

With Jesus we...  
**Love first,**  
**Live the Gospels,**  
**Learn for Life**

5th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we come to the end of our Advent term, there are lots of items to share with you and celebrate before the holiday ahead.

### Start of Year Mass

At the start of January, we gathered to celebrate the start of the Lent term in Mass. It was wonderful to celebrate this special season together in prayer and song with parents, parishioners and Governors. The children sang beautifully and we used the celebration to launch the **Year of Prayer** as led by Pope Francis ahead of the 2025 Jubilee. As Pope Francis explains, the Year of Prayer is to prepare ourselves to experience the power of hope in prayer and re-discover the great need and value for prayer, in our personal lives, in the life of the church and in the world.

### Parish-School Links

We continue to strengthen our links with Our Lady and St Patrick's Church this term by having children from St Patrick's volunteering to read the bidding prayers at Mass this Sunday to celebrate the Our Lady of Lourdes Feast day. If you would like your child to participate in Mass in this way, please look out for the emails from Mrs Cannell.

### Serving Others in Our Community

A huge well done to our EYFS and Year 1 classes who spread lots of joy in the last week of last term when they visited Century Court Care Home. They sang and signed their Nativity songs to the residents who were thrilled. I was inundated with emails from staff from the Care Home who spoke of their exemplary behaviour and joy! We're planning more visits soon so we can continue to spread the joy of St Patrick's to those who need it.

### Parents Consultation – Important Parent Update

As part of our work towards our Live simply Award and in becoming more Eco-friendly in our approach, **Parent's Consultations will be booked directly by parents/carers online** next half term. Parents will be able to book these through Arbor. Appointments will be released for booking on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm. Further information will be given out later this week. If you have any queries about this in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

### Safer Internet Day

This week, Miss Lane led the school in assembly talking about **Safer Internet Day**. Safer Internet Day is a celebration of the safe and positive use of technology, coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre. This week each class will focus on the importance of staying safe online at an age appropriate level in their PSHE lessons. In our modern world, this is something the school takes seriously in order for our children to use technology sensibly and safely. The East Midlands Special Operations Unit

### KEY DATES

#### INSET DAY – No School

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

#### Return to School

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

#### International Day of Languages

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

#### Service of Reconciliation For Children

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### World Book Day

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March



#### Parent's Consultations

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1-7pm

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March

St Patrick's Day!



#### Holy Week – Year 3 presenting Palm Sunday

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm TBC

#### Holy Week – Year 4 presenting Jesus Into Jerusalem

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm

#### Holy Week – Year 5 presenting the Last Supper

Weds 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm

#### Holy Week – Year 6 presenting the Garden of Gethsemane

Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2.30pm

#### Last day of Term

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

#### Return to School

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April

are hosting a free webinar on how to keep children safe online on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7pm**. The webinar aims to provide parents/carers with the tools to protect their children online and also ensure parents/carers can take back control by improving their own knowledge so they can be in the discussion with their children. Please click on [the link](#) to the free Safer Internet Day webinar. This can also be accessed from the website [Webinars | EM Cyber Secure \(eastmidlandscybersecure.co.uk\)](http://Webinars | EM Cyber Secure (eastmidlandscybersecure.co.uk))

We will also be marking **Mental Health Awareness Week** this week in school. Last week we focused on a Time To Talk day to raise awareness of talking to others to help with self-care and this week, Years 4, 5 and 6 will enjoy the **Smoothie Bike** – a clever contraption that makes smoothies whilst you cycle! The focus was on the importance of healthy eating and its benefits to our bodies and mind.

This Thursday (8 Feb), we invite the children to wear non-uniform in our themed **Dress To Express** Day where the children will have the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful, unique individuals they are. I'm sure the school will be alive with a range of outfits to showcase our children's gifts, talents and personalities highlighting the very important message of children being proud of who they are.

### CAFOD Club

This week, CAFOD club welcomed Will Crudence, a CAFOD representative who has heard about all the wonderful things our CAFOD Club were doing. The children were thrilled to interview Will and learn more about how CAFOD started and the wonderful ways it helps those in need around the world. The children were completely inspired and left the session excitedly telling me their new facts and all the ways they could make a difference in the world!

### Opal Playtime Project

Thank you very much for your ongoing support with our move to playtimes supported by OPAL. As previously shared OPAL is an award-winning company with a focus on outdoor learning and play. If you would like to see what we are working towards please click this link to see a [platinum OPAL school](#). These changes will be slowly introduced and safety will always be ensured.

We aim to begin OPAL after the Easter Holiday. As part of playtimes, children will engage with loose parts to inspire and support imaginative play. We are asking for any support you can offer with this. Please see the BINGO board here and if you can provide any of the loose parts, please bring them in. Thank you again for your support.

### PFA

Thanks to our PFA who raised over £400 last term by selling Christmas cookies, stockings and holding a Film Night. The funds will be used to purchase much needed school resources. More events coming soon! Watch this space!

### Football News – Commentary by Mike and Isaac

*The first game we played at the start of the league was a nerve-wracking game – the first time the school has played in a league since 2017!*

*After battling through, we unfortunately lost but kept our heads held high. In the next game we managed a 5-3 win after a fair but hectic match with the ball being batted in each half at every moment. Following this, we played the league winners. After staying strong and resilient throughout, we unfortunately lost 2-0. After this defeat we had another loss and really had to work together as a team to come back with fortitude and spirit. We listened to advice following this*

### MASS DATES

#### Year 4 visiting Church for Parish Mass

21st February

#### Year 3 visiting Church for Parish Mass

28th February

#### Yrs 1&2 visiting Church for Parish Mass

6th March

#### FS1&2 visiting Church for Parish Mass

13th March



*match to win the next one 1-0 and we had one game left – the last of the competition. We stuck together, kept our heads up, passed with precision, shot with power and ended up winning. The end league result – we came second in the league! We're all very proud to fly the St Patrick's flag! Well done team!*

### **Safe and Considerate Parking**

May I remind all parents/carers to park safely and considerately when dropping off and collecting children. These times are extremely busy and careless parking is a risk to the safety of our children. I also kindly ask that parents/carers do not park on the yellow zig-zig lines or across our neighbour's driveways. It is only in working together that we can ensure the safety of our children and show consideration to our neighbours. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation with this.

### **Message From the Diocese – *Calling All Catholic Teachers***

Do you know somebody who is a practising Catholic and who is a teacher or senior leader working outside of the Catholic sector? The Diocese of Nottingham along with the Catholic Multi Academy Trust is leading a virtual information session about working in a Catholic School on Monday 4th March, 7-8pm. For further information, please contact Julie Sweeny at the Diocesan Education Service ([Julie.sweeny@nottingham-des.org.uk](mailto:Julie.sweeny@nottingham-des.org.uk))

### **INSET Day**

Please note this **Friday 9th February** is a Trust INSET date. The last day of school this week is Thursday 8th February.

Following this, we have the one-week half-term break and we look forward to welcoming your children back to school on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Thank you once again for all your support this half term.

With best wishes,

Miss Ferrara