

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts

14th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our children back to school. We have been so proud of the way they have settled into their new classes and our children who have started our school for the very first time are already finding their feet and are part of our CTK family.

I just wanted to write to you all with a few important updates and key information as we begin the term. If they have not already done so, class teachers will be in touch with their class parents as soon as we have updated email addresses for the class email address.

Catholic Life and Mission:

- Our mission this week is "Encounter", where the children are being encouraged to think about when they might encounter God this week and how they can take some quiet time for themselves if they want to reflect on this. We shared the story of Moses and the burning bush as an example of an encounter with God and the children discussed treating others how they would like to be treated as a way of encountering God in the eyes of others.
- We have been looking at our mission statement and our school values and discussing this with the children. **We wanted to make sure that "We Can and We Will" truly reflects our ethos in school and how we try to live out this mission each day.** The children came up with 5 options to extend this message. The options were as follows: We Can and We Will
 1. live like Jesus asked us.
 2. follow in Jesus' footsteps.
 3. live like God wants us to.
 4. serve like Christ.
 5. live out the Gospel messages.

The children in each class were given these choices and were able to vote for their favourite. We wanted to open this up to you as parents and carers too. **As important members of our school community, we would love to hear any thoughts or feedback you have about which of these you think best reflects us as a school. Please email any feedback by Monday 18th September, to enquiries@cka.srscmat.co.uk and please mark the subject header We Can and We Will.**

- **We are delighted to be able to welcome you into school for a beginning of term Mass on Thursday 21st September at 2.00pm. All are welcome!** Please do come along, even if you do not usually attend Mass – you are all more than welcome to listen to the children singing beautifully and to just have some quiet time to reflect should you wish to. We always have all the words on the screen, too, so there is no pressure if you wish to participate. We love having parents attending our Masses. This will be a thankful celebration for our children as they begin this new school year.
- **Parent drop ins with our chaplain, Joe, every Wednesday morning - 9am – 9.30am** in the staff room. Please do pop down for a cuppa and a chat. If you would like to make a time where it will be a 1:1 chat, come to the drop in and then arrange a time that works for both you and Joe. He is usually in our school on Wednesdays all day and Thursday mornings.



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

Christ The King Catholic Voluntary Academy
Firs Avenue, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 7EN
Telephone: 01773 832919
www.christtheking.derbyshire.sch.uk
enquiries@christtheking.derbyshire.sch.uk
Company Number 7937154



St Ralph
Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

PE days:

Please see below for details of your child's PE day:

Monday – Y4 and Y5 PE

Tuesday – Nursery (am) and Y6

Wednesday – Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3

Thursday – Nursery (pm), Y5 swimming (normal school uniform; bring swimming kit to school).

Please send your child into school wearing their PE kit on these days. In the colder weather, please send the children in wearing their outdoor PE kit, with PE shorts underneath. When the children have an indoor lesson, they will then be able to remove their trousers for the lesson if necessary and just wear their shorts. Please make sure all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Indoor PE Kit: • Yellow polo shirt • Navy blue or black PE Shorts • Pumps / clean trainers

Outdoor PE Kit • Yellow polo shirt • Navy blue or black jogging bottoms • Trainers • A navy blue jumper or cardigan.

Please do not hesitate to speak to us in school if you need any support or advice regarding acquiring or paying for uniform – our priority is to support our children and families in whatever way we can.

Nearly new uniform

Thank you very much for your support in sending in good quality second hand uniform. It is really generous of you. We will be having a nearly new and second-hand uniform sale, with a particular focus on purchasing winter uniform, on Wednesday 20th September at 2.30pm.

Parking

Thank you for your consideration when faced with the challenge of a van that was parked on our yellow zig zags on Monday. It was reported and the van was eventually moved but thank you for being so mindful and considerate this morning in enabling all the children to cross safely. Staff will continue to support the children when crossing the road just outside school in the mornings. However, we would ask that parents please supervise their children until the children are on the school site. Reminders about road safety and crossing safely would also be appreciated – we will then reinforce these messages with the children in school. We ask that parents please park considerately and safely, being mindful of local residents. No car should be stopping at any time on the yellow zig zag lines outside school. If you are pulling into the space to the left of school, please drive slowly as children could be getting out of their cars. We thank you in supporting us to keep our children safe.

