

# The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



## Newsletter September 2023

**IMPORTANT DATES SEPTEMBER:** Friday 15: School Photographs for all pupils

Friday 15: Beginning of year Mass at church – all welcome at 1.30pm

Thursday 21: Local Governing Body Meeting at 6.30pm

Friday 22: Whole school dressing up day as part of the school's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Friday 22: Celebration Assembly at 1.10pm. All welcome to attend in school.

Monday 25: 11am Diamond Jubilee Photo being taken of the whole school from a drone.

Monday 25: Diamond Jubilee Mass at 2pm with Bishop Patrick and Father Paul.

Friday 29: Celebration Assembly at 1.10pm. All welcome to attend in school.

**IMPORTANT DATES OCTOBER:** Friday 6: Celebration Assembly at 1.10pm. All welcome.

Friday 13: Flu vaccinations taking place in school.

Friday 13: Year 5 and 6 Mass celebrating Our Lady of the Rosary at 1.30pm

Tuesday 17: Year 6 trip to Yorvik.

Friday 20: Celebration Assembly at 1.10pm. All welcome to attend in school.

Tuesday 24 Wednesday 25 Thursday 26: Parent/Teacher Consultations

Friday 27: Celebration Assembly at 1.10pm. All welcome to attend in school.

School breaks up for half term on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Term 2: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

### Catholic Life

**Dear Parents**, may I take this opportunity to welcome you back to school. I hope that you all had a lovely summer break. Welcome back to the new term; I hope that all has started well for you and your family. Now the children are settling back into school, we are encouraging them to take the responsibility of coming into school (through the green gate) each morning on their own – thank you for supporting your children in this aspect of their schooling which in turn leads to greater independence. We do realise that this takes longer for some children – we can work together in aiming for this goal.

**Weekend Mass:** Our Lady of Good Counsel Eastwood – Sundays 11am (streamed).

**Virtues to live by:** During the first part of the advent term, we are focusing on the virtue of Piety and each week's gospel at church provides the values to help shape our lives.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Piety** as we reflect on the message of the gospel (For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them.)

**KS1:** *"I show piety when praying with my friends."*

**KS2:** *"I show piety when worshipping as part of my school community."*

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Piety** as we reflect on the message of the gospel (How many times should I forgive my sibling who has hurt me?)

**KS1:** *"I forgive others from my loving heart."*

**KS2:** *"I forgive others seventy-seven times from my loving heart."*

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Piety** as we reflect on the message of the gospel (The parable of the vineyard).

**KS1:** *"I am polite when lining up and walking around school."*

**KS2:** *"I try to put others before myself."*

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Piety** as we reflect on the message of the gospel (The parable of the two sons asked to work in their father's vineyard).

**KS1:** *"I line up straight away at school and go to bed on time when my parents say."*

**KS2:** *"I work hard and take on responsibility at home and at school."*

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Perseverance** - as we reflect on the message of the gospel (The parable of the tenants in the vineyard – people might reject our good work, but we must keep going!).

**KS1:** *"I try my best at school and at home."*

**KS2:** *"I work hard as a way of giving thanks for all I have been given by God."*

**The Priory Catholic Academy Diamond Jubilee:** To mark this wonderful milestone, Bishop Patrick is celebrating Mass here at school. This will take place outside, on the school grounds, starting at 2pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September. All are welcome to attend along with past pupils and staff members. If you know people who once came to the school, please pass on this information – as after Mass, refreshments will be served in the school hall. We look forward to seeing many past pupils and members of staff on this day!

Earlier in the day, we are having our whole school photograph taken – weather permitting – outside on the school grounds. A drone will take the picture from above us. This is taking place at 11am.

**Diamond Jubilee Celebrations:** Starting from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, pupils will undertake activities in classes to mark this important occasion. In doing so, each class will study a decade, so that they can learn about key events from history, fashion, and music. Each class will study the past by concentrating on a particular decade from the 1960s, when the school was built, up to the present decade.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**, we are having a whole school dressing up day with children asked to come dressed in the fashions which correlate with the decades that they are learning about. These are as follows:

**Year 6 – 1960's**

**Year 5 – 1970's**

**Year 4 – 1980's**

**Year 3 – 1990's**

**Year 2 – 2000's**

**Year 1 – 2010's**

**EYFS 2 – 2020's**

**Past pupils:** To help the children learn more about what school life was like (and how it has changed) we would like past pupils and members of staff to come into school to share their memories and experiences. If this is you, we would like you to pay a visit to the class linked to the time/decade when you were here at the school, to do a brief ten-to-fifteen-minute talk, which will include pupils asking questions about what school (and life) was like for you at that time. Thank you in advance for your help and support of the school's sixtieth celebrations.

**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 Eastwood Food Bank before half-term. Thank you for your much needed generosity.

