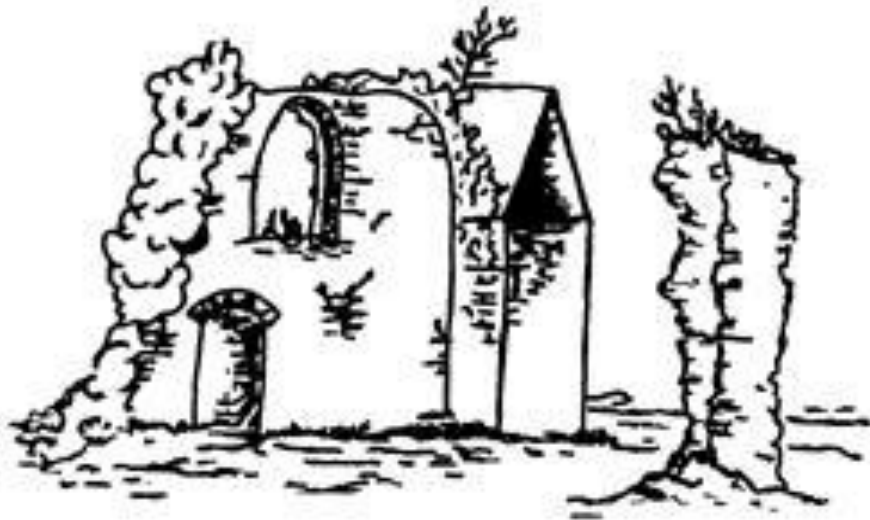


# The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



## Newsletter March 2024

### **IMPORTANT DATES:** Spring/Lent

Term 4: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Teaching Assistant Vacancy Closing Date: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Catholic Life

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

**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 Easter.

**A prayer for Lent:** Dear Lord, as we continue our Lenten journey, 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.**

**Virtues to live by:** The virtue to live by during the second part of Lent is **Forgiveness**. Other virtues and themes which spring out from Forgiveness include Peace, Love, Healing, Relationships, Prayer, Baptism and Reconciliation.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March: **Forgiveness** – Linked to the third Sunday of Lent: How losing your temper can affect others.

Reception and KS1: **“If I get upset, I tell my mum, my dad or a teacher.”**

KS2: **“If I get angry, I try to find a trusted adult.”**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March: **Forgiveness** – Linked to the Fourth Sunday of Lent: People still choose darkness over light.

Reception and KS1: **“I remember to say “NO!” to strangers.”**

KS2: **“I try hard to forgive people who are unkind.”**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March: **Forgiveness** – Linked to the Fifth Sunday of Lent: Jesus taught that we should stay strong and make good choices.

Reception and KS1: **“I make good choices.”**

KS2: **“I stay strong and make my own decisions, instead of following others into trouble.”**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March: **Love:** Linked to the Sixth Sunday of Lent: Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

Reception and KS1: **“I celebrate at Easter because Jesus loves me.”**

KS2: **“I celebrate God’s Unconditional Love for me shown in the Easter story.”**

**A prayer for Peace:** God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

**Safeguarding our Children:** 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). You can contact our DSL team at ANY TIME by emailing directly to: [Safeguarding@pri.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@pri.srscmat.co.uk) Your concerns and correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence. Our safeguarding policy can be accessed on the school website or by following this link: [The-Priory-Safeguarding-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf \(srscmat.co.uk\)](https://www.theprioryeastwood.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2023/12/The-Priory-Catholic-Academy-Pupil-Premium-Strategy-2023-2026-2022-2023-review-of-provision.pdf)

**Questionnaire:** Thank you to those who completed the recent questionnaire – this has now closed. The Governing Body will feed back the findings after their meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**Pupil Premium and Free School Meals:** For each pupil who receives free school meals, the government send the school a sum of money to help pay for resources and in-school provision. For more information about how this money is spent, please take the time to read our Pupil Premium Report posted on the school website. You can find the report by following this link:

<https://www.theprioryeastwood.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2023/12/The-Priory-Catholic-Academy-Pupil-Premium-Strategy-2023-2026-2022-2023-review-of-provision.pdf>

**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, photographs and social media in general. Keeping our children safe is of paramount importance. When at school, Year 6 pupils hand their phones into Miss Fisher or Miss Evans each day for safe keeping. Other pupils, on arrival into school, must hand their mobile phones into the office where they are kept safely until the end of the day.

