



## The Priory Newsletter - January 2022

Important Dates: Spring/Lent



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

## Staffing:

After sixteen years of unstinting love and support for the pupils and school community here at The Priory, Mrs Jolly is leaving school at the end of this half-term. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Jolly for her hard work and commitment in this time. We wish her all the very best and every success in her next venture. We also prepare to say goodbye to Miss Dobb who will be leaving us one week before half-term – in fact Miss Dobb’s final day in school will be on Thursday 10th February. We wish her well and with great thanks for working in school, covering two teachers for their periods of maternity leave; teaching in Early Years and now in Year 4. We will miss both teachers greatly.

If you know of any teachers looking for a position, or you know of students who are to qualify as teachers in this academic year, then please do point them to the St Ralph Sherwin Multi Academy Trust website, where the post is advertised.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers Miss Cottrell who is poorly. She has now officially left school in order to get ready for the birth of her baby. We wish her and her family well and look forward to seeing her visit school with her new born baby.



1 - Mrs Jolly



*2 - Miss Dobb*

## Breakfast Club Support:



As Miss Butkevicius is finally leaving altogether from Friday 28th January, the school is looking to employ somebody for 6 ¼ hours each week to support the children at our Breakfast Club – this as cover for Mrs Scrimshaw – our Breakfast Club Leader – who is on the mend after being seriously ill. If you, or somebody you know would like to come into school and be payed for helping out each morning (from 7.30 to 8.45) then please get in touch with Mrs Emma Bailey our new Office Secretary. This role can start as soon as possible – when all safeguarding checks and an interview has taken place. We aim to hold interviews on Thursday 27th January for anybody expressing that they would like to take on this temporary role.

### Breakfast Club Reminder:

Thank you to all of those who attend breakfast club. It runs every morning starting at 7.30am and costs £4 a day.

## 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).

## Statements to live by:



## Our statements to be explored are:

- **Monday 10th January:** I understand the need to look after the environment
- **Monday 17th January:** I understand what trust means
- **Monday 24th January:** I belong to a universal church – loving people of every nation and creed

- **Monday 31st January:** I show that I care for the sick, the poor and the homeless

## Eastwood Food Bank:



Please do send tinned and dried food into school as we continue to collect it in the main entrance. We wish for upper Key Stage 2 pupils to visit the Food Bank; to take our donations before we break for half-term.

## Covid19 – New Measures from Monday 31st January:

We have learnt so much about how we can take measures to make school safer and take a more relaxed approach to starting and ending the school day. In light of this, we as a school will continue with staggered starts for pupils entering school – as it has had a massive difference in the amount of traffic and cars outside school (in any one place at the same time). Please stick to the 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)**

## Parentmail:

In my last newsletter, I welcomed Mrs Emma Bailey to school as our new Office Secretary, who is working as maternity cover for Miss Cottrell. Please bear with us as Mrs Bailey is trained in all functions of the office – at the moment our Parentmail system is not being updated to the extent that you are used to; this will be up and running after Mrs Bailey has received training which is scheduled for next week (31st January). Thank you for your patience in this matter.



3 - Mrs Bailey

## Attendance:

During these next few weeks, as we approach half term, parents and carers who are experiencing some issues around attendance are being contacted by school. If you are worried about your child's attendance, please talk to myself or Mrs Smith about it: **01773 713731** as we are here to help you in ensuring your child is safe and attending school.

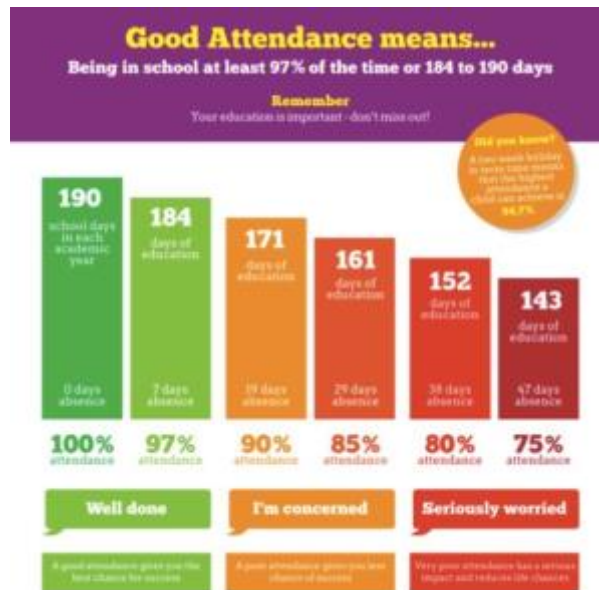
### Attendance Award:

Congratulations to Lourdes Class who won the attendance award for the last half-term (with an attendance of **98%**). Along with Miss Hickling and Miss Fraga, they get to choose a fun activity to do for an afternoon this term.

