

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts



7th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Newsletter 1 – Advent 1

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.

Diamond Jubilee Mass

It was a pleasure to welcome Bishop Patrick, Fr. Simon, Fr. Jim and Deacon Michael to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee Mass – sixty years of Christ the King school! The children prepared and led the Mass beautifully and the singing was amazing. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend – it was a really special day.

Harvest Mass and food donations

You are very welcome to join us on **Wednesday 16th October at 2:00pm** to celebrate Harvest in school. The EYFS and KS1 children will be leading Mass on that day. Please help us to make our harvest the best yet by donating what you can. We welcome donations of dried and tinned goods in school from tomorrow and fresh produce from Tuesday 15th October. All tins and dried produce will be donated to our local foodbank in Alfreton and the fresh produce sold with all money made being donated to CAFOD.

The Mass will be offered in memory of Mrs Raddings.

On Friday 18th October, the children are also invited to wear bright, colourful clothes to school for a donation of £1 for CAFOD. Thank you for your support.

Rosary Challenge

Our children are currently participating in the Rosary Challenge during the month of October. We are praying a decade of the Rosary each day and the children are encouraged to share their intentions if they wish to pray for someone or a particular cause. On Monday this week, we watched a live stream where the children of St. Elizabeth's school in Belper prayed a decade of the Rosary with Bishop Patrick. This



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

was further to the request of Pope Francis to pray for peace in our world. It was wonderful to join in solidarity with our Trust and the Diocese to pray for peace in this way. On Wednesdays in October, I will be running a Rosary club at lunchtime, where the children can come along and pray a decade of the Rosary if they wish. Children may bring in their own rosary beads to pray with each day.

Colour run

Our colour run to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee was a huge success! The children have just about got rid of all the paint now! It was wonderful to see them all enjoying themselves and thank you very much for your support – we hope you enjoyed it too, although I was surprised none of you wanted a hug from your paint-covered children afterwards! I can't imagine why that was...

Attendance

As you are all aware, the DfE has issued further guidance to schools regarding attendance policy and practice. Our new attendance policy has been updated to reflect this more robust approach. Please take some time to read this. It can be found on our website via the link below. The impact of poor attendance on children's education is significant. Holidays are no longer allowed to be authorised and the expectation is that school submits paperwork to the Local Authority if holidays are taken in term-time. The LA then decides whether to fine or not. I appreciate the many and varied reasons that families may request to take a holiday during term-time, and I continue to appreciate people's honesty in this regard. However, I felt it necessary to ensure that you are all aware of the new expectations placed on schools. We continue to monitor attendance closely and, where we have concerns about attendance, or a holiday is suspected, action will be taken in line with our policy. As ever, please do continue to ensure you notify school of any absences as failure to do so could result in actions being taken such as home visits in order to ascertain the whereabouts of the children as per our safeguarding policy. We continue to aim for children's attendance to be at least 95% or above. We are keen to work closely with our families to support attendance, so if you have any questions, concerns or difficulties relating to your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact school to see what support is available.

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. No-one should be parking on the yellow zig zags or keep clear markings outside school, nor should people be parking on the

opposite side of the road from these markings, as this blocks the crossing place for the children and causes congestion which can be dangerous. As a school, we spend a considerable amount of time monitoring this and staff will continue to make polite requests to move people on if they are parked unsafely or illegally. Please be considerate and calm in your interactions with staff and with each other. I understand the frustration that can arise, particularly regarding unsafe parking, however it is important that we all work together constructively to safeguard our children. Cars should be driving slowly on the roads around school during pick up and drop off times and I would urge you to be considerate of residents in your parking and interactions. Please avoid parking in a way that blocks the pavements or driveways. Parking further away and walking down is a huge help in minimising congestion. We continue to liaise closely with the police and with Derbyshire County Council to support with parking and traffic around school. Thank you for your support with this – we can and we will!

