

Newsletter 12th February 2021

Dear Parents

We have ahead of us a 'happy week' packed with celebrations. These will begin today, as it is a very important day for all our Chinese friends. On Friday 12th we mark **Chinese New Year**, the first day of the year in the traditional Chinese calendar. Unlike western New Year's celebrations, which are determined by the solar Gregorian calendar, the Chinese use a lunisolar calendar determined by the sun and the moon, which results in the date of Chinese New Year changing annually.

Each year of the Calendar represents one of the 12 zodiac animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. 2021 marks the Year of the Ox.

The story behind the celebration, says that every year, the horrendous monster 年 (Nián) would terrorize villages. The villagers realised that the monster came every 365 days, and the villagers would hide on this day and ask the ancestors for protection. Eventually, a child came up with the idea to use firecrackers and scare the monster away once and for all. This is why firecrackers are a symbol of Chinese New Year.

Next Sunday we'll celebrate **St Valentines's Day**, a day with a background history not too 'rosy'. Today we like to think of Valentine's Day as a time to celebrate love and friendship and the joy of having other people in your life. It's a day of flowers, candy and cards decorated with hearts.

Pancake Day is just a few days away now, and we have all been preparing our recipes to make lovely tasty treats. But more importantly, this day marks the start of the build-up to Easter and is followed by **Ash Wednesday**, the start of Lent.

Let's celebrate and get ourselves ready to begin the season of Lent with renewed strength and faith. Let's remember Lent is a special time to pause and reflect; a time in which we offer penance and sacrifice as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Lord, purify my heart and cleanse my soul, that I may forever remain close beside you.

Holy Communion

First Holy Communion Programme 2021 - Sacramental Preparation for baptised Catholic children in Year 3 and above. If your child is eligible to receive this sacrament, please register the candidate's name **via our new Diocesan email address** mottinghamfhc@rcaos.org.uk before **Sunday 14 February 2021**. Please check our website regularly for updates.



Stars of the Week

Rec: Oliver - For always working hard at home and online. I am impressed with his home projects and joint learning with his brother.

Year 1: Lucas - For participating well in online lessons and for great work.

Year 2: Amy - For putting in great effort online and participating well.

Year 3: Michael - For excellent participation and trying his best in every online lesson.

Year 4: Lizzie - For excellent work and efforts in Literacy and sharing Chinese New Year traditions and facts with her class.

Year 5: Antonina - For brilliant artwork.

Year 6: Emily - For always being on time for remote learning; actively participating in every lesson; sharing her work and showing much commitment and dedication.

Online Training for Parents

For free online training in Grammar to help parents with home learning, please use this link.

<https://www.dandelionlearning.co.uk/helping-parents-with-home-learning-getting-to-grips-with-grammar/>

Kind regards

Mrs Gonzalez

Headteacher

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School