

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts

23rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Newsletter – 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. We are excited to share our new Facebook and Instagram pages – one for Nursery specifically and one for our whole school. Please do have a look at these for updates and information about our lovely school.

You can find us on Facebook: CTK Nursery and Christ the King Catholic Voluntary Academy.

You can find us on Instagram: CTK Nursery and CTK Alfreton

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.

Welcome Mass

It was a pleasure to celebrate our Welcome Mass in school with so many of you, in order to reflect on our CTK values and how we can put these into practice during our upcoming school year. Thank you to Fr. Paul and Deacon Michael for celebrating this with us, as well as to our chaplain, Joe and all the children who prepared, read and sang so brilliantly. A perfect way to start the new school year.

Harvest Festival appeal

Thank you for your amazing support of our Harvest foodbank appeal. We have had lots of donations which will go to support local families who may be experiencing challenging times. These donations really do make a difference to our local community and show our CTK spirit. A huge thank you also to our EYFS and KS1 children who prepared and delivered our Harvest Festival so beautifully. The singing was delightful, and it was wonderful to welcome so many parents to school to share in our celebrations.

Poppy Appeal

As part of Remembrance in the month of November, our Y6 children will lead a Remembrance celebration of the word to remember all those who have died in war and to pray for peace in our world. This will take place on Tuesday 11th November at 10.50am. All are welcome! We will also be raising money for the



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Poppy Appeal in school after half term. On sale will be stickers, snap bands, bracelets and reflective key chains as well the traditional poppies. If children would like to bring in their donations for this to buy any of these items, please send these in after half term.

Rosary Club

As October is the month of the rosary, some of the children have been attending Rosary Club each week to pray a decade of the rosary and reflect on Jesus' life and message, as well as Mary's example. Thank you to the children who attended and participated in this so beautifully. During October, the children have also been attending Celebration of the word with Joe each week to learn about the rosary.

Attendance Update 2025

As many of you will know, the Department for Education (DfE) has continued to update national guidance around school attendance. We've reviewed our own Attendance Policy to make sure it reflects these changes and supports children and families in the best possible way. You can find the policy on our school website by clicking [here](#). Good attendance really does make a big difference — not just to children's learning, but also to their confidence, friendships, and sense of routine. Every day in school helps build strong foundations for the future.

As you know, under the latest guidance, **schools can no longer authorise holidays during term time**. If a family does take a term-time holiday, we are now required to notify the Local Authority, who will decide whether a penalty notice should be issued. We completely understand that family circumstances can be varied, and we genuinely appreciate your openness when discussing these matters with us. Our aim is always to work together and find the best solutions for your child. We continue to keep a close eye on attendance and will always get in touch if we have any concerns or need to offer support. Please remember to let us know if your child is absent — this helps us keep everyone safe and ensures our safeguarding procedures are followed correctly.

Our shared goal is for every child to achieve **95% attendance or above**. If you're finding attendance a challenge for any reason, please do contact us — we're here to listen, to help, and to support your family in any way we can. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership

Applications for secondary and primary school places

The deadline for our current Y6 children to apply for their place at secondary school is Friday 31st October 2025. For children who will be starting Reception in September 2026, applications for a primary school place can be submitted from Monday 10th November 2025. The deadline for Reception applications is Thursday 15th January 2026. Even if your child currently attends our Nursery, you will still

need to apply for a school Reception place by this date. If you are applying under faith criteria, you will also need to complete a supplementary form which can be obtained from the school office or via our website, including bringing in any copies of relevant supporting documents, such as Baptism certificates. We welcome families from all faiths and none. Please look out for further details next term.

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 \(srscmat.co.uk\)](https://www.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.** If you are struggling to obtain any uniform, please visit the school office as we have a selection of nearly new and preloved shirts, trousers, jumpers and skirts which can be obtained for a small donation. School coats need to be appropriate for school and the weather, but do not need to be any particular colour. We do ask that children do not wear face coverings in the cold weather, however scarves are fine.

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 and Derbyshire County Council 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:

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. Their current project is Playground Fix for '26. 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 Movie Nights, Christmas fun days and Nativities. Please keep an eye out for further details throughout the Advent term and beyond.

A huge thank you to Friends for all the hard work that went into organising Harvest Fest last week! The carved pumpkins were amazing, and it was very difficult to judge the winners. Well done to all who participated. The money raised through the non-uniform day will be donated to CAFOD and the KS2 disco was a huge success and, thanks to your support, raised £1089.86 for our school!

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!

Key dates for Advent term:

Monday 3rd November – First day back - Advent 2 term begins

Thursday 6th November – Open Afternoon 1.30 – 2.30pm and then 3.30 – 4.30pm for prospective Reception parents for Reception intake 2026-27 and for anyone interested in joining our Nursery

Tuesday 11th November – Remembrance Celebration of the word led by Y6 – 10.50am – parents welcome

Friday 28th November – Friends of CTK Christmas event in school for the children – details to follow

Saturday 29th November – Alferton Christmas light switch on event – choir to participate

Monday 1st December – Advent Pilgrimage in school – time tbc – parents welcome!

w.c. 8th December – EYFS and KS1 Nativities in school – dates and times tbc

Monday 15th December – am – Pantomime for all children in school – paid for by Friends of CTK

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas dinner day in school

Friday 19th December – Christmas Mass in school – 1.30pm – all welcome!

Friday 19th December 2025 – Last day of term

Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET day – school closed for children

Tuesday 6th January 2026 – 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,

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 'Watts'.

Mrs Watts

Headteacher