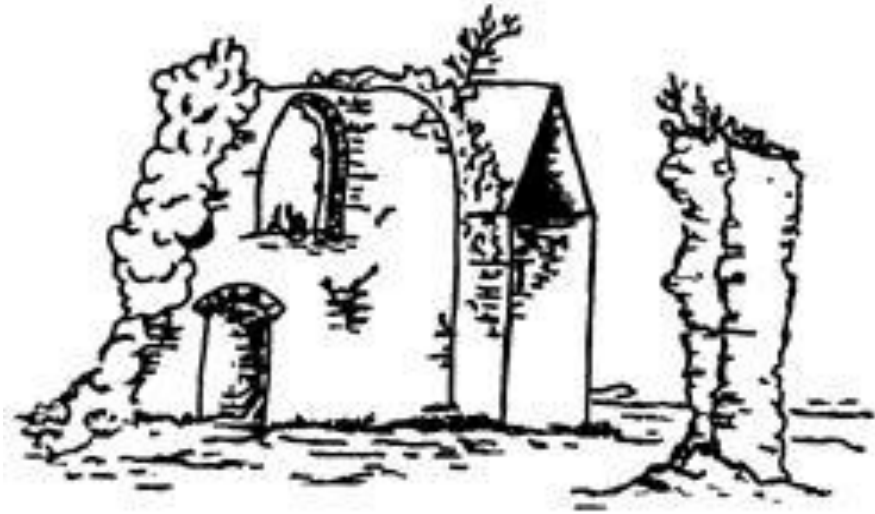


The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



Newsletter October 2023

IMPORTANT DATES

School breaks up for half term on Friday 27th October 2023

Term 2: Monday 6th November 2023 to Wednesday 20th December 2023

Please note – Pupils are expected to come to school as normal on Friday 1st December – this is no longer a school INSET Day.

Catholic Life

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

Virtues to live by: During this term, we have focused on the virtue of Piety, linking the message of the Gospel into shaping our daily lives. From next week, our virtue will change to perseverance.

Monday 2nd 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 9th 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."*

Monday 16th October – Perseverance - We reflect on the message of the gospel (The parable of the king who gave a marriage feast for his son – some people may not wish to take up their invitation, but we must always be ready and prepared to join in God's kingdom!).

KS1: *"I like making good choices."*

KS2: *"I do what is right and am ready to take up God's invitation to his kingdom."*

Monday 23rd October – Perseverance - We reflect on the teachings of Jesus when he said: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, give to God what is God's."

KS1: *"I like making good choices to help my friends."*

KS2: *"In living out the school mission, I give to God what is God's."*

Monday 6th November – Perseverance - We reflect on the teachings of Jesus when he said: "Practice what you teach others to do."

KS1: *"I like making good choices to teach other children."*

KS2: *"I practice what I preach."*

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.

The Priory Catholic Academy Diamond Jubilee: Thank you to the whole community for making this such a special occasion. We were visited by past members of staff, past pupils (going right back to 1963 when the school opened) as well as members of the Nottingham Diocesan Education Service and our Academy Trust. All our visitors commented on how lovely the day was. Our celebrations culminated in Bishop Patrick concelebrating Mass with Fr Paul and Fr Joby on such a lovely warm afternoon. The children were, as ever, fantastic – a real credit to the school in the way they dressed and conducted themselves. Here's to the 70th anniversary in September 2023!

OCTOBER DATES:

Monday 2: Girls football match at school vs Jacksdale (3.45pm)

Friday 6: Celebration Assembly at 1.10pm. All welcome.

Monday 2: Boys football match at school vs Jacksdale (3.45pm)

Wednesday 11: Cross Country at Hall Park for Years 5 and 6.

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.

Friday 20: Tour at 1.30pm for prospective new pupils starting next September.

Tuesday 24 Wednesday 25 Thursday 26: Parent/Teacher Consultations

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

Friday 27: School breaks up for half-term.

Parent Helpers: 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 any way! We really could do with your support if you have any time at all to offer (both in school time and during after-school provision time, as you may have skills and hobbies that you may wish to share with our pupils.

