



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to February's newsletter. It has been a busy month with Catholic Life events, new topics, parents' evening and an array of sporting activities and it will be a busy next half term, only 5 weeks. See dates for the diary at the end of this newsletter for more details.

Catholic Life

Lent

The season of Lent begins during the half term with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. This is a reminder that we need reconciliation with God. The CAFOD website reminds us:

Lent is a time when we make an act of self-denial to make more room for God in our life. For 40 days, Jesus went to the desert to fast and pray. He was tempted several times but was able to resist. As we approach Lent, we too can take this time to fast. We can fast from a luxury in our lives and give what we save to make a difference to those living in poverty.

What will you sacrifice for Lent?

Chaplaincy Team

During Lent the chaplaincy team will be holding weekly meditations sessions at lunchtime for all children. There will also be opportunities for the children to use our prayer area to come and say any personal prayers they have during lunchtimes in Lent.

The Big Lent Walk - Cafod

As a school we have signed up for The Big Lent walk. We will be walking each day through Lent as part of our active mile. Whilst walking we will be thinking of those less fortunate. The chaplaincy team will be launching this in our whole school liturgy after half term.

Ash Wednesday services and masses in the local parishes

Ash Wednesday 22nd February 2023

10.00am Mass St Thomas More, Knighton

7.00pm Mass Immaculate Conception, Oadby

Bishop's Spiritual Themes

Lent Term – **Discipleship** - A disciple of Christ is to become like Christ in all we say and do – learning about Jesus through Scripture / Come and See and reflecting on how we can be like him. Being a disciple means we have to take time to get to know Jesus – through prayer, action, reaction and interaction.

Lenten Mass



There will be a Lenten Mass on 9th March at 9.30 a.m. followed by confession for Year 4, 5 and 6. All welcome.

Calling Catholic Teachers

Do you know somebody who is a practising Catholic and who is a teacher or senior leader working in a school outside of the Catholic sector? The Diocese of Nottingham along with the Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts is leading a virtual information session about working in a Catholic school on Wednesday 29 March from 7.00pm – 8.30pm.

For further information, please contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk).

Staffing updates

We bid fond farewell to Mrs Moloney (Deputy Head, RE and Music subject lead, Year 2 teacher) at the end of this term.

Mrs Moloney has worked at SJF for 24 years and was also a pupil here. I would like to say thank you to Mrs Moloney for her service and dedication to her role, the children, her past and present colleagues and the wider SJF community. She will be greatly missed but we look forward to the next half term with her.

There is currently a Deputy Head post being advertised and we are in the process of recruiting a teacher for Year 2 for the summer/Pentecost term. We will be in contact with Year 2 parents as soon as cover is arranged.

Mrs Musson (midday supervisor) is also off to pastures new and we wish her all the best in the future. Her last day with us will be on March 3rd.

Class photos

Class photos will take place on Monday February 27th. All children are to wear their full uniform on this day. If it is a PE day, children must bring their PE kit in a separate bag which they will change into before their PE lesson.

Babies & Tots

Babies and Tots will restart after the February half term. Check out the Babies & Tots [facebook page](#).

Reminders – No nuts in school / Water in water bottles

A polite reminder that there should only be water in water bottles and no nuts including chocolate spread with nuts, or anything containing this e.g. prepacked pancakes with chocolate spread and hazelnuts. If sending sweets with children to give as birthday treats, ensure that they have no nuts as well e.g. snickers.

Thank you.

Whole class reading books

There will be new books being read and explored for the rest of the year. Next term, KS2 will be reading the following books as part of whole class reading.

- Year 3: The Accidental Prime Minister
- Year 4: The Polar Bear Explorer's Club
- Year 5: When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit
- Year 6: Wonder

If you have any copies of these or would like to buy a copy for your child, that would be useful along with the half-sets we have in school.

Eco committee report.

Thank you so much for all your support for our recycling projects. Our box for crisp packets gets filled every week and our the boxes for toothbrushes and pens are starting to gradually fill up. Our battery count has shot up from 840 to 1320! Please keep sending in your difficult to recycle materials.

We now have another recycling initiative to tell you about. In addition to the above items, we are stating to recycle ink-jet cartridges and have a new collection box for these. Any brand is accepted but they must be ink-jet and not Laser cartridges.

Again, thank you for your support in helping our school become a little bit greener.

