



Learning through faith

Address: St. Mary's C.E. Primary Academy
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Date: 19th January 2023

Dear parents,

I am pleased to inform you that Reverend Julie will be leading our first Messy Church of the school year on 3rd February. The session will start at 3:30pm and finish at 4:45pm. All the activities will be focused around The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) as this falls on 2nd February. All pupils and parents/grandparents are welcome to attend. If you and your child would like to come along, please let Miss Hacking know via email - nsmoffice@cidari.co.uk - before 27th January, to help us with the organisation of resources etc. Please can we also ask you to provide a picnic tea for both yourself and your child/ren, tea/coffee and juice will be provided.

Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February and we will be celebrating with a service led by Reverend Julie in school. We would like to invite parents and grandparents to attend the service with us.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Lent is a time of thinking about God and focusing more on him instead of the 'stuff' around us. Ash Wednesday is a day when we say sorry to God and think about our lives. In order to help us to do this we shall be having a special service and as part of that service we will be offering what is known as the Imposition of Ashes. Ash is made by burning Palm Crosses (given out on Palm Sunday) and the ash is then mixed with olive oil. A small ash cross is then drawn on the forehead. As this is done these words are used, 'Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'. Adam and Eve turned away from God when they ate from the tree of knowledge. When we mark our foreheads with ashes at the beginning of Lent, we are indicating that we are turning back to God.

If you have any questions regarding the service or the Imposition of Ashes, please ring Reverend Julie on 01282 613206. Please advise Miss Hacking on the above email address if you wish to attend our Ash Wednesday service before 10th February, this will ensure that there are enough ashes and seats for everyone. Thank you.

Best wishes,

Pauline Nightingale
Headteacher



At St Mary's we believe that

choose to be extraordinary!

it is possible for ordinary people to