**Free School Meals:** We were recently approached by parents who did not realise that they qualified for their children to receive free school meals. Children who do are eligible for the Pupil Premium. If you would like to know more information about whether you are eligible, then please contact the school office personnel, or Mrs Helen Smith; they are always on hand to help. Indeed, you can also just follow the link to the Nottinghamshire County Council help page:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk)

**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).

**Pupils entering and leaving outside of official times:** All children arriving after 8.50am will enter the school by the main door. These pupils, arriving after the gates have been closed, need to be checked in by office personnel. Pupils leaving the school during the day for appointments, will need to be signed out (and in) using the signing in and out book. Parents and carers must sign this book giving the reason for their child leaving before the pupil is let through the electronic security door. Parents/carers **must also provide evidence of appointments**; either hard (letter) copies, or on their phone.

All parents who enter the school building should always enter via the main door (and not via playground doors) and report to the office personnel who will: take a message; run an errand; or, make an appointment for them to meet with relevant members of staff. These practices ensure security procedures are being followed in the interests of the smooth management and safety of the site.

**End of school procedures:** The school day ends at 3.15pm. Reception pupils are collected from outside their classroom at 3.05pm. KS1 pupils go out to the playground to be collected at 3.10pm and KS2 pupils leave at 3.15pm. All pupils are supervised at the end of each day until they are collected from the playground. Members of staff are available in the playground at the end of the day to meet with parents as the need arises. Please ensure pupils and younger children who are not yet at school do not play on the school grounds. And, to put you further at ease, if any children are not collected on time at the end of the day, they are taken to the entrance foyer to wait with an adult until you arrive. If this wait will be lengthy, the child is admitted into the after-school club until he or she is collected. We understand there might be times when you are running late.

**Breakfast Club:** Breakfast club runs every day from 7.30am – 8.40am. The cost of this provision is £5.00 per child, per day, which includes breakfast and activities to undertake. All children are welcome to attend and there is no need to pre book. Children who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium (including Armed Forces children) will be charged 50% for our wrap around care provision.

**After School Clubs:** We've had a wonderful response to the after-school clubs again this term and I hope all the children have enjoyed the clubs that have been on offer. The cost of the clubs is £5.00 – and these run after school between 3.15 and 4.30pm. Children who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium (including Armed Forces children) will be charged £2.50 (50%) for all our wrap around care provision.

**After School Wrap Around Care:** For parents and carers who use our wrap-around provision after 4.30pm (those who come from working late or from far away) the cost of the last session of the day is also £5.00 per child, per day. Again, children who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium (including Armed Forces children) will be charged £2.50 (50%) for all our wrap around care provision. This group of pupils also receive a snack between 4.45 and 5.00pm – consisting of sandwiches, fruit, biscuits and a drink.

**School Uniform:** Parents must ensure that their children adhere to the correct school dress and acceptable hairstyles. Any transgression in dress code will be brought to the attention of the Headteacher or another member of the School's Leadership Team who will then investigate to ascertain what next steps should be taken by the school.

**The Priory Toddler Group:** A reminder that the group continues to meet every Tuesday morning from 9.15 - 11.15am and is open to anybody who has children from new-borns to pre-school. Debbie Lane is feeling much better and is looking forward to receiving new children, so please spread the word if you know of anybody locally who you think would benefit from this super provision. My sincere thanks to Debbie and others who muck in to help in order to keep this provision in existence.

**Priory Teaching Assistant Position:** We currently have a Teaching Assistant position being advertised on the trust website. If you – or somebody you know – wishes to apply, then the advert can be found by following the link below. The closing date is on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September with interviews hopefully taking place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. <https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies/>

**Parent Helpers:** I trust you all had a lovely summer break having fun with your children. As we welcome you back to school, I do so with a request for any of our parents who feel that they could give some time, volunteering to help with tasks such as: listening to children read; undertaking spelling and phonics activities, as well as helping to display children's work. Anything you would be asked to do would be guided by the children's Classteacher and by Mrs Smith who will also initially spend time with you undergoing a programme of induction. If you feel that you could lend support for the school in this way, please contact Mrs Smith via the school office. A big thank you to all our volunteers currently supporting our pupils in this way!

**Mobile Phones:** I ask you to make sure your children are aware of the appropriate usage of mobile phones and how to stay safe using texts, photos and social media in general. Keeping our children safe is of paramount importance. When at school, Year 6 pupils hand their phones into the school office each day for safe keeping.

**Celebration Assemblies:** Throughout the year, Celebration Assemblies will take place from 1.10pm each Friday afternoon unless Mass has taken place that day.

**Parking:** I have already received a phone call from a concerned resident of Raglan Street with reports of cars being parked directly opposite her driveway. Moving cars as well as cars parking opposite drives, including the school drive, also causes us concern. Our concern is that driving and parking habits may one day cause a person to be hit. Could I ask you to please park more considerately, and if possible, park at the co-op, in the church, or on roads away from school. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

**Food for Thought:** The start of the new school is challenging to the whole school community in a variety of ways. As philosopher Heraclitus famously said, "The only constant in life is change." That truth presents us with countless new beginnings, whether we're kicking off a new year, starting a new job, or jumping into a new relationship. Every day the sun rises is a new beginning, and that's a reason to be excited! But change and new beginnings can also be scary. When you're approaching a new situation, it can be helpful to reflect on the new opportunity you're facing. Take a deep breath and read through these new beginning quotes for inspiration to take that first step.

*"The beginning is always today!" – Mary Shelley.*

**God bless.**

**Anthony Harrison.**