

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts



14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Newsletter – Lent 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. 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.

Jubilee Year of Hope

Pope Francis has decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. In a world that is growing more unjust and unequal, Pope Francis has invited people, schools and communities to experience the joy and strength in coming together as we respond to God's call for a reset, a renewal of faith and a recommitment to a just world. He calls us to celebrate the Jubilee with deep faith, lively hope and active charity. We launched this school with a Celebration of the Word on January 24th and the Jubilee Year runs until November 2025 and throughout this time, we will be participating in a variety of events including the CAFOD Big Lent walk, our Lenten pilgrimage, Jubilee celebrations of the word, pledging our support for our global family and our world through our Catholic Social Teaching Principles and trying to be pilgrims of hope in our world. The children will each be given a prayer card to share at home throughout this special time.

We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally. We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish.

Feast of the Baptism of Jesus

It was a pleasure to celebrate our Feast of the Baptism of Jesus in school with Fr. Paul and Deacon Michael. The children prepared and participated in our Mass brilliantly and were able to reflect on how Jesus speaks to us in Baptism. 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.



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

CAFOD Club

Our Y3 and 4 CAFOD club children have been busy planning for our Big Lent Walk, which will take place on the afternoon of Monday 31st March around our school field. Parents and family members are very welcome to join us as we seek to raise money for CAFOD. There will be refreshment stations and opportunities to reflect on our Lenten journey as we complete the walk together, all planned and led by our wonderful CAFOD club. If you would like to sponsor us, please donate by following this link: [CTK Big Lent Walk is fundraising for CAFOD](#)

First Holy Communion

During the Lent 1 term, many of the children from within our school and parish enrolled onto their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation programme. We wish them well on this important next step within their journey of faith. An important part of this preparation, alongside attending the “I Belong” sessions, is also attending Mass each weekend. This ensures that the children begin to truly understand the sacraments they will be receiving and that they can participate fully in the Masses, continuing to deepen their own faith and relationship with God. If your child is preparing to receive First Holy Communion this year, we thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends Mass each week.

Some sad news

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Sr. Anthony, who used to teach at our school, has passed away. Sr. Anthony used to teach in Reception and she was also a very talented artist, creating the mosaic of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, which is still proudly displayed in our hall. She also painted the beautiful picture of St. Francis that hangs in our entrance hall. Sr. Anthony was part of the convent at Alfreton and used to be a regular visitor to our school before moving to Melton Mowbray. She was always such a positive life force, full of joy and enthusiasm for our children and school community and she will be very sadly missed. We pray for her family and friends and thank God for her contribution to CTK.

Staffing update

It is fantastic to welcome Miss Swift back to our Y2 class team after a period of illness. Mrs Irving, who was covering Miss Swift, will now be teaching in our Nursery classroom every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday while Mrs Bennett continues to be off sick. I am also delighted to be able to share that we recently recruited to two TA roles. One is Miss Smith, who many of you will know as one of our midday supervisors and who will be working alongside the team in Y1. The other is Mrs Beben, who will be working both in Y4 and Y1 to support our children. We look forward to welcoming them all to the CTK team.

Sports Events and Competitions

A big well done to the children who participated so brilliantly in the dodgeball competition 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.

Mrs Bryan's Skydive

Many of you will be aware that Mrs Bryan has bravely decided to do a skydive in memory of her niece, Rubie, who very sadly passed away last summer. Our toast club in school is already raising money to support her chosen charity – Rainbows Hospice – but if you would like to donate, please click the link:

www.justgiving.com/page/natalie-bryan-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

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:

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

Monday 3rd March – L1 Bikeability in school – am Y4 / pm Y5 – class teachers have emailed; please sign up if you have not already done so in order that groupings and any bikes or helmets needed can be sourced.

Tuesday 4th – Wednesday 5th March – L2 Bikeability in school – Y5 – class teachers have emailed; please sign up if you have not already done so in order that groupings and any bikes or helmets needed can be sourced.

Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday Mass in school – 2pm – all welcome!

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Friday 7th March – Book Bus in school and World Book Day celebrations – see separate letter to follow

Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th March – Parent's Evening consultations – 3.00pm – 6.00pm – please sign up via links to be sent out this week

Monday 17th March – whole school Movie Night after school – further details to follow from FoCTK

Friday 28th March – School reunion disco through the decades – 1964 – 2024 – details to follow about this exciting after school event in celebration of our school diamond jubilee – for now, please pop this date in your diaries!

Monday 31st March – Big Lent Walk – pm – all welcome!

Tuesday 1st April – Lenten pilgrimage in school – am – parents welcome to attend

Friday 4th April – Last day of Lent 2 term

There will be further updates on the app regarding these and 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