



Wednesday 16 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see below this weeks' notices.

Catholic Life: Faith in Action

Last week, Class 6 shared a wonderful Act of Worship around their RE Topic 'Special People. The children talked about all the special people in their lives and how the world is special by us all being part of it. The children lifted the roof off the Chapel with their beautiful singing; the enthusiasm in their performance was visible for all to see and hear. As the children performed their Act of Worship, the message they delivered was clear - we are all special in the eyes of the lord.

Just a gentle reminder to our families to search through their wardrobes over half term for any uniform that has become too small for their child/ren. We will gladly take these off your hands providing they are in a good and clean condition in our bid to *Live in Solidarity with the Poor*.

Celebrating Achievements

Huge congratulations to the following children who received a Headteacher's Award for excellent work and/or demonstrated outstanding behaviour and attitude towards learning this week: Dorris S, Amelia H, Leo K-S, Simeon P, Anna B, Bessie B, Hubert S, Leonardo T, Zuzanna B, Adagkaara A, Ifeanyichukwudu NO, James J and Levin T. A special mention goes to Blaze S and Daisy W for their achievements in Irish Dancing. Congratulations to you all.

Up and coming events at St Mary's after half term

Celebrating the Catholic traditions of Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras is French for 'Fat Tuesday', also called Shrove Tuesday. It is the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of the Christian Lent season leading up to Easter. During Lent, many Catholics fast, and the name Fat Tuesday refers to the last day of eating richer foods before the leaner days of Lent begin.

Many families within our school community would celebrate Shrove Tuesday as part of their cultural traditions and so we wanted to bring a carnival vibe to St Mary's on Shrove Tuesday so that our children can experience the joyful traditions celebrated around the world by many.

To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, we are planning a day of celebration, making wonderful links within and across all curriculum areas. Children will be recapping and applying key knowledge and skills from the Advent Term within this rich theme. For example, our pupils will be using their key knowledge from geography to locate places around the world where Mardi Gras is celebrated, KS2 pupils will apply their DT knowledge by designing and making a float, others will be creating and comparing their art using painting techniques and computer-generated animations using the Mardi Gras signs and symbols as a stimulus, to name a few ideas.

We will of course mark our own cultural traditions, Mr Johnson and the Catering Team have agreed to serve pancakes as part of the lunch menu on that day with a range of toppings for the children's enjoyment.

As Shrove Tuesday falls on the children's first day back after the February half term we thought they might like to make a mask over half term. A separate document will be shared to inspire the children's imagination using the liturgical colours of purple, green and gold which represent justice, faith and power (please see attached PDF). We are also happy for the children to accessories their school uniform using the traditional colours with purple, green or gold hair clips, ribbons, and socks for example.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Mardi Gras has developed and evolved as it has travelled around the world, therefore if you and child choose to research beforehand, please use the following search 'Traditional Catholic Mardi Gras'. Staff will be prepared to discuss how this catholic tradition has evolved, albeit at an age-appropriate level and as it states above have plans to link the activities to all areas of the curriculum.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book day on Friday 4th March. We have not been able to celebrate this properly for a couple of years so we are super excited about being all back together this year to do so. This is a great day to celebrate our love of reading and all things books! We would love to see the children (and staff!) dress up as their favourite book character and Miss Drayton will be giving out prizes to the best and most inventive characters!

Each class in school will also be looking at the same book 'The Sea Saw' by Tom Percival and creating lots of exciting things from reading this beautiful story – we will showcase our work on Twitter and Class Dojo for you to see and also be celebrating our work within our learning spaces in school. We would also love to do a book swap shop. We did this back in 2018 and it was a great success! If you have any children's books you no longer want or have finished with, please send them in on the day and each phase will create a swap shop in their learning spaces so all children can receive a new book. We will also be distributing the World Book day vouchers so children can purchase their own new book from participating shops. Thank you for all you are doing with reading at home – keep it up!

Dress to Express

Many thanks to our families for your contributions last Friday; we raised £277 for Charity. The children and staff looked amazing in all their different outfits.

City Road Parking

It is with great sadness that we have to inform our school community once again of a complaint received, this time the parking on City Road. Little Chester Residents' Association have been monitoring the situation and have noticed that some of our parents/carers often double park at the end of the road (the turning onto Mansfield Road) completely blocking it when it coincides with cars trying to leave/enter this area.

Please can we ask our parents and carers to be considerate of others and not to block this route out of the area, and also remind you of the two large car parks just up the road, one on City Road itself, and the other on Old Chester Road, where you could park and take the short walk to collect and drop off your child/ren without causing such issues to the local residents.

Dates for your Diary

Please see below a list of upcoming key dates for your diaries:

- Friday 18 February – Last day of term
- Monday 28 February – INSET
- Tuesday 1 March – Children return following half-term / Mardi Gras
- Friday 4 March – World Book Day
- Friday 8 April – Last day of term
- Monday 25 April - School re-opens for the Pentecost Term
- Friday 27 May – Last day of term
- Monday 6 June – Children return following half-term
- Friday 1 July – INSET
- Friday 22 July – Last day of term

Please feel free to contact us if you require anything in addition to the information above.

Best wishes and God Bless

The Leadership Team



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