

The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



Newsletter January 2025

Spring (Lent) Term 1: Monday 6th January – Friday 14th February 2025.

Half-term: Friday 14th February – Monday 24th February 2025.

All pupils return on Tuesday 25th February 2025.

INSET Day: Monday 24th February 2025 – School open for staff only.

Spring (Lent) Term 2: Tuesday 25th February – Friday 4th April 2025.

Catholic Life

Weekend Mass: Our Lady and The Beauvale Martyrs Eastwood – Sundays 11am.

Celebration Assemblies: Take place from 1pm each Friday.

Virtue to live by: Creativity This half term we have been reinforcing the virtuous learning characteristic of having creativity in our life and our work. In school, this means living out our school mission by thinking creatively in the way we tackle our school work and in the way we relate to and treat others.

Creativity: being resourceful, inventive, and inspirational. Working imaginatively with originality and great vision. Our statements to live by in January have been:

Monday 6th January: **Jesus is the best king – he teaches me how to be creative in showing love and respect to others** – linked to the Feast of The Epiphany when the 3 Kings brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to baby Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-12)

Monday 13th January: **I show that The Holy Spirit is alive in me in the way I confidently and creatively use my talents** – linked to the story of Jesus being filled with the Holy Spirit when he was baptised by his cousin John. (Luke 3:15-22)

Monday 20th January: **I can think creatively in my work and how I help others overcome problems in their lives** – linked to the story of Jesus' first miracle when he turned water into wine to save the wedding festivities. (John 2:1-11)

Monday 27th January: **I can read and think creatively about my Individual Liberty** – linked to Jesus reading the scriptures in the synagogue with great authority as he demonstrates that he is now ready to begin his ministry guided by the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:1-11)

Please do discuss these statements to help your child re-cap on the learning that has taken place each week, as we explore the weekend's gospel stories as read out by Canon Paul in church every Sunday morning.

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 14th February – as we break up for half-term.

Parking and Driving: Residents who live on Raglan Street and the surrounding roads have contacted me to make a request for our parents and carers to drive and park with due care and to not block residents' cars in. Over the last few weeks, nearly every morning, we have had residents contact us to say that someone has parked over their driveway; and more concerning is that when approached, residents say that some parents are aggressive and highly discourteous. Residents tell us that they appreciate that when dropping off children, parents are in a hurry and sometimes do not think of how parking or their driving impact on their lives. In addition, this can have the ultimate negative impact of causing an accident to any other road users. Last week we had the awful news that one of our pupils had been knocked over by a car resulting in much trauma for the pupil and their family as the pupil sustained a badly broken leg.

I have urged our neighbours to contact the highways department as well as the police; as indeed the school has done in an attempt to find a solution to this problem.

My thanks to those parents and carers who park either at the CO-OP (with two hours free parking) or the church (where our Caretaker, Mr Wardle opens the gate every morning) or on other roads away from the school and choose to walk about 0.25 miles. This may be the start of the solution if more parents and carers would choose to do this.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article – the local governing body are keen to work towards a better way for pupils to travel to and from school which is less onerous on our neighbours, and they will meet in February to look into finding any possible solutions.

Finally, our children's safety is of the utmost importance. Please hold this in the forefront of your mind as you decide how and where to drive and park each morning and evening.

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>

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

Attendance/Lateness: Some pupils are arriving late (after 9am) which is the close of registers. If you have not made special arrangements for this to happen daily, due to your child's needs, then this is recorded as an absence for the morning session (each school day has a morning and an afternoon session). To avoid this happening, please ensure that your child is on time each morning. The time when your child must be starting to line up on the drive each morning is as follows:
Reception Class – 8.45am (in school learning at 8.50am)
Year 1 and Year 2 – 8.40am (in school learning at 8.45am)
Year 3 and Year 4 – 8.35am (in school learning at 8.40am)
Year 5 and Year 6 – 8.30am (in school learning at 8.35am)

School Parents and Teacher Association (PTA): Thank you for the fantastic response for more parents to come forward and join our PTA. We now have 15 new members who have bolstered our numbers up to 23 in total. There is a great sense of excitement and creativity as ideas are already being put into action to hold events that bring the community together – and often raise funds to purchase resources for the children that go beyond what the school can afford. The forthcoming Valentines disco on Monday 10th February being the first of many ventures of the larger group of volunteers working creatively together. Over the years we have had great support from all our parents, and it is exciting to report that the PTA is looking to use funds to purchase a woodland path which will go around the perimeter of the school grounds. They will also have enough funds to hopefully purchase a Key Stage 2 timber trail – like the one that Key Stage 1 have. These two major projects are looking to be completed, hopefully by May.

Food for Thought: "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." Benjamin Franklin (1706 – 1790) American statesman, diplomat, writer, scientist and inventor.

God bless, Anthony Harrison (Headteacher)