

# CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mrs M. Watts



**13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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. 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

### Eucharistic Service – Baptism of Jesus

Joe and the children led us in a wonderful celebration during which we reflected on Baptism and how, through Baptism, Christians are called to be part of God’s family. We linked this to our school mission and values and how living these out helps us all to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. Thank you, Joe!

### Advent

Last term, the children participated in our Advent Pilgrimage learning about the Jesse tree and Jesus’ ancestors, as well as our Advent Celebrations of the word. Our Faith in Action and choir were busy living out our Advent mission and representing our school beautifully serving others through their participation in Parish events, such as the parishioner’s luncheon and the Alfreton Lights Switch on.

### Advent Mass

Our Advent Mass was very well attended. Thank you to the children and Joe for all the preparation, reading and singing and to Fr. Paul for celebrating with us. Thanks also to the parents who were able to celebrate this special time with us. During this Mass, the beautiful lectern that parent donations in our jubilee year bought, was unveiled. I have attached a photo to this newsletter for those parents that were unable to attend. We plan to have a plaque fitted to the lectern in recognition of the fact that this was a gift from parents to our school in celebration of 60 years of CTK school.



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

### Ash Wednesday

The start of Lent, as marked by Ash Wednesday, takes place during our half term week on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. During the first week back, we will spend some time discussing Ash Wednesday and its meaning with the children in order to begin this important time in our liturgical year.

### Young Voices

A huge well done to our Year 4 children (and staff!) who sang their hearts out as part of the 5,000 strong Young Voices choir – it was a fantastic experience!

### Y5 residential

Very well done to our Y5 children for taking part in a successful residential experience. It was wonderful to see the children pushing themselves out of their comfort zones with the activities which included a range of outdoor adventurous activities and even abseiling!

### Congratulations!

Huge congratulations to Mrs Hallam and her husband who are expecting their second child. We are so excited for their new arrival. Mrs Hallam will be continuing to teach in Y6 until her maternity leave begins just after the KS2 assessment week in May. Mrs Rayner will take over the teaching of Y6 for the remainder of the academic year.

### Arbor

An important message from Mrs Barker: We currently only have 18 guardians out of 225 that have logged into Arbor. If you have had log in issues and brought them to Mrs Barker's attention, these will have now been rectified. It is of the utmost importance that you attempt to log in before we break up for February half term so that any issues that arise can be rectified in a timely manner. Once we return from February half term, all parent communications will be via Arbor, therefore if you do not attempt to log in and report any issues, you may miss important school and student updates. Thank you for your understanding.

### ParentPay

Please ensure that all outstanding dinner money is paid and up to date, as well as any outstanding trip instalments. We will be looking at this during the first week back and anyone who has accrued too large a debt in dinner money will be asked to provide a packed lunch for their child until the debt can be cleared. If you need any support with payments, please contact the school office.

## **Parent's Evenings**

An email was sent to class email addresses with the links to sign up for Parent's Evening appointments on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March. If you have not received this email, please email [enquiries@cka.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cka.srscmat.co.uk) to request an update.

## **Attendance**

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

## **Uniform**

A reminder that all children should return to school after half term wearing full winter uniform, please. As the weather begins to get warmer, moving towards Easter, the children will begin to have the choice of wearing full winter or full summer uniform.

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://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 Mother's Day Shop and the Book Bus with refreshments for World Book Day. Please keep an eye out for further details throughout the Lent term and beyond.

A huge thank you for supporting last night's Movie Night – the children seemed to really enjoy the film.

### **Parking**

As always, a 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. 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 Lent term:

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** – INSET – school closed to the children

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February** – First day back – Lent 2

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** – Y4 and Y5 Bikeability Level 1

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> / Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Y5 Bikeability Level 2

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – CTK World Book Day – see Mrs Rayner’s previous letter

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – Parent’s Evenings

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** – 2pm – Mass to celebrate the feast of the Annunciation – all welcome!

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March** - am – Lenten Pilgrimage – all welcome! Details to follow.

- pm – Big Lent Walk – all welcome! Details to follow.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – Last day of term – Lent 2

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** – First day back – Pentecost 1 term

There will be further updates on the class emails and Arbor regarding other events that are happening, so please do keep checking. 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*