The Eco-committee

Sports Rugby

We are looking forward to the Leicester Tigers coming back into school to work with the Year 3s and 5s on a Wednesday morning after half term. Please ensure that these pupils have appropriate clothing as they will be outside on the field.

Here are year 4 going through their paces with our rugby coach.



Here are two members of our eco-committee updating the school in our Friday assembly



Cross country

Well done to the cross country team who ran very well on February 8th at Victoria Park. This was qualifying event to compete for Leicester City at the County Championships on March 4th in Market Harborough. We have an amazing 15 SJF representatives on the team – well done and good luck to these children.

Shout-outs to medalists – Brooke (1st year 6 girls), Eireanna (1st year 4 girls), Ioan (2nd Year 6 boys), Jack (3rd year 4 boys). Well done to Jenson, Jamie and Lilah on continual progress over their three races and to Piper to improving a whopping 34 places on her last race. Thank you to all parents and grandparents who came to support and encourage.

Thank you to Mrs Jones for her coaching on Monday lunchtimes and to Mrs Astill for organising, coaching and making sure all the children are ready for their races.

Lent II Clubs

There are a variety of clubs over the next half term: Jigfit, football, computing, gardening, Storytime as well as our Holy Communion classes resuming for our Year 4 candidates and our popular breakfast and afterschool clubs. Majority of the clubs are now full. There is 1 space in the computing club.

Internet safety day/week - 'Want to talk about it?'

We started the week with a KS2 assembly followed by a KS1 assembly on Tuesday 8th February. EYFS also had a parents' morning where the children learned about how to make the right choices and who they could speak to about the Internet. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and more to join together in helping to create a better internet.

At the end of the week, all classes gave a presentation to the whole school about what they had learned. It was very impressive to listen the children and how much they had learned about staying safe online.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we



deliver throughout the year. Activities can still be found on the Purple Mash Website and on the Safer Internet Day website.

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, you may be interested in downloading the free Safer Internet Day Education Pack for Parents and Carers which is available at:

[SAFETY INTERNET DAY 2023: TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS - UK SAFER INTERNET CENTRE](#)

[PARENTS AND CARERS - UK SAFER INTERNET CENTRE](#)

There are also top tips, a quiz and films which you can use at home with your child. Some other resources which you may find helpful in supporting your child online are:

- Advice for Parents and Carers from [Childnet](#)
- Tips, Advice and Guides for Parents and Carers from The [Uk Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Netaware](#) Reviews and Information about Games, Apps, Tv Shows and Websites from [Common Sense Media](#)
- Help on using Parental Controls and Privacy Settings from [Internet Matters](#)
- Information and Reporting of Online Grooming or Abuse from [Ceop](#)

Online safety is an important issue which as a school we're committed to teaching our pupils about. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with the school.

God bless,

Mr Gallagher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

February

HALF TERM Feb 20th – 24th

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Feb 27 th | School re-opens Class photographs |
| Feb 28 th | Reception parents' morning EYFS balance ability begins (5 weeks) |
| March 1 st | St. David's Day Leicester Tigers Tag Rugby coaching Year 3 & 5 for 5 weeks |
| Mar 2 nd | World Book Day – dress as a book character |
| Mar 3 rd | Year 3 & 4 resume swimming |
| Mar 4 th (SAT) | County Cross County Championships (12 SJF representatives) |
| Mar 7 th | Yr 1 & 5 Fire Service visit |
| Mar 8 th | Year 4 Goals competition |
| Mar 9 th | 9.30 a.m. Lenten Mass followed by confessions |
| Mar 16 th | Boys' football @ Aylestone |
| Mar 17 th | St Patrick's Day Charity Fundraising Day (The Big Lent Walk) |
| Mar 21 st | 9 a.m. EYFS liturgy |
| Mar 23 rd | World Maths Day 4 p.m. Girls' football @ Aylestone |
| Mar 27 th | Bike ability for Year 6 (full week) |
| Mar 28 th | 9 a.m. Year 5 liturgy |
| Mar 30 th | 9 a.m. Stations of the Cross Sportshall Athletics Finals (SJF representing East Leicester) |
| Mar 31 st | Last day of term |

May 2023

May 19th – Interhouse sports day

June 2023

June 21st – Ks1 Sports day

June 28th – KS2 Sports day

July 2023

Year 6 Crich Briars Residential – **Wednesday 5th July – Friday 7th July 2023**

