

The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



Newsletter February 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 – unless otherwise stated.

Virtue to live by: Ambition – After half term, we will be moving on from **Creativity** and onto **Ambition** being our virtue to live by. By reinforcing the virtuous learning characteristic of being ambitious in our life and our work, means living out our school mission by being motivated and showing great determination to learn and make progress. When faced with challenges, we show persistence and hidden desire to achieve our goals – no matter how high we set the bar!

Monday 3rd February: **I can think creatively to solve problems** – linked to Mary and Joseph taking Baby Jesus to the synagogue for the ceremony of purification. (Luke 2:22-40)

Monday 10th February: **I use the WE CARE virtues to be the best possible version of myself at home and school** – linked to the story of Jesus calling his disciples – Simon, James and John, who, after a night of unsuccessful fishing, left their boats to follow him. (Luke 5: 1-11)

Tuesday 25th February: **I show ambition by challenging myself to do good to people who upset me** – linked to Jesus' ambitious teaching: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. (Luke 6:27-38)

Monday 3rd March: **I show ambition by striving to be the best version of me I can possibly be** – linked to the teaching of Jesus when he said in this week's gospel: The good man out of the good treasure of his heart produces good; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (Luke 6: 39-45)

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. Please continue to bring food into school from when we return on Tuesday 25th February.

Home – School Communication: Recently, the school has experienced a high proportion of incidents where parents have expressed their views about school procedures and/or stakeholders (volunteers and paid employees) in ways that are impolite and disrespectful. In the same way parents share inappropriate pupils' online messaging, for me to act in line with the school's behaviour policy, some parents also share social media posts from platforms arranged by school parent groups in order to alert me to parents who are being wholly disrespectful and, in some cases, defamatory and abusive. Should I be alerted to any further negative communication going forwards, then I will follow the Home School Communication Policy (2019) that was recently reviewed by the local governing body to ensure that all communications and discussions about pupils and families are positive and move matters forward in a mutually respectful manner. For your information, this policy has been sent out so that it accompanies this newsletter.

Book Fair: Last week, you as parents bought over £1,000 worth of books. This is the highest amount that has ever been spent during my time at the school. This is an indication that we have a school of children who genuinely enjoy reading. Knowing that our children are able to read accurately and with resilience is one thing (as evidenced by our reading and phonics assessments which have been above national averages at the end of Key Stage 1 for three years now) but knowing that they gain enjoyment, and a love of reading is wonderful to know. Thank you for working in partnership to enable your children to become established readers and ready for secondary education by the time they leave us.

Medicine: If you wish medicine to be administered to your child, then please remember to complete the correct form from the office to allow this to happen.

The Priory Toddler Group: Debbie Lane and the team wish to remind you 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. Miss Singleton is due to visit the group every so often to lend her support. She attended this week to do story time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. If you know of any families who could access the group, then please do spread the word.

Attendance: In the two weeks after half term, parents and carers who are experiencing some issues around attendance will be contacted by school. If you are worried about your child's attendance, please talk to me or Mrs Smith about it by first contacting us through the school office either by phone or email. 01773 713731 or office@pri.srscmat.co.uk

Dogs: Unless a guide dog, or a dog invited into school for educational purposes, under no circumstances are dogs allowed onto the school premises. Thank you to all for your cooperation in this matter.

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

School Parents and Teacher Association (PTA): Thank you to the group who came together on Monday evening to ensure the children had a Valentine's disco. Your enthusiasm and energy are very much appreciated and helps to continue a long tradition of parents joining members of staff to create happy, lasting memories for our children.

Food for Thought: "Ignorance and prejudice are the handmaidens of propaganda. Our mission, therefore, is to confront ignorance with knowledge, bigotry with tolerance, and isolation with the outstretched hand of generosity. Racism can, will, and must be defeated." – Kofi Annan

God bless,
Anthony Harrison (Headteacher)