

The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



Newsletter April 2025

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

Easter: Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April 2025.

Summer (Pentecost) Term 1: Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May 2025.

Half-term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025.

Summer (Pentecost) Term 2: Monday 2nd June – Tuesday 22nd July 2025.

Catholic Life

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

Easter Services: For information about Mass times and the Easter Triduum, please log onto the church website <https://www.ourladyandthebeauvalermartyrs.com/> 'Triduum' is a Latin term (meaning three days) used by the church to denote the three days from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (on Maundy Thursday) and ends after evening prayers at sunset on Easter Day (on Sunday 20th April).

Celebration Assemblies: Take place from 1pm each Friday – unless otherwise stated.

Virtue to live by: Reflection – From our first day back at school after the easter holiday, we will be focussing on how to become better reflective learners. A child who is taught how to be more reflective in their learning is good at:

- assessing themselves whilst identify opportunities and achievements
- evaluating their own strengths and weaknesses to improve their performance
- setting goals with success criteria for their development
- communicating what they have learned
- reviewing their progress and acting on the outcomes to make improvements

Tuesday 22nd April: I appreciate the new life found in nature at this time of year – linked to the gospel on Easter Sunday (John 20:1-9) when Mary Magdalene visits the tomb to find that Jesus has risen to new life.

A prayer for Lent: Dear Lord, in this 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. Thank you for your kind donations.

Congratulations: Our congratulations to Miss Hickling who is getting married this weekend. We wish her all the best and will keep her in our thoughts and prayers on Saturday. We now need to get used to her new name – Mrs Poole – when she returns to school after the easter break.

The Easter Performance by Assisi and York Classes: Our Easter story (Good News) was a great success, being acted out this week to our families, governors, parishioners, the wider community – as well as all pupils in school. It is always pleasing to end the lent term in this way, as it helps keep the Easter Story fresh in the children's minds and helps us all to recap the events of Holy Week.

Easter-Egg Hunt, Raffle & Easter Bonnet: A big thank you to our PTA members, who kind volunteer each year to run these important, fun events. This year we will be undertaking these activities outside, on the afternoon of Friday 4th April, as we are blessed with such beautiful weather.

School Wrap Around Provision: From the first day back after the easter holiday, the school's wrap around care provision will increase in price as follows:

Breakfast Club (this opens at 7.30am) from £5 to **£6**

After school (first session – until 4.45pm – whether in an organised club or doing activities with Mrs Wright in Wrap Around Care) from £5 to **£6**

After school (second session – until 6pm – including a snack and doing activities in Wrap Around Care with Mrs Wright) from £5 to **£6**

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

Diarrhoea and vomiting: This week we have had an outbreak in school with children being affected in each class. The school follows the NHS advice which says: 'Stay off school or work until you've not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days' (48 Hours). Please support us and your child in adhering to this policy, as it helps keep other pupils, their families, and staff safe from the infection.

Ofsted: Thank you to all of you who responded to the questionnaire when the school was inspected in the first three days of the week beginning Monday 17th March. The inspector wished to thank all stakeholders for making her feel so welcome – and especially the children, whom she particularly enjoyed working with. The actual report will not be published until around the middle of May.

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>

Beauvale Pilgrimage: On Sunday 4th May, people from all over the Diocese will be making the pilgrimage to the remains of The Priory. This is the diocesan annual pilgrimage, and all pupils, parents and members of staff are invited to go and take part in this important part of our school's heritage. People are encouraged to gather at the farm from 1.45pm onwards – as the afternoon begins with a procession to the martyrs' stone, where prayers are said. This year, Bishop Patrick will be celebrating the Mass which begins at 2pm.

School Beauvale Pilgrimage: On Tuesday 6th May, pupils in Year Groups 3, 5 and 6 will make the pilgrimage to the ruins of Beauvale Priory. This will take place in honour of our Priory School Patron Saints: John Houghton and Robert Lawrence. Further information will be sent after Easter, as you are all welcome to join us on the walk – and then at Mass, which begins at 10.15am.

Food for Thought: "The morning air was like a new dress. That made her feel the apron tied around her waist. She untied it and flung it on a low bush beside the road and walked on, picking flowers and making a bouquet. From now on until death, she was yearning for flower-dust and springtime sprinkled over everything." From, Their Eyes Were Watching God – **by Zora Neale Hurston**

God bless, Anthony Harrison (Headteacher).