

# CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts



**16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

## 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, led by our children and supported by staff and our chaplain, Joe. 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 curriculum golden thread this term is Sustainability and Stewardship and our children have been busy learning about the importance of looking after our Common Home. Indeed, we have some very passionate champions for the environment in school. The children have set up a litter picking club which runs at break time and lunch time. Our Y4 children did a fantastic job of litter picking and tidying up along the hedge outside our school. They have also subsequently made posters to remind people about putting litter in the bin and caring for our planet. Our CAFOD club have had a meeting to discuss projects and ideas they would like to develop in the coming term, also linked to the Catholic Social Teaching principles and our golden thread. Our Ash Wednesday Mass was led beautifully by our Y4 class. Thank you to all the children for engaging with this important time in our liturgical year, as we begin Lent. It was lovely to welcome so many parents and family members to celebrate with us.



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Travelling crosses – Our Faith in Action team have set up the travelling crosses which will be coming home each evening during Lent. One child per class per evening will be bringing these home for you to share as a family, should you wish to. Prayer is one of the three pillars of Lent and supports the children in growing their faith as we walk alongside Jesus and try to follow his example.

Jobs for Jesus – We are also encouraging the children this Lent to do something extra or to give something up and to put the pocket money they earn or save towards raising money for CAFOD, or another charity of their choice.

Food bank collection – We will be collecting each week for the local foodbank throughout Lent as well, starting from after half term. Each week will have a different focus, but if you have any items spare in your cupboards that you could donate to support others in our community, we would be very grateful for your support.

#### Young Voices

A huge well done to the Y4, 5 and 6 children who sung their hearts out at the Young Voices concert last week. The children were a credit to our school, joined in with enthusiasm and the staff were really proud to be participating alongside them.

#### Y5 Residential

Our Y5 children have had a fantastic time on their residential to Thornbridge. They took part in a range of activities designed to build confidence, resilience and to push them to try new experiences. Thank you to the children for giving it their all and thank you to Mr Parker (Bob), Miss Smith and Miss Gregory for enabling the children to have this amazing experience.

#### Parent's Evening consultations

These will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please look out for details of how to sign up for appointments, which will be coming out soon. These meetings will be a chance to update you about your child's progress, and any areas to celebrate or where support is needed.

#### Friends of Christ the King

Our wonderful Friends of CTK parent and staff team have been busy preparing upcoming events to continue to support and raise money for our school. There will be a Mother's Day shop available in school

during the first week back – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. There will be a storyteller in school as part of our celebrations for World Book Day which has been kindly funded by Friends – a huge thanks to them – please see Mrs Rayner’s letter from yesterday. Movie Nights will be taking place during the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> March. Please look out for further details after half term. There will also be further information about how to get involved with Friends of CTK in the future, during our Parent’s Evenings.

### Parking

Another polite reminder to please remember to park considerately, not stopping or parking on the yellow zigzags and to take care when dropping off and collecting your children. This includes ensuring that the pavement remains clear for pedestrians. 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 continue to wear full winter uniform next term. 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.

### Bikeability

During the first week back after half term, our Y4 and Y5 children have the opportunity to participate in Bikeability. The Y4 children will be completing this on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February and the Y5 children will be completing this on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. **Y4 and 5 parents should have received a letter about this, which needs to be returned by today, please.** This will indicate that you give consent for your child to participate and will also inform us if you need to hire a bike and / or helmet for your child. Please note,

the children cannot participate without wearing a helmet that fits properly. There is a small charge of £7.50 to hire a bike. On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, Y4 children will need to bring their bikes and helmets down to school. If you would like to bring your Y4 child's bike the afternoon before, school staff will be available during the INSET day between 2.30 and 3.30pm to take the bikes into the hall. On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Y5 children will need to bring their bikes and helmets down to school. If you wish to bring your Y5 child's bike to school the afternoon before, school staff will be available at the end of the day on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> to take the bikes to the hall. Please contact [indigo@cka.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:indigo@cka.srscmat.co.uk) if you have any further questions, with the subject "Bikeability".

Key dates for Lent term:

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – INSET day – school closed to children

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February – First day back at school for the children

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Mother's Day shop in school

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> / Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> / Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Parent's Evening dates – details TBC

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Storyteller in school

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Book Bus in school and non-uniform day – children to dress up as their favourite word

w.c. 18<sup>th</sup> March – Movie Nights for all children – dates tbc and more details to follow

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – 1.30pm – Maundy Thursday Mass in school - all welcome!

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

Kind regards,



Mrs Watts

*Headteacher*