

The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



Newsletter February 2022

IMPORTANT DATES: Term 3: Monday 10th January to Friday 18th February 2022
Term 4: Tuesday 1st March 2022 to Friday 8th April 2022
(Inset Day – Monday 28th February)

Catholic Life

Weekend Mass Times in our parish: Our Lady of Good Counsel Eastwood – Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.15am.

Responding to our Synodal journey: Beginning on Wednesday 2nd March (Ash Wednesday) the church will be open every Wednesday between 3-4pm for coffee and cakes. People can wander in and simply have a chat and some refreshments. There will also be the opportunity to say a quiet prayer or experience some easy prayer reflections around the church. Anyone willing to help, please contact Father.

First Communion Programme 2022: A reminder to parents of the children who are enrolled on to the course for First Reconciliation/First Communion. Our second session takes place next Sunday (13th February) from 11.15am – 12noon in the parish Social Centre. Please make sure the children have completed chapters 1 and 2 in their 'I belong' book. It is important that all children and at least one parent attend all these sessions so that they are well prepared to receive the Sacrament.

Racial Justice Sunday (13th February): The theme for this year's Racial Justice Sunday is; 'In the image and likeness of God'. It focuses on how everyone should see themselves, their race and culture and their history as an important aspect of the Church's life. *"Come Holy Spirit, show us your beauty reflected in all peoples of the earth, so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary, different faces of the one humanity that God loves so much."* **Amen.**

Monday Exposition: Every Monday during term time the church will be open between 9.30 and 11.30am for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. It's a great opportunity to take time out of the busyness of life for a few moments of quiet reflection. Call into church and be still and spend time in the sacred presence of the Lord. Our upper Key Stage 2 classes look forward to spending some time praying in church in this way, that is very similar to meditation.

Saint Valentine: Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. Like our own Saints of Beauvale, he was martyred after he too became the victim of early Roman persecution against followers of Christ. His body was buried at a Christian cemetery on the coast of the Adriatic Sea. He was executed on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Saint Valentine's Day) since 496. His Saints' Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. He is also a patron saint of epilepsy and beekeepers.

Safeguarding our Children: Please note that in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy, from time to time we may need to make a referral to Children & Young People Services at Nottinghamshire County Council. The school's Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mrs Smith (Family Liaison Lead) Mr Harrison (Headteacher) Mrs Grimes (Deputy Head teacher) and Mrs Symonds (SENCO).

Staffing: Today is the day when we say goodbye and good luck to Miss Cottrell who is leaving school for a year to have and look after her baby – as well as Nancy-Rai. We wish them all the best and look forward to the new born baby and Miss Cottrell's return to school in a year's time. However, I am sure we will get to see Miss Cottrell in school during that time, along with Nancy and their new baby. This week we welcomed back Mrs Scrimshaw to school. She is so pleased to be back working each morning in our breakfast club – and we are so pleased to see her return – fully recovered from her long illness. Congratulations to Mrs Scrimshaw for overcoming and beating her illness with such determination. Congratulations also go to Miss Victoria Betterton who has been working in school as a Teaching Assistant and also undertaking one to one singing lessons with children. Miss Victoria was recently successful in obtaining a permanent post as a Teaching Assistant in a school in Derbyshire. She will therefore leave us at half term to take up this post.

Yesterday we said our final goodbyes to Miss Dobb who has now left school as set out in my last newsletter. The children had a wonderful last day at the park with Miss Dobb. In the drive to replace her, the job advert is on the St Ralph Sherwin Trust website and the Indeed site (as well as printed out in this correspondence). In the meantime, the school has been in contact with a teacher who specialises in longer-term supply contracts. His name is Mr Campbell and he is coming into school on Tuesday afternoon to meet the children and to work with Miss Dobb. In addition, Mr Campbell is also coming into school to on our INSET Day – again to work with Miss Dobb. My thanks again to Miss Dobb for all she has done to help the children in our school – especially our Year 4 pupils and families. After half-term, when Mr Campbell takes charge of Year 4, he will teach for all five days each week. Indeed, this is also what the new class teacher will undertake when appointed. Please pass the information on to anybody you know who is a qualified teacher so that we can seek to employ the very best possible teacher. This also means that Mrs Symonds will no longer teach Year 4 on Friday afternoons. Instead, Mrs Symonds will continue to teach on Fridays – but will do so in Reception Class along with Mrs Croke, who will now teach the class for the other four days (Monday to Thursday each week). This teaching pattern will continue until Mrs Williams returns to work from her maternity leave in May, when she will then team teach with Mrs Croke.

