

Lent Assembly

All	Mix a pancake, Stir a pancake, Pop it in the pan; Fry the pancake, Toss the pancake, Catch it if you can
1.	Good morning and welcome to our class assembly. On Tuesday, we had great fun celebrating Pancake Day. We hope you had fun at home making and eating pancakes. We are going to explain why we ate pancakes on Tuesday and why this is a special time of year for Christians.
2.	What is Pancake Day?
3.	The proper name for Pancake Day is Shrove Tuesday. It is the last day before the time of year Christians call Lent. It is traditional to eat pancakes on this day.
4.	Why are pancakes eaten on Shrove Tuesday?
5.	It is a time to give things up so Christians use up all the rich food before Lent begins. Traditionally they used up fats, eggs and milk. Lent is the 40 days that come before Easter.
6.	Why do Christians call the day Shrove Tuesday?
7.	The name Shrove comes from the old word "shrive" which means to confess. It is traditional for Christians to confess their sins before Lent begins
8.	When does Lent begin?
9.	Lent begins with the day after Shrove Tuesday. This day also has a special name. It is called Ash Wednesday. Christians go to a special church service.
10.	What is Ash Wednesday?
11.	Ash Wednesday is the 1 st day of Lent. Christians use ash as a symbol of being sorry for things they have done wrong and want to get rid of forever.
12.	Why is it called Ash Wednesday?
13.	Ashes are left behind when something is burned. Christians rubbed ashes on their foreheads. They wanted to show God that they were sorry for the wrong things they had done in the past.
14.	What are the ashes made from?
15.	In Christian churches the ashes are made from the palm leaves that have been kept from Palm Sunday the year before.
16.	The palms are burnt and mixed with holy water or special oils and made into a paste.
17.	What happens on Ash Wednesday?
18.	When people go to church on Ash Wednesday, the priest dips his thumb in the paste and uses it to make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead.

19.	What do the ashes symbolize?
20.	Using ashes to mark the cross on the believer's forehead symbolizes that because Jesus' died and rose again, all Christians can be free from sin.
21.	So what about Lent?
22.	Lent is the time that Christians think about things that they have done wrong and to prepare for the sad events that happened to Jesus at Easter.
23.	Why is it called Lent?
24.	Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is in spring when the days begin to get longer.
25.	How long does Lent last?
26.	Lent lasts for 40 days. It starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. But if you look at a calendar and count the days, they come to more than 40 this is because you don't count the Sundays in Lent.
27.	Why is Lent 40 days?
28.	The number 40 is a special number in the Bible. Many special events lasted for 40 days for example. The flood in the Noah story, Moses stayed on Mount Sinai for 40 days
29.	Jesus spent 40 days in the desert praying and fasting which is why not eating rich foods and fasting take place.
30.	Why are Sunday's not counted?
31.	Sundays are always a day of celebration in the Christian church and so they cannot be included in the 40 days. Sundays remember when Jesus rose again.
32.	What special things happen during Lent?
33.	Christians try to do 3 special things during Lent. They say sorry for things they have done wrong and pray for forgiveness. They raise money or give money to charities.
34.	They give up certain foods they like especially treats. You could try giving up chocolate or crisps or maybe biscuits.
35.	Some people put the money they would have spent on their treats into a charity box.
36.	What happens at the church during Lent?
37.	A purple cloth is put on the altar. Purple is a royal colour and reminds believers that Jesus is king
38.	There are no flowers or any other decorations displayed in the church because churchgoers are thinking about when Jesus died.
39.	The words 'alleluia' is not said as it is a celebration word.
40.	(Change altar cloth and remove flowers)