

# CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts



**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Newsletter – Lent 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 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**

#### **We are Pilgrims of Hope!**

In June or July all Catholic schools are invited to make a Jubilee Pledge to live out Catholic Social Teaching with a whole school, long term commitment to building a fairer world. We have already begun actions to build towards our pledges and to remind us of our mission to create a fair world and to try to live in solidarity with others:

#### **Big Lent Walk – thank you!**

We had such an amazing response to our Big Lent Walk on Monday. Thank you to all the parents and family members who came to join us – it was great to have your encouragement and participation as we completed our laps. Thanks very much to our Y3 and 4 CAFOD club for helping to organise the event and for providing support and encouragement as we walked. As a school we walked a minimum of 200km in order to raise money for CAFOD. Even our youngest children were able to complete their four laps of our school field in order to walk 1km. Some of our older children completed upwards of 20 laps – getting on for 6km! We were so proud of our children and our school community. A huge thank you for your incredible generosity – so far we have raised an unbelievable £405 for CAFOD! We are just absolutely blown away by this – what a wonderful bunch of people we have making up our school community! It has certainly filled us all with hope and definitely shows our amazing CTK spirit!



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

### Food bank Lenten almsgiving collection

Another big thank you to you all for the generous food bank donations we have received. The Trussel Trust continue to be very grateful for our support as a school and together we are really making a difference to people's lives in our local community. They will be collecting the food bank items on Friday of this week, so if you have any last minute items, please bring them in no later than Friday morning.

### Ash Wednesday Mass

Our children, Chaplaincy team and Joe led our Ash Wednesday Mass beautifully, alongside Fr. Paul and Deacon Michael. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers to begin our Lenten journey with us, and to remind ourselves of the meaning of this important season in our liturgical year.

### Lenten Pilgrimage

Yesterday morning, we travelled on a journey around school visiting each classroom and moving through some of the Stations of the Cross, which tells us about Jesus' last journey before his death on Good Friday. We learnt actions at each of the stations to remind us how to live out our faith inspired by Jesus' sacrifices during the last hours of his life. The children added a fingerprint to the cross on their bookmark for each station and we reminded ourselves of the hopeful message of Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead.

### Disco through the Decades

This was such a fantastic event and a really enjoyable night for our families. Thank you for supporting this - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We raised around £1700, a great amount, which we will be putting towards something special that will be a lasting commemoration of this Jubilee year. Plans are in the pipeline and we will update you when a final decision is made. We are hoping to be able to hold more events where our families can get together and socialise alongside their children so do keep an eye out for these. Thank you to all school staff and Mr Galloway for making this event possible.

### Movie Night and Mother's Day Shop

Both these events were very well supported with most of the stock selling out in the Mother's Day shop. Thank you to Friends of CTK for organising the tickets and tuck for Movie Night and for stocking up on Mother's Day gifts and running the stall last week. Thanks also to you all for your generosity – we hope you enjoyed your gifts and the children enjoyed their movie.

### First Holy Communion update

For our Y3 children who are preparing for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, I can confirm, having spoken to Fr. Paul and Fiona Molumby, that the **children's First Reconciliation will take place at Christ the King RC Church in Alfreton at 5pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Parents will need to organise**

**for their child to attend the First Reconciliation, as an important part of their preparation for their First Holy Communion.** Thank you for your support.

The First Holy Communion Mass will take place at Christ the King RC Church, Alfreton at 11am on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June. We look forward to celebrating this special day with you. After this date, we will confirm a separate time for a Celebration of the Word in school, where the children can share their news of their special day with us all, and can have a little party in honour of this important occasion, as they continue their journey in faith.

### Uniform after Easter

When we return on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, the children can come to school wearing **either full summer or full winter uniform**. Please see below for details of each. Just to clarify that if the children are wearing winter uniform, they must be wearing their tie and trousers or a navy-blue skirt or pinafore. If they are wearing the yellow polo shirt for the summer uniform, they must be wearing grey shorts. Summer dresses must be worn with white socks, not tights. Also, as part of our uniform policy review, children's coats no longer need to be navy blue or black – any coat is permitted if it is suitable for school and the weather. All uniform should be marked clearly with your child's name. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our school winter uniform is:

- A yellow button down, collared shirt.
- A navy blue and gold striped tie (elasticated or non-elasticated)
- A navy blue jumper (V-neck or round neck) or navy blue cardigan
- A navy blue skirt / pinafore or grey trousers.
- Black flat closed toe shoes (not boots)
- Grey or black socks, or navy tights.
- Hair bobbles and bands should remain within these colours of yellow or navy blue.

Our school summer uniform is:

- Yellow and white checked summer dress with a navy blue cardigan and white socks
- OR
- Yellow polo shirt
  - Navy blue jumper or cardigan
  - Grey school shorts and black or grey socks
  - Footwear and accessories as detailed above.

Indoor PE Kit:

- Yellow polo shirt
- Navy blue or black PE Shorts
- Pumps

Outdoor PE Kit

- Yellow polo shirt
- Navy blue or black jogging bottoms
- Trainers
- A navy blue jumper or cardigan

Children will be required to attend school in their PE kit on their allocated PE day.

### Attendance update – please read

As we continue to refine and develop our attendance policy and practice, I wanted to say thank you to parents for your continuing support in ensuring that your children are attending school every day possible. From the Pentecost term onwards, in line with the DfE and DCC policy, **please note that school will require at least 12 school days' notice of a holiday or other leave of absence request.** If you are requesting a leave of absence either for a holiday or for other reasons, we require you to please complete a leave of absence form, available in the school office. Further to submitting this request, you will then be notified whether your request will be authorised or not and will be advised as to whether any unauthorised absences will be submitted to the Local Authority, who may then decide to issue a fine. We are also continuing to monitor attendance closely, including lateness. The impact of poor attendance and lateness on children's education is significant, particularly when children miss the same lessons each morning. This has a detrimental impact on their learning over time. Where concerns about attendance or lateness arise, or if a holiday is suspected, action will be taken in line with our policy. We will continue to issue letters to parents if attendance drops below 95% in order that further support can be offered and to ensure parents are aware of their child's attendance percentage. 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, 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.

### Attendance rewards - reminder

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.

### Sports Events and Competitions

A big well done to the Y3 and 4 children who participated so brilliantly in the gymnastics competition this term and thank you to the staff who took them. The children were a credit to the school and we enjoy sharing in their achievements during our Celebration Assemblies.

Key dates for Pentecost term:

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April** – Easter Monday Bank Holiday – school closed

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** – First day back to school for the children – Pentecost 1

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April** – Y4 residential

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – BANK HOLIDAY – school closed

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** – Whole school photo for our Jubilee Year – all children to be in full summer uniform on this day, please (see above for details)

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May** – Mrs Bryan's Skydive to raise money for Rainbows Hospice! Good luck, Mrs Bryan!

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May** – Y6 KS2 SATs week

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May** – Y6 London residential

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** – Last day of term – Pentecost 1

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – INSET day – school closed to children

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – First day of term – Pentecost 2

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** – First Reconciliation for First Holy Communion children – 5pm at CTK Church (see above)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June** – 1.30pm – Sports Day (weather permitting!) – parents and carers welcome!

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – 2pm – Pentecost Mass in school – all welcome!

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June** – 11am – First Holy Communion Mass – Christ the King RC Church, Alfreton

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June** – Y3 residential

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July** – 2 x performances of KS2 production – timings TBC

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July** – 2 x performances of KS2 production – timings TBC

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July** – In school Summer Fayre

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July** – Ozzy Obstacle on the field – EYFS and KS1

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** – Tough Runner on the field – KS2

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – 6pm – Leavers' Mass in school followed by KS2 disco – timings TBC

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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. In addition, we have the general email address [enquiries@cka.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cka.srscmat.co.uk) and the SEND email address [sendco@cka.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:sendco@cka.srscmat.co.uk) for general questions or further enquiries relating to SEND needs.

Kind regards,



Mrs Watts - Headteacher