

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts



21st December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I just wanted to write to you all at the end of what has been a very busy term, in order to share some of our school news and to give out key dates and information for next term.

Catholic Schools Inspection report

I am pleased to share with you the report from our recent CSI that took place in November. I wanted to personally thank you all for the support that you showed to our school during the inspection process. The inspectors were overwhelmed by the number of responses we received to the parent survey and by how positive and proud our parents are about our school. Thank you very much for supporting us as we work together to help the children to continue to grow as wonderful young people – I know you are as proud as we are of our CTK children. The report is published on our website and can be accessed by following this link: <https://www.christthekingalfreton.srscmat.co.uk/catholic-life/catholic-schools-inspectorate-report/>

Catholic Life and Mission

Our children and school community have been very busy living out our school mission – we can and we will follow in Jesus' footsteps. There are lots of updates on our X (formerly known as Twitter) feed, which can be found under @CTKAlfreton. I also try to include regular updates on our school app. If you have not yet downloaded this, I would ask you to do so at your earliest convenience, as this is the main way we communicate with parents in order to reduce paper use. If you are unsure, please see the notice board in front of the school office, or ask via your class email addresses. Over the term, we have had many occasions of Celebration of the Word. Our Year 6s led a beautiful Remembrance assembly in November and we also had a whole school day of celebrations for the Feast Day of St. Ralph Sherwin, who is the patron saint of our Trust. Each week, a different group of children, supported by our Chaplain and Chaplaincy Team, have planned and led a Celebration of the Word. It is wonderful to gather together as a school community in this way and we continue to offer for parents to attend if they wish to, every Thursday morning at 9.15am. Our Advent Pilgrimage on Tuesday 5th December enabled the children to learn about Jesus' ancestors and the Jesse tree. The children made links to our school mission statement



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

Christ The King Catholic Voluntary Academy
Firs Avenue, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 7EN
Telephone: 01773 832919
www.christthekingalfreton.srscmat.co.uk
enquiries@cka.srscmat.co.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

and were able to use the examples seen in these Bible stories to examples of how they might try to live and behave in their own lives. Our EYFS and KS1 children also led us in two fantastic celebrations – a Nativity and a Musical Christmas story. We were incredibly proud of the children, their beautiful singing and obvious joy were a pleasure to behold. Thank you for supporting these wonderful occasions. Our choir have also been very busy spreading joy at various events this term, including singing at the local care homes, at our Parish events and in Alfreton for the Christmas Light Switch On. They represented our school brilliantly and we are very proud of them. Our Faith in Action and Chaplaincy teams have also been busy supporting our local community through delivering Christmas cards (alongside the Y6 children), and serving at the parishioners' lunch. Our CAFOD club have succeeded in raising money for CAFOD via a bake sale in school, which was organised and advertised completely by them. In total, we have raised around £270. Well done to all! Next term, our curriculum golden thread is Sustainability and Stewardship and we look forward to hearing about the great work the children do to live this out each week.

Wellbeing day

The children seemed to greatly enjoy our wellbeing day on Monday. They participated brilliantly in all the activities, including outdoor games, yoga and singing. Thank you to Mrs Bowers for giving your time so generously to lead your workshops with the younger children. We look forward to planning in similar sessions in the future! I also wanted to thank the Y6 buddies and play leaders, who supported in leading the sessions and helping the Reception children to participate. Our Y5 children also did a great job in supporting our Nursery children during this day.

Friends of Christ the King

It has been a busy term for our PTA, with lots of events happening, including the disco and the nativities. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped to organise these events and for giving your time so generously to support our school. Thank you to all parents for supporting these events so brilliantly. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Due to the money we have raised, we were able to fund a pantomime to visit school for all the children, as well as organise and help Santa to deliver his gifts yesterday for each child. We will share details of further upcoming events in the Lent term.

Parking

Another polite reminder to please remember to park considerately and to take care when dropping off and collecting your children. It is really important that we all work together to keep the roads around

school safe and to ensure that local residents are still able to access their properties. Thank you for your support with this.

Attendance

We continue to monitor the children's attendance closely and to take the steps outlined in our policy, when necessary. If your child's attendance has dipped below the benchmark of 95%, you will receive a letter to notify you of this. We are always happy to discuss any concerns you may have regarding attendance and to offer support if needed. Please do endeavour to ensure your child is attending school every day, unless they are unwell or there are other authorised circumstances.

Uniform

A reminder that all children should return to school in January wearing full winter uniform. Please see our uniform policy for details. If you have any problems or difficulties obtaining uniform, please notify school, as there may be support that we can offer. A reminder that, whilst school trousers are grey or black, skirts or pinafores must be navy blue, and worn with navy blue tights or socks.

Cost of living

I am aware that times are tough for many of our families at the moment, due to the cost of living crisis. I would urge families to apply for Pupil Premium funding by completing the form below. This can then be handed into the school office and we can process this to see if you are eligible for support. Benefits of this can include access to free school meals and support with extras such as class trips. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Key dates for Lent term:

From January 2024, the Bishop is requesting a year of Encounter in order to prepare for prayer in many forms, in advance of the Jubilee year in 2025. As such, we will be devising a programme of each class attending Church with Joe, our chaplain, to experience Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Class teachers will notify you of these dates in due course.

Monday 8th January 2024 – first day of term

Wednesday 14th February – Ash Wednesday Mass in school – time TBC

Friday 16th February – Last day of term

Monday 26th February – INSET day – school closed to children

Tuesday 27th February – First day back at school for the children

Monday 4th / Tuesday 5th / Wednesday 6th March – Provisional Parent's Evening date – TBC

w.c. 4th March – Mother's Day shop

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

Thursday 28th March – Last day of term

There will be further updates on the app regarding other events that are happening, so please do keep checking, alongside class emails.

Finally, I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all parents, carers and wider family members for your continued support of our children and our school. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your families and I look forward to welcoming you all back in January.

A Christmas prayer:

Open our ears to hear their good tidings of great joy, join our voices with them in praise, and move our hearts to constant prayer, that in the course of our daily lives we may see your light shining in the darkness, and that we also may shine like the stars in the universe, reflecting the brightness of the true Light; Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kind regards,



Mrs Watts

Headteacher

Application for Pupil Premium Funding

The Pupil Premium provides extra funding within the School for additional equipment and support. Please complete all sections of this form and return it to your School for processing in accordance with GDPR and the Council’s Information Management Policy.

Name of School	Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy
----------------	---

Please enter all children in family

Child’s Surname	Child’s First Name	Date of Birth	Name of School Attending

Please provide Parent/Guardian Details (this information is required by HMRC to process the Pupil Premium funding)

Surname	First Name	Date of Birth	National Insurance No.	Contact Number

The information I have given on this form is complete and accurate. I will notify Derbyshire County Council of any change in circumstance during the school life of my child/ren whilst attending schools in Derbyshire. I agree that Derbyshire County Council can use the information I have provided for the purpose of collating information and making the application for Pupil Premium Funding.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: Date: