



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a busy half term month with Catholic Life events, new topics, parents' evening and an array of sporting activities and the following next (very short) half term promises to be just as action packed. I have added in dates of the diary for the rest of the academic year so you can plan your diaries accordingly.

Our Catholic Mission

Lent

The season of Lent began on Wednesday 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.

We celebrated Mass at school on Wednesday with Fr John where ashes will be distributed. As part of our school's Ash Wednesday observance, we offered ashes to all children who wished to participate. While this tradition originates in the Christian faith, receiving ashes is not a religious requirement. We see it as an opportunity for reflection and growth. The ashes, made from burned palm branches, symbolize our human beginnings and remind us that we can always strive to be better versions of ourselves.

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 Monday 4 March from 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

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

Parents' Evening

Parents' evening will be held on 13th and 15th February 2023. You will receive a monitoring sheet with your child's attainment and progress beforehand.

Sports Reports

Football

Last Thursday, the girls kicked off their campaign in Division 1.

The matches were definitely harder and with longer matches, but thanks to some good attacking performances, a solid defence and good goalkeeping we had a successful evening.

Our first game was against Marriott. This was a tough game against a very talented group of players. The girls closed down the team quickly and made it really difficult for them to play their game earning us a 2-1 win.

Our second game was against Holy Cross B. A slower start to this game saw a tight first half but we still managed to win this one 2-0 by full time.



Our final game was against Overdale. Lots of excellent tackles and great saves still couldn't stop Overdale taking this in an unfortunate 1-0 loss.

The girls worked hard as a team throughout and earned themselves some well deserved wins. They did us proud!

Thank you Mr McVea and Mrs Astill for managing the team.

Team: Elsie, Sadie, Aria, Demi, Evie, Shai, Ganga, Eireanna, Savannah

Cross country

Unfortunately, there was no cross country qualifiers competition at Victoria Park last Thursday as it was cancelled by the organisers. Apologies to all the children who were selected and to parents/family members who may have taken time off work to be able to spectate.

The organisers have collated previous results to form a city team for the County Finals and these letters were given out on Friday. Congratulations to those selected.

Well done to the Year 3 girls' team who came 3rd out of all the primary schools in the Leicestershire Cross country League back in Autumn. They received their medals on Friday in assembly.

PE days for next half term

Bold with sports coach

Reception: **Monday (Balance Ability – learning to ride a bike)** & Thursday

Year 1: **Thursday** & Friday

Year 2: Tuesday & **Wednesday**

Year 3: Monday & Tuesday

Year 4: Monday & **Thursday**

Year 5: **Thursday** & Friday

Year 6: **Wednesday** & Thursday

Attendance

We take pride in our attendance at SJF and want to share this with you. Our winning classes this month were:

Week beginning 5 Feb: Year 1

Week beginning 29 Jan: Year 2

Week beginning 22 Jan: Year 2

Week beginning 15 Jan: Year 4

Week beginning 8 Jan: Reception

Our target is always to have attendance above 97%. Last week, attendance across all year groups were 95.9 % Your support with ensuring all children have a good level of attendance is wonderful. Please remember that excellent attendance leads to amazing achievements.

Here is some **advice** on whether you should send your child to school when they are ill.



At the end of this week, you will receive a year – to – date update on your child’s attendance. This can be already seen when you log in to Arbor however the letter shows how your child is doing compared to the school average and any records of lateness.

Administration of medicines

We are writing to inform you of an important update regarding our policy on administering medication in school. Effective 8th April, we will only be able to administer prescribed medication to your child during school hours. This decision has been made to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and to comply with best practices.

We understand that this change may affect some families, and we apologize for any inconvenience it may cause. However, we want to assure you that this decision is based on several important factors:

Ensuring accuracy and safety: With over-the-counter medication, there is a higher risk of confusion or unintended side effects, especially when dealing with multiple children. Prescribed medication comes with clear instructions from medical professionals, minimizing these risks.

Reducing liability: Administering non-prescribed medication exposes the school to unnecessary liability, particularly if there are any unexpected reactions.

Professional guidelines: We are aligning our policy with national guidelines and best practices outlined by the Department for Education and the NHS.