Class Teacher Post Details:

Closing Date: 7 March 2022 at Midday; **Interview Date:** 15 March 2022
Start Date: Monday 25 April (or as soon as possible after February 2022 half term)

Do you want to work in a school which is passionate about teaching children with creativity through the wider curriculum? In a school that values educating the whole child within a body of happy and committed staff members? If so, the Directors of the trust along with the Governors of this successful and popular school, wish to appoint you to join our forward thinking, friendly, talented and enthusiastic team of staff.

The post is suitable for teachers looking to embrace the aims and ethos of our Catholic school; the Year Group to be taught will be in lower Key Stage 2. The role is suitable for newly qualified teachers, as the school does have excellent capacity to support early career teachers.

The successful candidate will:

- Have high expectations of themselves and the pupils they teach and be committed to ensuring all children achieve their potential
- Have high expectations of standards within a holistic curriculum approach to education – having a positive approach to behaviour management
- Have a love of supporting all pupils to develop across a rich and varied curriculum
- Be a creative, talented and dynamic teacher who places children at the heart of their teaching
- Be forward thinking with a positive attitude and great interpersonal skills
- Be proactive in promoting and instilling the school's Catholic values and virtues
- Be willing to support the aims and vision of Catholic Education in school and within the wider trust
- Be determined to make school-life a positive, rewarding and enjoyable experience for all
- Have excellent interpersonal skills and can work, plan and communicate effectively as part of a small, friendly and supportive team.

To apply, go to our trust website: www.srscmat.co.uk/Vacancies to complete and return the requested documents to: vacancies@srscmat.co.uk.

Visits are warmly welcome. Please contact Mrs Emma Bailey (Office Receptionist) by phone 01773 713731 or by email: office@priory-pri.notts.sch.uk

As well as our teaching position in Year 4, the school also has a position to fill in our school office. The advert details for which are:

Office Receptionist: Grade/SCP: Band 2, SCP 3-5

Salary: Full time Equivalent - £18,562 - £19,312 per annum;

Hours: 37 hours per week, 40 weeks per year

Closing Date: 18 February 2022 at 09:00

Starting Date: March 2022

We are looking to appoint a friendly and efficient secretary to join our team in our busy school. This is a maternity position for up to one year – however, the role has potential to become a job share position after this time.

If successful, you will join a Catholic school where gospel and family values and the security and care of our children come first. Acting as the first point of call for all school visitors and callers, the successful candidate will welcome visitors, manage telephone calls and queries, re-directing as appropriate; as well as provide financial, administrative and clerical support to the school.

The successful candidate will:

- Have excellent administration and computer skills
- Be well organised with a flexible approach to work
- Have excellent oral and written communication skills
- The ability to work positively with parents, staff, external agencies and pupils
- The ability to multi task, prioritise and work to deadlines
- Be able to remain calm under pressure
- Be polite, friendly and have a good sense of humour.
- -Previous administrative or clerical experience is preferable within a school environment.

Responsibilities will include:

- Managing and maintaining our school management system which incorporates personnel records, attendance and transfer data, assessment data and information about the pupils
- Communicating and dealing with parents, children, staff and visitors in a polite, professional and efficient manner
- Produce letters, reports and other documents as required
- Manage the school diary

For all positions in school, The Priory Academy is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check will be required for all successful candidates.

Say NO to single-use plastic bottles in schools:

Please consider signing the petition to stop schools selling/giving children single-use plastic water bottles. Producing plastic bottles is bad for the planet. The petition is asking the government to think of the environmental cost of single-use plastic bottles in school. Please help to make a change!

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/604318>

New Timings Reminder: We are currently experiencing lots of pupils coming to school late in the mornings. Please stick to the new timings as strictly as possible when bringing your child to the top of the drive each morning. Please use the time as displayed on mobile phones, as this is what all staff in school do:

- Year 5 and 6: 8.35am
- Year 3 and 4: 8.40am
- Year 1 and 2: 8.45am
- EYFS 2: 8.50am

Children who have older siblings will come with their brothers and sisters and join ‘the breakfast club staff’ where they will wait in school, or outside on the playground for their classmates to arrive.

