



Wednesday 9 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Please see below this weeks' notices.

### **Catholic Life: Faith in Action**

Last week, Class 10 shared a wonderful Act of Worship around their RE Topic. The children talked about the importance of family and friends, writing some wonderful poems and prayers on the meaning of giving and receiving, linking this to the British Values 'Mutual Respect' and 'Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs'. Class 10 finished their Act of Worship with a beautiful hymn, reminding us how much God has given to us.

During Celebration Assembly this week, the children were reminded of why Jesus went into the desert for forty days and nights – to pray and be close to God. A special mention must go to Kero L-H for his super understanding of Lent and how we can use this time during Lent to reflect on our own actions so we can live like Jesus. Prayer is something that comes naturally to many of us but can be something we forget about or we don't find time for. Prayer is simply a chat with God; you don't need to use the right words, you don't even need to use any words, you just need to put aside some time to be with God. During this season of Lent, we invite you to try it for yourself. It's amazing what a difference a few minutes a day can make!

A fantastic effort was seen to help celebrate Mardi Gras; it was wonderful to see so many colourful masks worn by the children, and staff, helping to bring that carnival atmosphere to St. Mary's. The children took part in a selection of activities throughout the day, including designing and making their own little carnival procession along the corridors.

We were able to make our first drop-off of all the food and toiletry donations received so far to the Padley Centre. The volunteers there were blown away with the 4 boxes we were able to deliver thanks to the support received from our families. Please keep these donations coming in. In addition to this, we have also started to receive unwanted uniform that is now too small from some of our families, mainly cardigans and skirts. Thank you. If anyone has any trousers that no longer fits, we would love to take them off your hands providing they are in a good and clean condition. We will ensure all these items will be distributed to families in need.

### **Walk Against Hunger – Our Lenten Promise**

This Lent, staff and children here at St. Mary's, will be joining thousands of people across the country in a bid to raise money for CAFOD to support children across the world who are at risk through malnutrition. Walk Against Hunger is this year's Lent challenge; it is a walk to help stamp out hunger. Please read the story of Lombeh below.

Lombeh, the daughter to Amie and Borbor, was malnourished. She was so tiny that a bracelet her mother Amie bought for her at the time now fits round her thumb. Amie and Borbor left no stone unturned to find help, but to no avail. Amie saw a group of new mothers coming along the road, their babies all healthy, and asked where they had come from. They told her about the Sisters. Amie went straight there. Even though they feared there was no hope for little Lombeh, they gave her benny mix – a local weaning food. Lombeh immediately began to improve. Now, aged five, Lombeh is a lively and energetic little girl, who can't believe the stories her mother tells her about when she was a baby.

Weather permitting, our plan is to walk around Chester Green, together as part of the school community, in a bid to raise money to help children like Lombeh. We will be inviting parents and cares to show support through a monetary donation on the day. Details of the day of the walk to follow.

### **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: Anaya A, Bradley H, Makayla-Marie B, Sebastian B, Ruoying L, Constance B, Urszula DM, Tamia B, Noah M, Lewis R, Valeria I and Sinon J. A special mention goes to Anna Boyce for achieving her 3rd star in skiing, Tonieh A for completing 3 radio/podcast sessions with M-prez Enterprize and to Maisey A who competed in the Steel Trophy Cup for synchronised ice-skating achieving silver as a team. Congratulations to you all.



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



### **World Book Day**

It was lovely to see the children and staff come to school as their favourite book character for our World Book Day last Friday. The children took part in lots of different activities based on the book 'The Sea Saw' and class teachers posted examples of their wonderful work onto their Class Twitter pages tagging in the author Tom Percival. It was lovely to see Tom comment on the children's work saying how incredible the children must have worked. Thank you to the parents and carers for your book donations enabling us to hold a book swap on the day, and also to Miss Drayton for pulling the day all together.

### **Fox Street Parking**

Please can we ask our families to not park or drop off on Fox Street. We are witnessing an increase of cars belonging to families of St. Mary's mount the curb, blocking the path and stopping other families from safely walking along the footpath. We know it might seem to be the easiest option for parents when dropping off or picking up their child/ren from school each day, but our priority has to be for the safety of children and their families. We urge you to please use St. Mary's church carpark, or the carpark situated on City Road, and walk the short walk it takes to safely pick up your child/ren from school.

### **Mackworth & Broadway Bus service**

Please can we ask the parents and carers who drop off and collect their child/ren from the bus stop at Broadway and at Mackworth to be mindful of the local residents. We have been notified of cars being parked in front of residents' driveways, blocking the drive from any car leaving or entering. It is so important we work together with our community and therefore we kindly ask our parents to be more considerate when dropping their child off in the morning or collecting them from the bus stops at the end of the day. Also, can we ask those who pick up from the bus stop at the end of the day to arrive on time.

### **School Clubs & Tutoring Pick-Up**

Last week, we noticed many cars entering and parking on site. Unfortunately, due to the school being within an industrial estate, parents and carers are not permitted on site. There are several companies around the site and the car parking spaces are allocated to these companies and their employees. If you are late, or collecting children from clubs, please ensure you use the car parking places as mentioned above. Many thanks to our families who do park away from school and walk. When picking up your child/ren from a school club or tutoring session, please park at any of the following places and walk, entering through the gate on Fox Street.

- St. Mary's Church car park, Darley Lane (6 minute walk to school)
- Parker's Piece Car park, City Road, DE1 1DF (4/5 minute walk to school)
- City Road (free parking for 30 minutes)

The children need to be collected from the playground. Once collected, please ensure you exit the playground on the far side, turning right as you come out of the playground and back onto Fox Street.

Finally, we are finding an incredible amount of skewers and cocktails sticks on the floor at lunchtime. Please can we ask our parents and carers to not send these in with packed lunches as they could be dangerous. Thank you.

### **Dates for your Diary**

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

- Tuesday 22 March – Coffee morning (TBC)
- 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



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

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