## Attendance expectations for schools:

School attendance continues to be mandatory for all pupils and the usual rules on school attendance apply. This includes parents' duty to ensure their child attends school, and schools' and local authorities' ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, for poor attendance.

Along with our Academy Trust and Local Authority, we continue to communicate clear expectations around attendance to families, identify pupils at risk of disengagement and develop plans to re-engage them. As restrictions begin to lift, we know some families may be looking to take holidays during term time. As usual, parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school on holiday.



## Holidays in term time:

I draw your attention to the [Attendance Policy](#) on the school website which states that parents do not have an automatic right to withdraw pupils from school for a holiday, and in law, have to apply for permission in advance. Such permission can only be granted where the Headteacher agrees that there are "special circumstances" to be considered. Applications for absence must be received at least 12 school days prior to the planned absence.



## Sandwiches and snacks:



We ask that you send only healthy meals and snacks for your children to eat in school. Please also send snacks that do not contain any nuts, as some of our children have serious nut allergies. In addition, if sending sweets for birthdays, teachers will give sweets out only at the end of the day with the instruction that pupils are only allowed to eat sweets when you have given them permission to do so – I know some parents do not like their children to receive sweets at school while others do not mind. Again, some children may well have allergies or have reactions to sweets that are given to them.

## School Dinners Week Beginning - 14/02/22:

Please note, due to our usual cook being ill and not in school, sandwiches will be served as school dinners during this week, as Nottinghamshire County Council schools are on half-term. Universal free school meals will still take place for pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1; everybody having a

school meal during this week will be served sandwiches of which there is a variety from which to choose.

### Toddler Group:



If you have a toddler or even a babe in arms, then why not come along to the school's toddler group; each Tuesday morning in term time, starting at 9.15am. Parents and grandparents bring their children to the parish social centre (at the end of the church car park) where they get to play and develop, as well as learn to socialise and make new friends. If you know anybody who has a baby or toddler, then please pass on this information. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Debbie Lane and Mrs Katy Smith for their hard work and commitment in running such a vital resource for mothers and toddlers in the local community.

## Catholic Life



### Weekend Mass Times in our parish:

Our Lady of Good Counsel Eastwood – Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.15am.

### Sunday coffee mornings at church:

Now that Covid restrictions are beginning to ease a little, Father Paul is looking to start a monthly coffee morning on the first Sunday of the month after the morning Mass. Would you, your friends, family or a parish group like to host one of the coffee mornings? (Our PTA or Toddler group may wish to consider running one). As well as providing tea and coffee, you might like to provide either homemade cakes, pastries, bacon cobs, etc. The choice is yours! Please add your details to the list at the back of church alongside your chosen date. The PPC will start things off with a coffee morning on 6th February. Come along, it's a great chance to meet up with friends and enjoy a bit of social time.



### 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.

### First Communion Preparation 2022:

Sessions for preparing the children to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion are underway. Because of the numbers registered for this year's First Communion programme, the Enrolment Mass for the children will take place at either the **5.30pm** Mass on **Saturday (29th January)** or the **10.15am** Mass next **Sunday (30th January)**.

All parents and children are required to attend one of these Masses.

### Open Church:

The Church is partaking a world-wide Synodal journey to encourage more people to stop and reflect and allow God to be encountered into their lives. This journey will take us through to Pentecost Sunday (**5th June 2022**) as we aim to celebrate the movement of God's Holy Spirit in our thoughts and deeds. In response, our parish have decided to respond to the synod by doing two things:

- Invite the young person parish ambassador from St John Houghton School onto the Parish Pastoral Council for a term of one year.
- Open our church between 3 and 4pm one day a week so that parents collecting children from our school and those passing by, can call in for free coffee and cake, say a quiet prayer, light a candle or experience some simple forms of prayer that will be prepared in church.

More details of these initiatives will follow shortly.

### Food for thought:

Courage and intelligence are like muscles. We strengthen them with use. - **Abraham Maslow**

### Keep up to date with all things Priory:

Check our social media and website for continuous updates.

- [School Website](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Dojo](#)



God bless – Anthony Harrison



*4 - Anthony Harrison*