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 Headteacher) and Mrs Symonds (SENDCO). For your information, our safeguarding policy can be accessed on the school website or by following this link: <https://www.theprioryeastwood.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2023/09/The-Priory-Safeguarding-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf>

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.

Changes to morning procedures: Considering parents and staff members concerns about everybody's safety, from next week, (**Monday 9th October**) these are the procedures that the governing body would like to see in place.

For safety reasons, one main gate (half-way down the drive) will be closed each morning at 8.30am (8.30-9.00am) and each afternoon at 2.55pm (2.55-3.25pm). This is to stop any vehicles using the drive at these busy times.

At 8.30am pupils in Years 5 and 6 (**and their siblings**) will line up on the drive nearest to the school. They will be collected by class teachers promptly at 8.35am. Their siblings will join the breakfast club pupils on the key stage one playground. Please do not send Year 5 and 6 pupils (**and their siblings**) to school before 8.30am unless they are officially going into the breakfast club for something to eat. **The breakfast club stops serving food at 8.15am.**

At 8.35am children in Years 3 and 4 (**and their younger siblings**) will line up at the first green gate (half way down the drive). Mrs Smith (or another member of staff) will send these children to the end of the drive as soon as Year 5 and 6 pupils have been collected by their teachers (which is at 8.35am). In turn, this group of pupils in Years 3 and 4 (**and their younger siblings**) will depart from the **driveway just before 8.40am** – so that they are lined up on their playground ready to enter school at 8.40am.

At 8.40am children in Year 1 and 2 will line up at the end of the drive (nearest the school) after lining up at the closed green gate (half-way down the drive). Mrs Smith will send them as soon as Year 3 and 4 pupils have vacated the space.

At 8.45am children from Reception Class come down to the closed green gate. At this point, Mrs Smith (or another member of staff) will stand guard so that once walking past the gate, children will not be allowed to walk in the direction of the main road. By 8.50am, all Reception pupils, along with the whole school, will be inside their classroom getting ready for their learning.

Children's independence: We would like your child to walk through the "half-way" gate, which will be staffed by Mrs Smith, **without the support of parents**. This is our shared aim. However, we do understand that there are pupils throughout school who struggle to do this. For these pupils, our strategies remain in place. Younger children may still need the guiding hand of their parent, whilst some pupils always enter through the main door – as this method meets their needs. Whichever method suits your child, for those who still need their parent, these procedures will help alleviate problems out on the roads as the vast majority of parents can now walk to the end of the drive and send their child into school (and past Mrs Smith) and then leave almost immediately for work or for home. We thank you for helping us adhere to these procedures by keeping as best as you can to the timings as set out above. In doing so, you share in helping us to keep all pupils and adults safe at our school, and in the surrounding area outside school.

Please note, if it is too hot or pouring down with rain, all pupils will enter school directly through the main entrance. From here they are guided to their classes.

Parking: Since my last newsletter, I have received many concerns about the safety of adults and children when coming and leaving the school and surrounding area. Raglan Street is getting very dangerous at drop-off and pick-up times. You can do your part to help safeguard our children by driving safely and parking safely and appropriately. Away from the school area would work best – however, if you choose not to follow this advice, then please do not park on the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school's entrance. I would also ask you to refrain from parking opposite these lines as, if doing so, you must use both your own good judgement to ensure that you do not run afoul of the Highway Code in other ways, such as parking too close to a junction (of which there is one) next to a dropped kerb (of which there is one) or causing an obstruction – which I will leave you to ponder at the drop-off and pick-up times.

The school drive: Under no circumstances are parents allowed to drive their vehicles onto the school drive and/or park unless this has been formally agreed with the school. This is because the car park is not suitable for numerous vehicles, as it was designed for parking in the 1960s. Only members of staff, delivery vehicles and parents of pupils who have a disability may use the school drive.

Lunchtime play: We are asking for any play equipment to be donated to school so that children have toys to play with in the outdoor classroom. Toys such as cars, garages, dolls, trains and dressing up are always warmly received. Please bring these to the office foyer area.

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. Parents will be contacted by school staff should your child contravene the uniform policy – members of staff will not address the children concerned, as they do not have the means to ensure that they are dressed appropriately for school.