Meetings and interactions with school staff

At Christ the King, we are very proud of the nurturing and inclusive environment that we create for all our children, our staff and our school community. Our school values of love, respect, forgiveness, compassion, justice, hope, gratitude and service really are at the heart of all we try to do, including in our interactions. We appreciate the wonderful messages of support that we receive from parents and carers and we are always happy to listen to any concerns or feedback that you may have. Please do be mindful, however, that the adults in school also have very busy timetables and it is not always possible for them to be available at drop off or pick up without a prior appointment. We care deeply about the children in our school and our families so please do remember that any feedback, whilst constructive and important to share, needs to be given politely and in a way that please bears in mind that we are human too. Thank you for your continued support in continuing to create and shape our school community in line with our values – We Can and We Will!

Class emails and communication

We will continue to use class email addresses and our school app as our main means of communicating with parents. In the interests of creating a more sustainable school, we will try to avoid sending paper

letters home unless absolutely necessary. Please ensure you have downloaded the MySchoolApp and put in our school details. Class email addresses are as follows:

Nursery (FS1) – yellow@cka.srscmat.co.uk

Reception (FS2) – red@cka.srscmat.co.uk

Year 1 – orange@cka.srscmat.co.uk

Year 2 – green@cka.srscmat.co.uk

Year 3 – blue@cka.srscmat.co.uk

Year 4 – indigo@cka.srscmat.co.uk

Year 5 – rainbow@cka.srscmat.co.uk

Year 6 – violet@cka.srscmat.co.uk

Please try to return the updated parent email address slips as soon as possible after receiving the request to do so.

Residential trips and extra-curricular activities

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be sharing details of extra-curricular activities and residential trips that are planned, including costs and dates, so that you have all the information as early as possible.

Homework

Homework and expectations for reading will be shared with you by each class teacher, if they have not already done so, as this changes slightly year to year. We continue to ask parents to read regularly with their children, as this regular practice really does make a difference to the children's fluency and comprehension skills. Teachers will share information about how often they expect children to read as well as any homework that will be set, when this will be due in and when and how it will be marked and feedback shared. Please do not hesitate to contact teachers on the email addresses above if you have any questions regarding this.

School Dinners

School dinners are currently charged at £2.30 per child and we have not increased the price yet this year. However, as the price we are charged by Derbyshire County Council increases, we may have to review this cost over the coming weeks. I will continue to keep you updated about this, as I receive more information. It would also be a big help to our kitchen staff, if you could agree with your child whether they are having dinners or a packed lunch and remain on the same for the whole of a week. In cases where your child does not like the meal on a particular day, if this is the same every week, please notify class teachers wherever possible. All school meals are cooked on site and this enables the kitchen staff to plan and order the food for the dinners effectively. Thank you for your support with this.

FOCTK

I wanted to say a big thank you to Friends of Christ the King for all they did to fundraise for our school in the last academic year. I also wanted to thank all of you – parents, carers and extended families - for your support of our events in school. You make it all possible! I am aware that times are very challenging financially at the moment for lots of families and the fact that you still managed to support the children and our PTA as they fundraise for school is incredible. The KS2 production of Aladdin raised £1880 and the Summer Fayre raised £5411. This is an astonishing amount given the current climate. We plan to begin to update and upgrade some of our outdoor spaces over the coming year. Various experience days for the children in school have been planned too, the details of which will be shared in due course, as well as the usual purchasing of resources to support learning across the curriculum.

Finally, here are a couple of key dates for the upcoming term. As we confirm further dates, details and activities, we will share these with you:

Wednesday 13th September – Roald Dahl day (no dressing up or cost implications – activities in school)

Thursday 14th September – The Dogs Trust workshops in school for Y3-6

Wednesday 20th September – Nearly new uniform sale – 2.30pm

Thursday 21st September – Welcome back to school Mass – 2.00pm – All welcome to attend!

Wednesday 4th October – Jewish faith experience day in school – 9.00am – 12.00pm – Y3 and 4

Friday 6th October – Harvest Festival – 2.15pm

Tuesday 10th October – Space Dome in the hall for all classes

Friday 13th October - Jewish faith experience day in school – 9.00am – 12.00pm – Y5 and 6

Monday 16th October – evening – 3 – 6pm

Tuesday 17th / Wednesday 18th October – Parent's evening – 3 – 6pm

Thursday 26th October – Glow Up Disco – KS2

Friday 27th October - Key Stage 1 visit to the Hindu temple
 - Last day of term

With thanks, as ever, for all you continue to do to support CTK and your children.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Watts". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Mrs M. Watts
Headteacher