

# *The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy*



## *Newsletter March 2025*

**Spring (Lent) Term 2:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**Easter:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

**Summer (Pentecost) Term 1:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025.

**Half-term:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**Summer (Pentecost) Term 2:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 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** – 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 throughout Lent, we show persistence and hidden desire to achieve our goals – no matter how high we set the bar in this season of Lent.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March: First Sunday of Lent**

**This Lent, I show ambition by not giving into temptation** – linked to the story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness (Luke 4: 1-13)

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March: Second Sunday of Lent – The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36)**

**I can think creatively to solve problems** – linked to Saint Patrick findings creative ways to teach people about the Holy Trinity (St. Patrick's Day)

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March: Third Sunday of Lent**

**I show ambition by challenging myself to seek forgiveness and forgive those who are unkind to me** – linked to Jesus' ambitious teaching to repent and seek forgiveness; this is the key message of The Parable of The Fig Tree (Luke 13:1-9)

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March: Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**I show ambition by striving to be the best version of me by not judging others** – linked to the teaching of Jesus when he told the parable of The Prodigal Son (or, The Loving Father, or The Forgiving Father, or The Ungrateful Older Son) (Luke 15: 1 - 32).

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 4<sup>th</sup> April, as the school breaks up for the Easter holidays.

**A prayer for Lent:** Dear Lord, as we are entering the season of Lent, 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.**

**Pray, Fast, Give this Lent:** Our chosen charitable theme in school this Lent is to simply pray for the poor and needy around the world; think about the times when we can Fast in line with our Lenten promises; and give food to the poor in our local area. As a school, pupils in Year 5 will deliver donations of pasta, rice, tinned food and UHT milk to the local Food Bank in Eastwood, before we break up for Easter.

**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:

<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](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk)

**Science Week:** The theme is "Change and Adapt." The main message is about consuming less of the world's resources to offset the worst effects of the climate crisis by making decisions to adapt our lifestyles to reduce our impact through our ambition to recycle and reduce waste. See information on your child's Dojo to see what investigations and activities they will be doing next week (10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March).

**Uniform:** Thank you for sending the children to school looking so smart – and in line with the school's uniform policy. One particular area of concern is jewellery: especially the wearing of earrings – on health and safety grounds, as some earrings seen at the moment could easily cause accidents at break and lunchtimes as children are actively playing on the field and the playground. **(Please see "Jewellery" below).** Please check this on the website if you are ever unsure about uniform and please do check your child has all their uniform as we have collected lots of lost property since the beginning of the academic year. Do come and claim any items that may have been lost from the school foyer – this area is a place that you can also donate unused uniform for others. Finally, to prevent uniform being lost, please label all items by sewing or embroidering names and initials to the inside of items; this will then make it easier for clothing to be returned.

**Jewellery:** (The uniform policy states) Pupils may wear up to one pair of inexpensive earrings, providing they are small and in the lobe of the ear. They may also wear an inexpensive digital and/or analogue watch. (These must not be over-sized or smart watches). All articles of jewellery must be removed for PE and when requested to do so by members of staff for your son or daughter to participate safely in curriculum activities – especially those of a practical nature.

**Sandwiches and snacks:** We ask that you send only healthy meals and snacks for your children to eat in school. Also, only 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 and other parents do not mind. Again, some children may well have allergies or have reactions to sweets that are given to them.

**World Book Day – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March:** To celebrate this event, children are welcome to come dressed as characters from their favourite stories. Like last year, some children may prefer to dress in comfortable clothes so they can relax when they read during the day. Please read the information posted by your child's Classteacher on Class Dojo. Two prizes of £10 per class will be awarded for pupils who can enthusiastically and accurately retell/summarise a book of their choice.

**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.

**Parent Questionnaire February 2025 – Analysis:** The results of the questionnaire to parents shows very pleasing results – with parents overwhelming in agreement (with an overall average of 98.4% of responses) indicating that the school is providing a good education for pupils in an environment where they can flourish.

Statement	Disagree or strongly disagree
My child enjoys school	1.0%
My child knows the school mission statement	2.0%
The school has strong links with the parish church	0.0%
The Catholic ethos and mission is apparent from newsletters, the curriculum and from discussions I have with my child	0.0%
The school is welcoming, and staff are appropriate	2.5%
Communication with teachers and school is effective	3.0%
I am aware of dates/events/celebrations/collective acts of worship & assemblies taking place in school and at church	1.5%
The school encourages parents and carers to be involved in prayer life and worship	0.5%
The school expects my child to work hard and do their best	0.0%
The school sets appropriate homework	1.5%
There is a range of lessons and subjects taught at the school	0.5%
The school has systems to encourage and praise achievements pupils make	1.5%
My child has recognised strengths in the curriculum, and these are celebrated	2.5%
My child is performing well and making progress at school	1.0%
The school informs me about my child's progress	2.0%
The school has activities and lessons which helps my child to know about having a healthy lifestyle	1.0%
The school meets my child's educational needs	2.0%
The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future when preparing to move classes or school	1.0%
There is a good range of activities including after school clubs, trips or visits or my child to take part in	2.5%
The school treats my child fairly and with respect	1.5%
The school encourages my child to care for others who are vulnerable or less fortunate	0.0%
The school has rules and procedures in place to help children behave appropriately	2.0%
My child understands how to behave well at school	0.0%
The school deals effectively with inappropriate behaviour	2.5%
The school has strategies which help keep my child safe	1.0%
The school takes account of suggestions and concerns	3.5%
The school has effective procedures for dealing with complaints	4.5%
The school is led and managed effectively	3.5%
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at school	1.5%

**NB: 0.5% equates to one pupil in school out of a total of 203.**

**Parent Questionnaire (February 2025) for pupils on the school's SEND Register:**

The overall results of this questionnaire shows equally pleasing results – with parents again in overwhelming agreement (with an overall average of 97.4% of responses) indicating that the school is providing a good education for this group of pupils in an environment where they can flourish.

Statement	Strongly disagree
The school informs me about the types of support available for my child's particular needs	2.6%
The school provides appropriate provision for my child's particular needs	2.6%
The school informs me how appropriate provision is helping my child to make progress	2.6%
The school keeps me informed about my child's learning and progress at their level	2.6%
The school understands my child's needs	2.6%
The school gives me opportunities to meet to review my child's individual targets and decide on the next steps together	2.6%
I know how my child is supported within school	2.6%
The school gives me support to help my child at home (e.g. strategies, resources, signposting to agencies)	2.6%
I am happy with the support and provision my child receives	2.6%
I have confidence in the leadership of SEND provision in the school	2.6%
Overall, I feel what the school does for my child's Special Educational Needs is:	2.6%

**NB: 2.6% equates to one pupil out of a total of 38 pupils on the SEND register.**

The few parents who disagree or strongly disagree about aspects of their child's education (as seen from both questionnaires) are strongly urged by the governing body and the school to email their concerns to the office so that we can meet to address these issues. Please email your concerns to: [office@pri.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:office@pri.srscmat.co.uk)

**Parents and Teacher Association (PTA):** Thanks to your hard work over the last few years, we now have a brand new KS2 timber trail. This will be ready for pupils to use from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Please do not allow your child(ren) to play on this or any part of the school grounds when collecting pupils at the end of each day.

**Food for Thought:** "Come the spring with all its splendour, all its birds, and all its blossoms!" – Christina Georgina Rossetti (5 December 1830 – 29 December 1894) was an English writer of romantic, devotional and children's poems

God bless, Anthony Harrison (Headteacher).