



St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Revd. Daniel Norris MBA NPQH
Head of School: Mrs. Elizabeth Walton BA (Hons) PGCE
120 – 138 Station Road Harrow Middlesex HA1 2DJ
www.stjeromebilingual.org
Tel: 020 3019 6363 e-mail: office@stjeromebilingual.org



To: All Parents and Carers
St. Jérôme Church of England Primary School

28th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lent, Ash Wednesday and Church of England Inspection of St Jérôme School on Wednesday 6th March.

Next week marks the beginning of the season of Lent for Christians all around the world. During this 40-day season of preparation, before the celebration of Easter, Christians take the opportunity to reflect on their lives and to focus on their faith. Traditionally, Lent is a season of fasting, prayer and penitence (saying sorry to God). In this way, it is similar to the season of Advent, a time of preparation and reflection before Christmas, and periods of fasting in other faiths that are followed by many in our school community.

On the day before Lent begins it is traditional to enjoy treats and festivities (often pancakes or crepes and sweet foods). This day is known as Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras or Pancake Day. Following this the formal observation of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday until the feast of Easter is celebrated.

As is our custom at St Jérôme School, we invite all children and our families to mark the beginning of the season of Lent at St. John's Church at our Ash Wednesday Service. On Ash Wednesday, Christians receive a small smudge of Ash on their forehead as a symbol of saying sorry and receiving God's love and forgiveness. It is the opportunity, whatever our faith, to seek to live a life in which we love our neighbour and seek and offer forgiveness. Class teachers will be explaining this carefully to children who are in Reception or are new to the school. The majority of our children in Year 1 and Year 2 will already be familiar with this practice.

All children will go to church but if you would prefer your child not to receive Ash during the service, we would kindly ask you to complete and sign the form below. If we do not receive a notification from you, your child will automatically be offered this opportunity.

We need to ensure that we have plenty of adult volunteers to support staff to walk the children to and from St. John's Church. If you would be able to help us with this, please inform the school office by email at office@stjeromebilingual.org so that we can ensure we have sufficient helpers. We will aim to leave school as soon a registration is complete and would therefore kindly ask parents to arrive at the school office by 8:55am. We expect our service to begin in Church at approximately 9:15am and to be completed by 9:45am.

This year we will be joined at our Ash Wednesday Service by Mrs. Jan Matthews who will be conducting the first Church of England School Inspection of St. Jérôme School. All Church of England Schools receive an additional statutory inspection under Section 48 of the Education Act. The focus of the inspection is to review the impact of the School's Christian Vision, the quality of Religious Education and Worship. We are very pleased that the inspection coincides with such an important date in our worship calendar. We believe that it is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the unique and innovative vision of St. Jérôme School and the amazing achievements of your children. Mrs. Matthews will spend the day in our school visiting classrooms, observing teaching and worship, and speaking with staff, governors, children and other representatives of our school community. We look forward to sharing the inspection report with you in due course.

We look forward to welcoming as many families as possible at our Ash Wednesday Service.

Yours sincerely,



Revd. Daniel Norris
Executive Headteacher

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Please return directly to the school office by Tuesday 5th March 4.30 pm latest

ONLY IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO RECEIVE ASH

Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday 6th March at 9.00am

I would NOT like my child to receive ash during the Ash Wednesday Service and I have informed my child.

Childs Name: _____ Class: _____

Signed: _____ Parent