

The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



*Newsletter
October 2024*

Catholic Life

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

Prayer for Holy Souls: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Virtue to live by: Working Together (as Jesus' disciples). This half term we have been reinforcing the virtuous learning characteristic of working together. This has meant developing our roles as Jesus' modern-day disciples in living out our school mission.

Discipleship: Discipleship has taken place most effectively when two or more disciples have been working together to do the will of God. Our statements and links to the Bible are as follows:

Monday 7th October: **Working together equally, we look after God's beautiful creation** – linked to The Creation Story (Genesis 2:18-24)

Monday 14th October: **Working together, we must all pull together as a team to gain success** – linked to the story of the man who could not undertake the challenge to join the team of disciples in serving the community and spreading the good news. (Mark 10: 17-30)

Monday 21st October: **Working together, we must do our best to care and serve each other equally** – linked to James and John wanting to be especially rewarded by Jesus for their work as disciples (Mark 10:35-45)

Please do discuss these statements to help your child re-cap on the learning that has taken place in school about Discipleship and Working Together. Also, discuss ways in which you can work together at home with the rules, boundaries and systems in place to help the family home run more smoothly.

Eastwood Food Bank: Please do send tinned and dried food into school as we continue to collect it in the main entrance. All food donations will be delivered to the Eastwood Food Bank on Friday 25th October – as we break up for half-term.

Celebration Assemblies: Throughout the year, Celebration Assemblies will take place from 1pm each Friday.

Do Catholics celebrate Halloween? This year, All Saints' Day falls in half term (Friday 1st November). The next day, Saturday 2nd November is the feast of All Souls. These days are celebrations of All Saints and all good people who have died and who we pray for, especially at this time of year. Throughout November, we will be praying for the repose of all holy souls.

This whole celebration of our deceased loved ones actually begins on the eve of All Saints – or the eve of All Hallows (Halloween) which this year falls on a Thursday in half-term.

In medieval times, people would use vegetables from the harvest (mainly swedes, turnips and parsnips) to carve caricatures of their loved ones to place on their hearths (above their fireplaces). A small candle would be placed inside the carved vegetable to help people remember their deceased loved ones (as there was not the technology to take photographs or to paint portraits like we have today). This tradition of praying for our deceased loved ones continued in North America as Catholics left Europe to settle there. The most suitable vegetable to use – which was grown in what is now the United States – was of course, the pumpkin. Pumpkins were a historically important food staple among Native Americans and were soon introduced into Europe and the United Kingdom, again as a source of food: (Pumpkin Pie and Pumpkin Soup). Now days, pumpkins are the only vegetable to be used for this purpose, both in North America and here in the United Kingdom. Today, these celebrations continue in Catholic life, as we pray from Halloween until the end of November for our loved ones, who have left their mark and their light in the world. Please see the prayer 'The Eternal Rest' at the start of this newsletter. We pray this in school, throughout the month of November (the month of Holy Souls).

Remembrance Poppies: Members of the Royal British Legion have delivered poppies into school along with other items to be bought after half-term to raise money for ex-service men and women who are in need of help. We remember all soldiers who have given their lives so that we can enjoy living in freedom from tyranny. Pupils in Year 6 will be selling poppies after the half-term break.

Parents' & Carers' Consultations: These will take place in the hall on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October (running from 3.30-5.30pm). The after-school provision will run as normal until 6pm (with the shorter session and club activity still in place for children who stay up until 4.45pm). Children who are not part of the club but have come along with you for your appointment must stay with you in the hall – they are not allowed to play outside or with the children in the Wrap-Around Care Club. I thank you for your support in this.

Free School Meals: Children who officially qualify for free school meals are eligible for the Pupil Premium. This is not the same as universal free school meals for pupils in reception and year groups 1 and 2. Children who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium (including Armed Forces pupils) are charged 50% of the total costs of trips, after-school and breakfast clubs. If you would like to know more about whether you are eligible, then please contact the school office, or Mrs Helen Smith; they are always on hand to help. Indeed, you can also just follow the link: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk

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 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: <https://www.theprioryeastwood.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2024/07/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-SRS-PRI-V3-2024-2025.pdf>

Vacancies at school: If you, or if you know somebody who is looking for a Teaching Assistant position, then please do look at our job adverts for two teaching assistants posted on the St Ralph Sherwin website. These can be found here: www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies/

Term Dates 2025/26: The academic term dates for next year are as follows:
Term 1: Friday 5th September 2025 Reception pupils start. Monday 8th September 2025 all pupils return to school until we break up on Friday 24th October 2025.
Term 2: Monday 3rd November 2025 to Friday 19th December 2025.
Term 3: Monday 5th January 2026 to Friday 13th February 2026.
Term 4: Monday 23rd February 2026 to Friday 27th March 2026.
Term 5: Monday 13th April 2026 to Friday 22nd May 2026.
Term 6: Monday 1st June 2026 to Thursday 23rd July 2026.

Food for thought: "God has given me a gift, but I have to make use of it." Prince Naseem Hamed –World Champion Boxer
God bless – Anthony Harrison