



LENT APPEAL 2023

BUILDING BRIDGES

This year's Lent Appeal is
inspired by Pope Francis's call:

*“Build bridges, not walls
. . . talk to one another,
listen to each other,
walk together”*

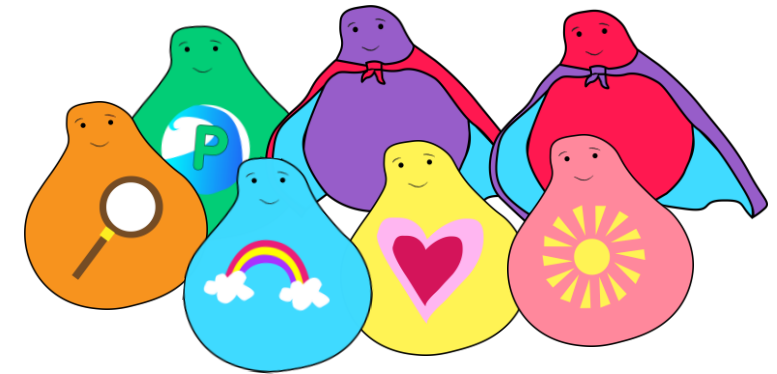


What do you think Pope Francis means?

Lent Activities

Catholic
Children's
Society

Lent Adventure



Build bridges and connect with others this Lent!

Who are CCS?

Catholic
Children's
Society

- **The Catholic Children's Society is a charity helping local disadvantaged children and families**
- **We are inspired by Catholic Social Teaching**
- **We work with all faiths and none. We want children to be happy, healthy and to be given the best possible start in life**

What does CCS do?



St Francis
Family Centre



Stay & Play
A place to thrive 0-5

Connect-Ed
Mental Health Services for Schools



Rainbows
Guiding Children and Young People
Through Life's Storms.



Crisis Fund
Emergency support for families in crisis

What does CCS do?



A place to thrive 0-5



Family Centre

- We have two family centres: St Mark's Stay & Play and St Francis
- We provide toys, books, games and a safe space to play
- We also offer help and advice to the parents and carers

What does CCS do?

Catholic
Children's
Society

Connect-Ed

Mental Health Services for Schools



Rainbows

Guiding Children and Young People
Through Life's Storms.

- Counselling and therapy for children
- Mental health training for school staff
- Rainbows, a bereavement support programme to help children who have experienced a loss in their lives

What does CCS do?



- Our Crisis Fund provides emergency funding for families in crisis situations
- Headteachers can apply to our Crisis Fund and we respond within 24 hours
- We provide food and essential items when families have nowhere else to turn

**What do you do in
the morning before
you come to school?**

What do you do every morning?



Ollie's Story



Ollie's Story

Ollie is seven year's old and lives with his mum and younger sister.

A few months ago, Ollie's home had a roof leak and the flat became extremely damp.

Within a couple of months, the ceilings, walls and windows had become covered in black mould.



Ollie's Story

Ollie became very poorly because of all the mould. He was coughing and wheezing all the time. It became so bad that Ollie was rushed to hospital because he was struggling to breathe.

Ollie's mum was very worried and upset and didn't know who she could turn to. She called Ollie's school to see if they could help.

Ollie's Story

Ollie's school spoke with the council and the family were moved into a new flat.

The new flat was completely empty. Everything in their previous flat had to be destroyed because of the mould. With the rise of living costs, Ollie's mum couldn't afford to buy basic furniture for the flat.

Ollie's school contacted CCS to see if we could help.

Ollie's Story

Using money from the Crisis Fund, the Catholic Children's Society helped the family buy basic furniture so they could move into the new flat that same week.

Ollie is now feeling much better and the family are safe and happy in their new home.

Ollie's Story

Catholic
Children's
Society

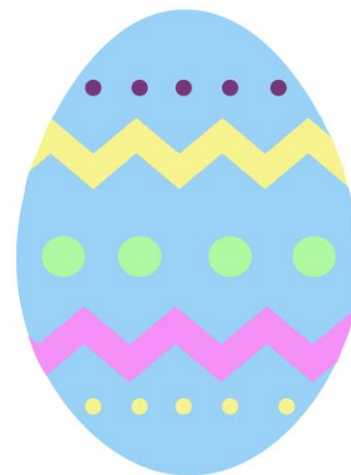
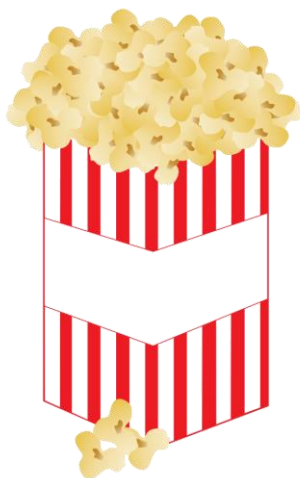
“We are totally overwhelmed by your help and all I can say is this has been life changing for the family... The effect this has had on his wellbeing is priceless and Ollie is now absolutely flourishing.”

Fundraising for CCS

- By raising money, your school will be helping local children and families who really need our support
- There's lots of ways to fundraise for CCS! You can take part in a fundraising challenge on your own, in your class or with your wider community



Fundraising ideas



- This year our CCS Day will be on **Friday 24th March!**
- Join school communities across the diocese and hold a non-uniform day (or choose another fundraising idea) to help support even more children and families



How does your support make a difference?

£15 can buy a child a pair of shoes



£25 can buy a coat to keep a child warm



£50 can buy food to feed a family for a week



£100 can buy a bed to help a child sleep at night



Prayer

Dear Lord,

Guide us this Lent as we work together to build bridges and help everyone in our community.

Let us think about those children and families in need. Give us strength as we work to help them and bring comfort and hope to their lives.

Amen



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Thank you for listening! With your school's support this Lent, we will help more children and families in need.