

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts



18th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Newsletter – Advent 2

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. Please also search for us on Instagram under the same handle. 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.

Poppy Appeal

As part of Remembrance in the month of November, our Y6 children led a beautiful assembly to remember all those who have died in war and to pray for peace in our world. We also raised money for the Poppy Appeal in school. Thanks to your generosity, we raised £245.92 in school.

Feast of Christ the King

It was a pleasure to celebrate our Feast of Christ the King Eucharistic Service in school with Joe. The children prepared and participated in the service brilliantly and were able to talk confidently about Jesus' qualities and how we can show these in our lives. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend – it is always lovely to welcome parents, family members and parishioners to our celebrations in school.

Advent Pilgrimage

We began Advent with a reflective pilgrimage through school, with the children travelling to each classroom to learn about different ancestors of Jesus from the Jesse tree and to collect stickers about how each of these people lived out our CTK values. It was lovely to welcome parents to join this pilgrimage and it helped us all to prepare our hearts this Advent to welcome the light of Jesus into our lives at this special time.

Christmas Mass

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Christmas Mass on the last day of term - Friday 20th December at 1pm. **This Mass will be offered as a celebration of Mrs O'Reilly's time at CTK, and to wish her a happy and healthy retirement.** Parents will be able to take children home afterwards, should they wish to. A



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

reminder that there is no after school provision on Friday, therefore all children will need to be collected by no later than the normal end of the day time of 3.15pm.

Parish Links

During this term, we have been busy at a number of parish events. Our children have been living out their faith in action by serving at the parishioners lunch and supporting our parish bazaar. Our choir have also been supporting our parish through singing at both these events.

Community Links

We also wanted to say thank you to the choir for singing so beautifully at the Christmas Light Switch On in Alfreton and singing at our local care home – they certainly brought the festive cheer. Our children have also been busy making Christmas cards for the parish and for our local care home to spread the good news of Christmas to all.

Staffing update

As many of you will be aware, Mrs Strong has been working on a supply basis teaching in our Y1 class on Thursdays and Fridays. We have now recruited to the position of part-time class teacher and after a very robust and competitive recruitment process, we have appointed Mrs Sabrina Monk to the position of Y1 class teacher on Thursdays and Fridays. We know the children will miss Mrs Strong, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work during this term and previously in Y2. Mrs Strong's last day will be this Friday 20th December. Mrs Monk will be taking up the post in Y1 for the remainder of the academic year in order to ensure continuity for the children. Mrs Garside and Mrs Monk are in the process of liaising about the teaching and plans moving forward, with a view to keeping the transition as smooth as possible for the children. During the first week back after Christmas, Mrs Garside will be in on the Thursday alongside Mrs Monk to further support this transition. I know the Y1 children enjoyed Mrs Monk's interview lesson and I am sure you will join me in welcoming Mrs Monk to our CTK team. As Mrs Monk was previously elected as a parent governor, she will be resigning this position and I will update you with any governor news in the coming weeks.

Sports Events and Competitions

A big well done to the children who participated so brilliantly in a range of sports events over the course of this term and thank you to the staff who took them to these. The children were a credit to the school and we have enjoyed sharing in their achievements during our Celebration Assemblies on a Friday.

Singing lessons

As part of our curriculum offer, Y1 and Y2 will be participating in singing lessons with music specialist Katie Woodwright during the Lent term. Lessons will be happening every week for 11 weeks from Friday 17th January.

Lessons are as follows: 9:10am-9:55am Y2

9:55am-10:40am Y1

There will be a performance for the Y1 and 2 parents and family at 11am on Friday 4th April 2025 in our school hall. We will send reminders and more details nearer the time.

Attendance rewards

We continue to recognise and reward good attendance in school on a whole class and an individual basis. Each week the class with the best attendance for that week gets a shout out in assembly on Friday and an extra playtime as a reward. We also have an “in it to win it” raffle each week, where all the children who have got 100% attendance for that week are entered into a draw and the winner receives a book as a reward. Thank you to Friends of CTK for providing the prizes for this.

Attendance - reminder

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.

Cost of living - reminder

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.

Key dates for Lent term:

Monday 6th January – INSET day – school closed to the children

Tuesday 7th January – First day back to school for the children – Lent 1

Wednesday 8th January – 4.15pm – First Holy Communion enrolment meeting at CTK school for parents of children who will be preparing for and making their First Reconciliation and First Communion this year. Please contact yellow@cka.srscmat.co.uk if you require any further details.

Sunday 19th January – Enrolment Mass at Christ the King Church for our First Holy Communion children

Wednesday 22nd – Friday 24th January – Y5 residential

Wednesday 22nd January – Mass in school to celebrate the Baptism of Jesus – 2pm

Friday 14th February - Last day of Lent 1 term and Young Voices for Y4

Monday 24th February – INSET – school closed to the children

Tuesday 25th February – First day back to school for the children – Lent 2

Monday 3rd March – L1 Bikeability in school – am Y4 / pm Y5 – details to follow

Tuesday 4th – Wednesday 5th March – L2 Bikeability in school – Y5 – details to follow

Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday Mass in school – 2pm

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Friday 7th March – Book Bus in school and book day celebrations

Friday 4th April – Last day of Lent 2 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you on behalf of the staff team for all your kind words, cards and generous gifts during this time. As always, please do not feel any pressure to give presents to us; we understand how expensive this time of year can be and we are grateful to receive your best wishes and kind words – these mean such a lot.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Watts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'M' and a stylized 'W'.

Mrs Watts - *Headteacher*