

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts



28th March 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. Some of our children participated in Earth Hour this year – thank you for sharing this with us and for trying to make a difference in looking after our world. We have also been very active living out the three pillars of Lent. Thank you so much for your very generous donations both to the food bank collection for our local community and to CAFOD through sponsoring our Big Lent Walk, the collections in school and the Y6 project to grow their 2p. Your generosity will really make a difference to so many lives.

Lenten Pilgrimage – The children participated beautifully in our Lenten pilgrimage which explored some of the stations of the cross and how Jesus’ journey can continue to be lived out in a meaningful way today. Our stations of the cross have also been displayed around school throughout Lent, as we reflect on Jesus’ final journey and prepare ourselves for his death and resurrection.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Holy Thursday Eucharistic Service – We are looking forward to sharing this special celebration of the Last Supper and Jesus’ example to us all to serve others, as we finish the term. Thank you for coming to celebrate with us and to our chaplaincy team and Joe, our lay chaplain, for preparing this service.

Easter Cards – Our children have also been busy preparing Easter cards to be given out to parishioners on Easter Sunday. We are hoping this will build another link with our Parish and that the cards serve to brighten somebody’s day.

Governor update and thanks

I wanted to share with you the news that John Boxall, our Chair of Governors, has made the difficult decision to resign, after a significant period of time serving our school as a foundation governor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for all his service to our school and for his dedication and commitment to CTK and our children and staff. John’s support has been unwavering and has been very much appreciated, particularly during our recent inspections. I am sure you will wish to join me in thanking John for all he has done for CTK.

Mary Kelly will be acting Chair of Governors and I will continue to update you during this period of transition for our LGB. Keep an eye out for parent governor elections which will be coming up in the Pentecost term.

Year 2 update

Further to the letter that went out to Year 2 parents this week, I wanted to take this time to also thank Mrs Connolly for all she has done to support our school since November. Mrs Connolly keeps trying to retire and we thought that we had better finally let her do so! I wanted to say a huge thank you from all of us at CTK, especially the Y2 children and class team, for everything you have done to support us while Mrs Garside has been out of action. We would like to wish Mrs Connolly health and happiness in her (eventual) retirement and to remind her not to be a stranger!

Mrs Connolly has also been busy supporting the transition for our new teacher to join us after Easter – Ms Strong. She will be teaching in Y2 until May half term, alongside Mrs Coope and Mrs Zubrzycka, and we look forward to welcoming her to the CTK team.

Uniform

After Easter, the children can come back to school in either full summer OR full winter uniform. This is your choice as I know the weather can be very changeable at this time of year. I will update you in due course when all children need to be wearing summer uniform. Please do ensure that you do not mix the uniforms, however. Summer dresses should be worn with socks, not tights, and school trousers should be worn with the yellow shirt and tie, not a polo shirt. If you have any problems or difficulties obtaining uniform, please notify school, as there may be support that we can offer. Please see our uniform policy if you wish to check: [School Uniform - Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy \(srsccmat.co.uk\)](http://srsccmat.co.uk)

Friends of Christ the King

Thank you to Friends of Christ the King for organising the very successful Movie Nights for the children this term. Thanks also for the support they gave to our children during World Book week – funding the author workshops and organising the Book Bus to attend our school, as well as donating several books to our school as part of this event. As always, we really appreciate the hard work that goes into these events.

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. Also, I am aware that there are some very significant potholes along Beech Avenue, which is the way we usually ask parents to drive along to create a flow of traffic when leaving school. We have reported these to the council and are currently awaiting a response.

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.

Jubilee Year – help needed

As you are aware, next year marks Christ the King school's diamond jubilee. Our school opened in 1964 and we are going to be celebrating this momentous occasion throughout the school year from September 2024. This will begin with a special Jubilee Mass, the details of which will be shared nearer the time. As a school, we would really like to create a rich history to collate in a book and display, that will serve as a wonderful reminder of our school's journey so far and will help the children to understand how they are all a part of that journey. We would be keen to hear from family members who are past pupils or who have any photos or memories that they would be happy to share with us. One of the things we are proudest of is that CTK really is a family and we have so many people who make up that family throughout the years. If you have any ideas or can offer any time to support this project, or memorabilia relating to your time at CTK, we would love to hear from you. This project will take place throughout the Pentecost term, so please do get in touch either by popping into school, or by emailing enquiries@cka.srscmat.co.uk and marking the subject as CTK diamond jubilee. We cannot wait to hear from you!

Curriculum

Our curriculum golden thread next term is Freedom. The children will be exploring what this means through the wider curriculum. Themes will include freedom of expression, what it means to be free and exploring themes linked to this such as democracy.

EYFS

As our Reception children have done such a brilliant job of settling into life at CTK, we are going to ask for parents to please drop the children at the gate from after Easter, where an adult will support them if needed in getting to their classroom. This is in order to support their transition as they move into Y1. We would also ask any Nursery children who are due to start school in September to begin to make their own way to their classroom in order to help with their preparations for school. Class adults will be on hand to support this process, but we do find that it really helps the children to have a settled start to the day when parents do this. Thank you for your support with this.

Key dates for Pentecost term:

Monday 15th April – Pentecost 1 term begins

Tuesday 7th May – Y1 trip to Sudbury Hall – details will follow

Monday 13th – Thursday 16th May – KS2 assessments week

Monday 20th May – Wednesday 22nd May – Y5 Bikeability Level 2 – details to follow

Thursday 23rd May – Class group photos

Friday 24th May – Last day of term Pentecost 1

Monday 3rd June – INSET day – school closed to children

Tuesday 4th June – Pentecost 2 term begins

Friday 14th June – Sports Day – weather permitting - details to follow

Thursday 27th – Friday 28th June – Y3 residential

Friday 28th June – Y2 sleepover (TBC)

Monday 8th July – KS2 production

Wednesday 10th July – KS2 production

Friday 12th July – Children’s summer fayre in school

Monday 15th July – Ozzy Obstacle in school – KS1

Tuesday 16th – Wednesday 17th July – Y6 London trip

Thursday 18th July – Tough Runner in school – KS2

Monday 22nd July – Leavers Mass and KS2 disco

Tuesday 23rd July – Last day of term Pentecost 2

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

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Easter with your families.

Kind regards,



Mrs Watts

Headteacher