CAFOD: CAFOD's Family Fast Day takes place on Friday 6th October. As a school staff we are planning on eating frugally that day and avoiding having treats. We will collect money in an envelope before sending the proceeds to CAFOD. If any parents would wish to undertake something similar, then you may wish to send some money into the school office on Friday to put with the school's contribution. The office staff will then send the money directly to CAFOD. You may wish to do this yourself by simply giving online at [CAFOD - Catholic international development charity](https://www.cafod.org.uk/)

Free School Meals: We were recently approached by parents who did not realise that they qualified for their children to receive free school meals. If you would like to know more information about whether or not you are eligible, then please contact the school office personnel, or Mrs 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

Parent and pupil workshops for emotional health and wellbeing: On Tuesday 10th October, the Nottinghamshire Mental Health Team are holding a workshop in the school hall for parents – this starts at 9am and should last no more than 45 minutes. After meeting with parents, the team will then deliver "Sleep Hygiene" Workshops for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. You are more than welcome to join us at 9am – Mrs Smith will also be on-hand should you wish to catch her for a chat.

Food for thought about Good Communication:

"I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university" ~ **Albert Einstein**

"If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all" ~ **Thumper from Bambi**

"The way we communicate with others and with ourselves ultimately determines the quality of our lives" ~ **Anthony Robbins**

Home/School Communication Procedures: Communication between home and school is vital to good communications and for the wellbeing of pupils, parents, carers, and staff. Over the summer a new policy has been drawn up and put in place to ensure communication between home and school is – and remains productive. These procedures form the school’s policy and set out how communication will be managed.

In addition to parents’ evenings, school events, etc., there may be occasions when parents or carers wish to communicate with the school directly with questions or information related to their child.

To make sure that this is effective these principles will be applied.

If an emergency arises, it is important that you contact us as soon as possible and explain what has or is happening.

Our commitment as a school

We will:

- ensure that there is regular, proactive communication about your child’s achievement and wellbeing
- respond to emails, phone calls or requests for meetings usually within three working days
- if there is an urgent matter, school office personnel will ask an appropriate member of staff to deal with the issue as soon as possible
- display polite, professional conduct at all times
- acknowledge receipt of an email – and confirm that a fuller response will be sent within three working days.

Our expectations of parents and carers

You will:

- ensure that any communication with the school, whether by email or telephone, is polite and respectful
- make use of information channels in place, such as the school website, for keeping up to date with routine information
- give an outline of what the issue is, to make sure the query is directed to the right person
- ensure your emails are brief and clear
- refrain from sending multiple emails regarding the same query

- limit the number of people you send an email about a query
- understand that a teacher or member of staff may be unable to respond on the same day on which a query is made
- understand that teachers or other school staff will not respond outside of school hours, i.e., evenings (after 5pm) and weekends. They will endeavour to respond within three working days
- not use direct staff email addresses as these will not be responded to unless a prior arrangement has been made and agreed
- use the school mailbox or main reception telephone number as first point of contact (the school will forward your request to the appropriate staff member).

No offensive language, insults or personal attacks on school staff will be tolerated. If any such incidents occur, the meeting can be terminated with immediate effect.

No meetings or conversations shall be recorded without the knowledge and consent of all parties to the meeting.

The constraints on school resources make it essential that parents and carers use authorised school procedures in order to avoid diverting time and attention that must be invested directly in pupils’ learning and wellbeing.

Please note that unreasonable, abusive or offensive communication is unacceptable, and the school reserves the right to address any such problems as they feel are appropriate. This can include restricting correspondence to a specified email address, using a single person as a point of contact or using hard copy post and/or by placing restrictions on phone calls. Parents and carers have an implied licence to enter a school site, in cases where behaviour is inappropriate, threatening or argumentative, this licence can be revoked.

If a response has been given to a query, unless matters change, further responses will not be sent.

Our aim is to ensure that all communications and discussions about pupils and their families are positive and move matters forward in a mutually respectful manner.

We thank our parents and carers in advance for adhering to our policy. God bless, Anthony Harrison.