

# *The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy*



## *Newsletter May 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.

**Autumn (Advent) Term 1:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

Reception pupils only return on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September for induction & transition.

All other pupils in Years 1 to 6 return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**Half-term:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 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: Reflection** – We are currently 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 the outcomes of their learning to make improvements

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April: I can reflect on my feelings at sad times, putting my faith in Jesus** – linked to the gospel story of Doubting Thomas, who is feeling bereaved at the loss of his teacher and friend (Jesus) John 20:19-31.

**Beauvale Pilgrimage:** On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May: School Beauvale Pilgrimage:** 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. You are all welcome to join us on the walk, leaving school at 9am – and then at Mass. Alternatively, if you are unable to walk, you can drive up to the tea rooms: New Road, Moorgreen, NG16 2AA and meet us before Mass which begins at 10.15am.

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May: I understand the importance of keeping the environment clean and tidy** – linked to the weekend's gospel, the parable of The Good Shepherd (John 10:27-30) where people will be rewarded for making the right and good choices.

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May: I know the importance of showing love through sharing** – linked to The Golden Rule – love one another as I have loved you (John 13:31-35).

**Post Easter Prayer:** God our Father, creator of all, The Lord appeared to those who had begun to lose hope and opened their eyes to what the scriptures foretold: that first he must die, and then he would rise and ascend into his Father's glorious presence. May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of bread and follow him in his risen life. Amen

**Parent and Toddler Group:** Our group is held every Tuesday – term time only in the church social centre from 9 -11.00am. We ask for a small donation each week to cover the cost of snack-time and craft activities. The group offers a very relaxed atmosphere where your child can happily interact with other children. Please pass this information on to family members and friends who have toddlers or babies.

**Sun Cream:** It is the school's policy that we do not apply sun cream to pupils. Instead, we ask that a high-factor sun cream is applied at home before your child comes to school. If you know that your child is able to apply their own sun cream, then it must be clearly labelled with your child's name. Your child must not share their sun cream with others.

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

**School Wrap Around Provision:** From the start of this summer term, the school's wrap around care provision has increased in price. The cost is now 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](http://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 (SENDSCO). 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.

**Staffing:** The end of this academic year will bring staffing changes to the school. I am both happy and sad to report to you that Mrs Helen Smith will be leaving us at the end of this academic year as she is retiring from work. Mrs Smith has been a bedrock of knowledge and expertise in her field of work – liaising with, guiding and serving our families with great passion and an abundance of love and care for the last 27 years. She will be sorely missed by pupils, staff and parents alike as she leaves an immensely positive legacy to be proud of.  
In addition, I report to you that I am leaving the school, as Headteacher, also at the end of this academic year. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to lead The Priory Catholic Academy for the last 17 years – 17 fabulous years! I will look back fondly on many cherished memories of the children and families served during this time, which would not have been so successful a time, if I had not had the absolute pleasure of working with so many skilful and talented people – supported by members of staff, governors, and members of the trust and diocese alike. Being part of such a great team at all levels has been an amazing experience, over time it has enabled me to become more reflective and measured in my approach to life. Finally, it is important for you to know that the academy trust is already working towards a succession plan – an advertisement seeking a new headteacher for the school is being marketed from tomorrow. The trust has been working with the school to ensure that there is a smooth transition for when the new headteacher is appointed. For your information, the job advert will be posted on the school and trust website from tomorrow.

**Food for Thought:** Alice came to a fork in the road. “Which road do I take?”  
“Where do you want to go?” responded the Cheshire cat.  
“I don't know,” Alice answered  
“Then,” said the cat, “it doesn't matter.” ~ **Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland**

**God bless, Anthony Harrison (Headteacher)**