At the end of each day – please utilise all of the space on both playgrounds – please do not stand in the area that connects both playgrounds; and do not allow your child to play on the school grounds or the timber trails. Please walk on the right-hand side of the drive.

Again, please use the time as displayed on mobile phones; we have staggered the departure as follows:

- EYFS 2: **3.05pm** (From under the reception class shelter)
- Year 1 and Year 2: **3.10pm** (At the near end of the Key Stage 2 Playground)
- Key Stage 2 (Year Groups 3, 4, 5 and 6: **3.15pm** (Spread out over the Key Stage 2 Playground)

Thank you for your help in getting our children safely to and from school.

Important Message from Sean McClafferty:

Parents & Carers
All St Ralph Sherwin CMAT Academies

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of the summer, in August 2022, I will be retiring from my post as CEO of St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust. It has been the greatest privilege to be CEO of the Trust, the highlight of my 32-year career and something I will always treasure.

I have worked with some amazing, talented, great people: staff, pupils, governors and Trustees, who have all helped create this wonderful Trust. The Trust Board is currently working on the recruitment process for my replacement and will be conducting an expansive search. Further updates will follow in due course. Thank you for your continued support of our academies and our Trust.

Yours sincerely,
Sean McClafferty
CEO

PTA: The PTA would like to thank you all for supporting the work they do in school (e.g. The Year 6 Christmas Fair and the other Christmas events). I take this opportunity to thank this most valuable group of people, who give up their own time to do so much good for our school. Please look out for and support forthcoming events such as the Valentine's Day disco and various cake sales that are organised throughout the year by our PTA. If you think you would like to lend a hand, then please contact the group via the school office.

Attendance: Congratulations to Lourdes Class for winning the attendance award for the last half-term (with an attendance of 98%). Along with Mrs Grimes and Mrs Baldwin, they get to choose a fun activity to do for an afternoon this term.

School Volunteers: My thanks go to the growing number of parents and carers who give up their time to help in school with reading and assisting classteachers. If you are a parent or carer who thinks that you could lend a hand and regularly support the school in this way, then please contact Mrs Smith who is responsible for organising our helpers.

Talk Homework and our Statements to live by: The statements to be explored in school over the coming weeks and for you to discuss at home are:

Monday 14th February: 'I know what human dignity means and I show that I respect others'

Monday 28th February: 'I know that it is ok for me to make mistakes'

Monday 7th March: 'I try to appreciate the beauty and wonder in the world'

Monday 14th March: 'I can learn from my mistakes and failures'

Medicine: If your child has a minor ailment and needs medicine, please remember to complete the school medical form, which can be obtained from the office or the school website (parents, general information). We do all we can to support children who have minor ailments in order that they are able to stay at school and continue to learn –we know to keep you informed and contact you if we see that a child needs to go home to rest and recoup.

Dogs: Unless a guide dog, under no circumstances are dogs allowed onto the school premises. Thank you to all for your cooperation in this matter.

Contact details: There is a lot of sickness going around at the moment. Therefore, we ask parents to update us with their contact details and telephone numbers.

A prayer for Lent: Dear Lord, as we are now well into the season of Lent, help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God; his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and into our future lives. Amen.

Pray, Fast, Give, this Lent: Our chosen charitable theme in school this Lent is to simply pray for the poor and needy around the world; think about the times when we can Fast in line with our Lenten promises; and give food to the poor in our local area. As a school, pupils in Year 5 will deliver donations of pasta, rice, tinned food and UHT milk to the local Food Bank in Eastwood, before we break up for Easter. The beginning of Lent is on 2nd March – when we will celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass as a whole school up at our parish church at 9.30am.

Food for Thought: "Ignorance and prejudice are the handmaidens of propaganda. Our mission, therefore, is to confront ignorance with knowledge, bigotry with tolerance, and isolation with the outstretched hand of generosity. Racism can, will, and must be defeated." –Kofi Annan

God bless – Anthony Harrison