stickers to any child who tries it.



Friends of St Winifred's

The Easter eggs are arriving in school! The Friends are asking for Easter eggs in preparation for the children's Easter egg hunt at the end of this term. (Every child receives an egg, so we really do rely on many donations).

I will be meeting with the Friends soon, to discuss all the wonderful events they have in mind for the rest of the year. As restrictions ease and the weather improves, I am sure we can organise lots of lovely things for the children. If you have any ideas, please contact the Friends directly through your class reps.



Nursery Places for September 2022

If you have registered interest for a full-time or part-time Nursery place in September 2022, you should have received the application pack. This will be for children who were born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019. If you would like an application form and have not registered, please contact the school office.

We will be hosting a series of open days this half term. If you would like to book a place on one of the open days, please contact the school office. Please feel free to share this information with prospective parents you may know.

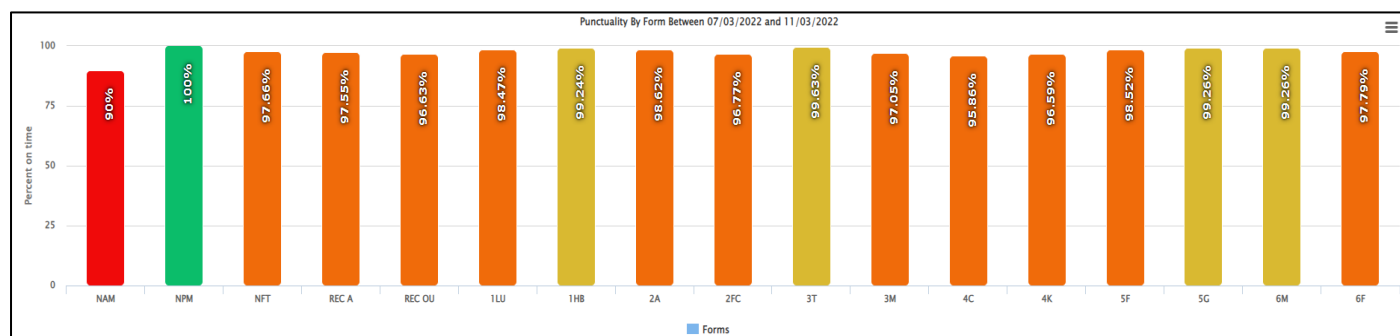
During the School Day	After School
2pm – 2:45pm	4pm – 4:45pm
Thursday 24th March	Wednesday 16th March Thursday 31st March

All parents are entitled to 15 hours free nursery provision but some may qualify for the 30 hours free provision. If you think you may be entitled to the 30 hours provision you should apply for an eligibility code at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare>.

The Application Form, the Supplementary Form and proof of baptism need to be returned to the school on or before 1st April 2022.

Punctuality:

Punctuality improved slightly this week. Many classes are above 97%. Please endeavour to get all the children to school on time.



This graph shows the punctuality for this week. This week's winner is: 3T! Well done to the 3T on 99.6%!

After school clubs Summer Term for year 1 - 6 (after the Easter holiday)

Don't forget to return the selection form that was sent out. The grid indicates the day the club is running and which year group each club is open too. A further copy of the clubs being offered is attached.

Food Bank

Please be reminded that the school's foodbank is open. If you would like to access it, please contact the school office. If you are able to donate to the foodbank, all donations will be greatly received. Thank you to those who had supermarket deliveries to the school this week for the foodbank. Your generosity is overwhelming.

Wednesday Word

Please see the link to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend. <https://www.swcps.lewisham.sch.uk/thewednesdaywordwebsite/>

Parent App:

Most parents are using the app now, if any of you need any help or would like to download it, please contact the school.



Social Media:

Just to remind you, follow us on:



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St_winifreds_lee



@stwinifredslee

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter, it really is very much appreciated.

Claire Gillespie