**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.

**The Priory and Church Mother and Toddler Group:** A reminder that the group continues to meet every Tuesday morning from 9.00 - 11.00am and is open to anybody who has children from new-borns to pre-school. Please spread the word if you know of anybody who you think would benefit from this, as numbers are falling slightly at the moment. We believe this is because people simply do not know that the group meet at the social centre every Tuesday morning – so, please spread the word! Many thanks for your help in this matter and my sincere thanks also go to Debbie Lane the band of volunteers that make this provision a resounding success!

**Helpers and Volunteers:** My thanks go to all our volunteers who are considering using their experience to train in future to be teachers or teaching assistants. Thank you also to the growing number of parents who give up their time to support children with reading, spelling, and other general classroom duties. Parents who help transport children to and from clubs and sporting venues are so valuable in helping children have such different and exciting experiences of school. If you think you could spare some of your time, and you would like to help pupils in school; then please contact Mrs Smith who is responsible for organising the helpers. Without our many volunteers, the school would not run as smoothly or be the success that it is.

**School Dinners, sandwiches and snacks:** We have put new measures in place to ensure that pupils get enough opportunity to eat their food by having two sittings. The second sitting (for Key Stage 2 pupils) begins at 12.15 each day and ends at 12.35pm. This provides ample time for children to eat their school dinner or packed lunch. This is in response to the unacceptable amount of food wasted and thrown away each day. Furthermore, 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. Finally, 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 they are given.

**Staffing:** The end of next week will see a slight staffing change in school. This is due to Mrs Samantha Chocholko moving on to her next venture in life. My sincere thanks and appreciation go to Mrs Chocholko who has served the school and the pupils with great love and dedication. We wish her every success in her next venture and best wishes for the future.

**Teaching Assistant Vacancy:** If you – or you know of anybody who is a TA and is looking for a job – then please do consider the role that is currently being advertised for us by the Academy Trust. Information is provided on the trust website: <https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies/>  
Do pass this information on to friends and family members.

**Teaching Assistant Vacancy Details:** The Priory Academy is committed to creating a diverse workforce. We'll consider all applicants for employment without regard to sex, race, religion, belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity, age, disability, marriage, or civil partnership.

Main purpose - The Teaching Assistant will:

- Work with class teachers to raise the learning and attainment of pupils.
- Promote pupils' independence, self-esteem, and social inclusion.
- Give support to pupils, individually or in groups, so they can access the curriculum, take part in learning, and experience a sense of achievement.

Duties and responsibilities

To work under the instruction/guidance of teaching/senior staff to undertake work/care/support programmes, to enable access to learning for pupils and to assist the teacher in the management of pupils and the classroom. Work may be carried out in the classroom or outside the main teaching.

Supporting pupils

- Build positive relationships with pupils, promoting high self-esteem and independence.
- Adapt communication style to respond to pupils according to their individual needs.
- Support pupils with their social, emotional, and mental health needs, escalating concerns where appropriate.
- Promote high standards of behaviour, responding to incidents in line with the school's behaviour policy and guidelines on physical intervention.
- Assist with the development and delivery of individual education and support plans (as appropriate).

Supporting SEND pupils – Contribute to the planning of differentiated learning activities for individual or small groups of pupils with special educational needs (SEN), delivering activities inside or outside the classroom. Work with pupils in small groups and/or on a one-to-one basis, and providing intimate care each day and as necessary.

Planning

- Contribute to effective assessment and planning by supporting the monitoring, recording, and reporting of pupil performance and progress as appropriate to the level of the role.
- Read and understand lesson plans shared prior to lessons.
- Prepare the classroom for lessons.

Teaching and learning

- Demonstrate an informed and efficient approach to teaching and learning by adopting relevant strategies to support the work of the teacher and increase achievement of all pupils including, where appropriate, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Support the teaching of a broad and balanced curriculum aimed at pupils achieving their full potential in all areas of learning.
- Promote, support, and facilitate inclusion by encouraging participation of all pupils in learning and extracurricular activities.
- Use effective behaviour management strategies consistently in line with the school's policy and procedures.
- Support class teachers with maintaining good order and discipline among pupils, managing behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment.
- Organise and manage teaching space and resources to help maintain a stimulating and safe learning environment.
- Through observations, provide regular feedback to teachers on pupil progress, attainment, and barriers to learning.
- Supervise a class if the teacher is temporarily unavailable.
- Use ICT skills to advance pupils' learning.
- Undertake any other relevant duties given by the class teacher.

The successful Teaching Assistant will be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people and follow school policies and the staff code of conduct. As already mentioned above, please pass this information on to friends and family members who may be interested in working here at our school.

**Food for thought:** "And the Spring arose on the garden fair, Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere; And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast, Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest." — Percy Bysshe Shelley.

**God bless, Anthony Harrison**