



Wednesday 18th February marked the beginning of **Lent**, the most important time in the Church's calendar. Lent is the 40 days before, beginning on **Ash Wednesday**. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of **Easter**.

The 40 days of Lent, echo Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Ash Wednesday is often seen as a time to clean the soul and mind ready for Lent. **Purple** is used throughout Lent as a sign of sorrow and also of royalty for the death of Christ the King.

Lent ends on **Thursday 2nd April or Maundy Thursday** as the Church enters Holy Week and the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This year we embark on our Lenten Challenge so we can grow closer to God and act generously towards others. This year our charities will be

- **SVP** who aim to seek and find those in need and to help them through friendship and charity.
- **St Oswalds Hospice**— a specialist and expert care service to adults and children with life-limiting conditions.
- **Sarah's Star**— a charity offering holistic therapies and supportive activities for individuals and families affected by incurable and life-limiting illnesses.
- **Tyneside Community Store** – a not-for-profit organisation providing affordable food and household items to the Tyneside community.



To raise money this year our Lenten Challenge will take 3 forms organised by our Mini Vinnies

- Throughout Lent we are inviting the children to donate their old clothes, toys, shoes and books to aid St Oswalds and Tyneside Community Store. Please ensure items are in good clean condition
- **Friday 27th March** will be a **Shine Bright Day!** We invite the children to come in their own clothes that allows them to shine as brightly as they can for a donation of £1. During this day, our Mini Vinnies will set up stalls containing a range of star crafts for the children to purchase in aid of **Sarah's Star**
- Throughout Lent we will be hosting our Friday cake sales with each class providing cakes to sell for the whole school to buy at a cost of 50p per cake

Y4 – Friday 27th February
Y1 & Y2 – Friday 6th March
Rec/Y6 – Friday 13th March
Y5 – Friday 20th March
Y3 – Friday 27th March

As part of our school community we invite you to share in this time of Lent with us. Lent is a time when we pray, do kind things for other people, give up things we enjoy and give to others, as we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Easter.

Could you as a family give up something together and give the money you save to a local charity? Could you donate your time to help others or take part in our Lenten Challenge at school? There is a family calendar here to help you think about ways you can grow closer to God

*Loving and compassionate God,
teach us to show love and mercy to
each other.*

*As we begin our journey through
Lent, inspire us to be generous and
kind.*

Amen