



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 12 February 2021

The Theme for next week is Lent (Mark 1: 12 – 15)

“A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight” (Mark 1:3)

Sometimes we feel as though we are in the wilderness! Especially in these challenging times. The Good news is that we are not alone. We are all tempted and make mistakes, but we are always in the company of Jesus. He knows what that temptation feels like! As we journey with Jesus through this time of Lent, we are challenged to change our ways, change our hearts, and turn back to God. We can do all this in good company. We are never alone.

Let us pray...

Our Father who art in heaven...

Amen

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the Spring half-term, I am delighted with the way we have worked together as a school community to successfully navigate learning during Lockdown 3. My thanks go to pupils, families, and our staff for all their hard work. We did it! As of today, we have received no announcement from the Government on when school will reopen. When we have any news we will be in contact via Schoolcoms. Please remember that it is an INSET day on Monday, 22 February and remote learning begins again on Tuesday, 23 February.

With best wishes for a lovely half term

MISSIONS TO MARS

In the news at the moment, you might have heard that there are several missions to Mars. China and the UAE are putting satellites into orbit and NASA is landing a rover. The NASA rover will be landing on Thursday, 18 February, so look out for it in the news and watch the BBC videos below:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-55413966>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-53513843>



[How long does it take to get to Mars?](#)

Summer 2020 is a popular time for missions to the red planet because of the way the planets align - but how long does it take to get there?

www.bbc.co.uk

WHY ARE PEOPLE COUNTING STARS?

This week our Science Department has been encouraging pupils to take part in a national star count. The Countryside Charity asks the nation to help measure light pollution in their area by counting stars. Light pollution can present a big problem to wildlife such as birds, insects, and amphibians. To find out more about this please watch the BBC video and go to the CPRE website to register your results.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55956058>

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/star-count-2021/>

DANCING RAISINS

The Science Department has some sets of practicals for home from the James Dyson Foundation. Attached with this Newsletter is Dancing Raisins. Why not have a go!

BOOO PE CHALLENGE!

The Physical Education department have set another physical activity challenge for the whole school community. In July 2020, the goal was to collectively cover the distance of the well-known **Land's End to John O'Groats** bike ride, but it can be completed around our home locality and include all members of our household. In that one week, the school community managed to cover a total of 5,530 miles!

This year, they wanted to set a bigger challenge. Starting today (**Friday, 12 February**) we would like as many members as possible of our school community (pupils, families, and staff) to walk, cycle or run whatever distance they can for **25 days**, up until the **Monday, 8 March** with the aim of travelling 25,725 miles. This would take us around the equator, from Preston to Preston in seven legs.

What can you do?

Try to go out every single day with members of your house. Each time you walk, cycle or run somewhere during challenge, either on your own or with your family, please complete the exercise diary (see below) which will be sent to families via email and Microsoft Teams PE groups.

State how many members of your household you did each activity with and the miles completed by everyone. **So, for example, if three members of your family go on a 5-mile bike ride you can multiply the total miles (5) by the number of people you did it with (3) which will give you your total miles for the activity, in this example, 15 miles.** At the end of the week, pupils add up the total number of miles they have completed and email their completed diary to their PE teacher. We will add together everybody's total mileage to see if we can reach the 25,725 mile target!

Every pupil who takes part in this challenge by sending us a completed diary will receive Being One Of Ours points and it will also go towards their pledges when they return to school.

Good luck! We can't wait to achieve our goal together!

Date	Activity	Who	Distance	Total miles per activity
12.2.21	Cycle to Beacon fell.	Me, mum, dad	5 miles	5 miles x 3 people = 15 miles

Dates to remember

Monday, 22 February INSET day School closed for all pupils

Tuesday, 23 February – School opens

Friday, 26 March - School closes for Easter at 12.45 pm

Monday, 12 April - School opens for the Summer term

Monday, 3 May – May Day school closed

Friday, 28 May – School closes for half-term at 3.30 pm

Monday, 7 June – School opens

Friday, 16 July – School closes for summer at 12.45 pm