Uniform

A reminder that all children should return to school after half term wearing full winter uniform, please. I have shared our uniform policy previously, but if you are yet to see it, it can be found on our website – [School Uniform - Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy \(srscmat.co.uk\)](http://srscmat.co.uk). 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 white or navy socks.** We will be having a nearly new and second-hand uniform sale this Friday 11th October at 2.45pm. All items cost 50p.

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 a form which can be obtained from the school office. 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. The Trust also offer a hardship fund if families are finding it difficult to afford school equipment or uniform. Please contact school if you require further details. We are always keen to support in any way we can.

[Friends of Christ the King:](#) Please see details of the scheme for primary schools that Asda are running. If you are able to sign up, that would be a fantastic way to support our school:

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their ‘Cashpot for Schools’ initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at [Asda.com](https://www.asda.com), between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn’t stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

Asda have joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage.

Our PTA – Friends of CTK – continue to be busy planning lots of events and fundraisers to support our school and to enhance and enrich the learning and environment at CTK. Please look out for their stall at our parent’s evenings, where you will have the opportunity to express an interest in helping with the many wonderful events that take place throughout the year, to suit your available time and busy lives! These events cannot happen without parent support and so, even if you feel you might be able to volunteer for one event over the course of the year, this can make a big difference and is very much appreciated. Upcoming events include the KS2 disco, Movie Night, Nativities and EYFS and KS1 disco. Please keep an eye out for further details throughout the Advent term.

Celebrating Paige

As you are all aware, during the summer, the manager of our wraparound care club, Paige Swainson-Corby, very sadly passed away. We would like to celebrate her life with the children in school and so we are going to have Friday 25th October as a day to wear non-uniform and something purple (Paige’s favourite colour) and to bring in any contributions that you can spare to raise money for the family’s chosen charity – the Donkey Sanctuary. We will start the day with a dancey wake and shake, as Paige loved to dance.

Applications for secondary and primary school places

The deadline for our current Y6 children to apply for their place at secondary school is Thursday 31st October 2024. For children who will be starting Reception in September 2025, applications for a primary school place can be submitted from Monday 18th November 2024. The deadline for Reception applications is Wednesday 15th January 2025. Even if your child currently attends our Nursery, you will still need to apply for a school Reception place by this date. Look out for further details next term.

Key dates for Advent term:

Friday 11th October 2024 – 2.45pm – Nearly new and second hand uniform stall at school

Wednesday 16th October – 2.00pm – Harvest Mass in school – parents welcome!

Thursday 17th October – Children’s flu immunisations in school administered by the school health team – you should have received a link regarding consent and opting in or out.

Friday 18th October – Non-uniform day - £1 for CAFOD

- KS2 Glo Fest disco – 3.30 – 5.30pm

Wednesday 23rd – Friday 25th October – Halloween Shop in school

Friday 25th October – Last day of Advent 1 term – non-uniform and wear something purple day

Monday 4th November – Advent 2 term begins

Friday 8th November – Open Afternoon 1.15 – 2.15pm for prospective Reception parents for Reception intake 2025-26

Monday 11th November – Remembrance Celebration of the word led by Y6 – 10.45am – parents welcome.

Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th November – Parent’s Evening – further details to follow.

Monday 25th November – Movie Night after school for all classes

Friday 29th November – INSET day – school closed for children

Saturday 7th December – Christ the King Church Christmas fayre in the church hall

w.c. 9th December – EYFS Nativity and KS1 carol concert – provisional week – details to follow

w.c. 16th December – In school pantomime and Christmas dinner day - tbc

Friday 20th December 2024 – Last day of term

Monday 6th January 2025 – INSET day – school closed for children

Tuesday 7th January 2025 – First day back for Lent 1 term

There will be further updates on the app regarding other events that are happening, so please do keep checking, alongside class emails. In addition, we have the general email address enquiries@cka.srscmat.co.uk and the SEND email address sendco@cka.srscmat.co.uk for general questions or further enquiries relating to SEND needs.

Kind regards,



Mrs Watts

Headteacher