Moving forward:

- If your child requires medication during school hours, it must be clearly prescribed by a doctor or other qualified healthcare professional.
- Please complete the updated Medication Consent Form for each prescribed medication your child needs. This form can be found on the school website or obtained from the school office.
- All medication must be provided in its original, labelled container with clear instructions for administration.
- We encourage you to discuss any concerns or questions you may have with your child's doctor or pharmacist.

We understand that this update may raise questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office to discuss your child's individual needs or to request further information. We are committed to working with you to ensure your child's health and well-being at school. We continue to be committed to supporting pupils with medical needs and working collaboratively with parents and healthcare professionals.

Communication

We would like to clarify how we communicate and on what platforms i.e. Class Dojo and Arbor. Sometimes there may be duplication and we try to avoid this where possible.

ClassDojo

Teacher communication i.e class homework/photos.

Newsletters.

Info regarding Club registration.



Parents Evening updates/registration.
Lost Property Information.
PTFA updates.
General day to day updates.
Individual and Class Photos notification.
School Health Guidelines i.e Measles/Chicken pox/Strep A

Arbor

Parent/Guarding Login Details
Trips e-mails.
Clubs e-mails.
Registering for clubs e.g. after school club
Individual communication.
Attendance Updates.

Babies & Tots

Babies & Tots takes place every Wednesday in the school hall. 8.50am to 10.30am. Check out the Babies & Tots Facebook page for more information. There will be no Babies & Tots on February 14th due to the Ash Wednesday Mass.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday, it was Safer Internet Day! All of the pupils undertook age-appropriate activities to help them stay safe when online.
Before Tuesday, on Monday, Mr McVea and Mrs Johnson lead a whole school assembly on staying safe online and gave important advice such as: knowing what personal information is safe to share and what is not; how to report something that makes them feel unsafe online and exploring the things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline.
The children have been taught that when they read, watch or see something online that makes them feel uncomfortable, they should **reach out, speak out and tell a trusted adult** as soon as possible.
Key Stage 2 children can test their knowledge with the Safer Internet Day Quiz [here](#).

This newsletter's online safety guide focusses on Social Media and Mental Health. It highlights a number of tips such as how to hide content, setting daily limits and discussing what children have seen online. Please click [here](#) to access it.

1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs.

God bless,

Mr Gallagher





Dates For the Diary

February

- 13th Parents' evening
- 14th 9 a.m. Ash Wednesday service
- 15th 9 a.m. Year 1 class liturgy (Hall)
Parents' evening
- 16th Teaching training day – School closed

HALF TERM Feb 19th – 23rd

- 26th Back at school
Lent II clubs begin
Balanceability begins for Reception children
- 27th Class photos
- 29th 9 a.m. Year 2 class liturgy (Hall)
3:10 pm Year 1 Phonics Parents Information session (Learning lounge)
Boys' football – Division 1 Fixtures

March

- 7th World Book Day – 'Bedtime stories'
Children can come dressed in pyjamas, bedtime clothing, nightwear
- 8th Year 6 trip to Leicester Racecourse 'Racing to School'
Community Dental Services (5 year old Dental survey)
- 12th Cricket engagement day
- 19th 9 a.m. Stations of the Cross service led by Year 4
- 21st 9 a.m. Year R class liturgy
- 22nd Last day of term – normal closing time

April

- 8th Return to school
- 12th Year 4/5 swimming continues.
- 17th Year 3 TOPLINK St Paul's Festival
- 18th UK parliament assembly
- 22nd Sportshall Athletics finals

May

- 6th Bank holiday
- Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May 2024 SATs week
- 24th KS2 Interhouse Sports
- 27th May – 31st May Half term

June



In this half term, Year 3 swimming begins.

- 3rd Return to school
- 12th Year 5 Competitive Sports Festival
- 21st Year 5/6 Swimming Gala at Parklands
- 25th Competitive Sports Festival at St Paul's
- 26th June p.m. KS1 Sports Day (Wed)
- Year 6 CRICH Trip

July

- 4th Leavers' production
- 5th p.m. KS2 Sports Day (Fri)
- 12th End of Academic Year 2 p.m. finish
After school club finish at 4.15 p.m.