



Catholic Academy

The
Communicator
Friday 23rd February 2024



A message from Mrs Hamilton

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. I hope that the children enjoyed a restful half term break. They have returned to school raring to go and jumped straight back into learning. We are now just over half way through this school year and it is very important that each child continues to work hard so that they can do their very best in their current class.

Our daily fluency homework is now well embedded in Y1 – Y6 and it is clear to see the impact that this is having. Children who complete their fluency homework each day are finding Maths lessons easier and achieving better. Thank you very much for your support with this.

Please, please, please hear your child practise their school reading book each day; your help makes a huge difference to your child's reading progress.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoeKlaSpXqs>

Minibus from Tunstall

We are looking into the possibility of a minibus which will collect children from Tunstall High Street at approx 8.20am each morning Monday - Friday and bring them into school (the exact time will be confirmed).

Children would be supervised by the minibus driver who is fully DBS checked and trained. Parents/Carers would not travel with their child.

Children must be booked on the minibus in advance on Scopay; there will be a small charge of 50p per day payable in advance on Scopay.

Parents remain responsible for collecting their child from school at home time. THERE IS NO RETURN JOURNEY.

If you may be interested in using the minibus, please register your interest using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/GxJddqeSZe>

Catholic Life

We are now in the Church season of Lent, a time of preparation to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. During Lent, we focus on putting things right with God, saying sorry and seeking forgiveness for our sins.



In the first Lenten Gospel, we heard that the Holy Spirit led Jesus to go into the desert, where he stayed for forty days, being tempted by the devil. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him. After 40 days, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. ‘The right time has come,’ he said, ‘and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!’

“But we don’t live in the desert!”

There is little to distract someone in a desert. And because there are so few distractions, deserts provide lots of opportunity for silence, stillness, and prayer. Coming away from distractions and being silent and still helps us to know how close God is. It helps us to feel God’s peace as we share our thoughts and worries with God and listen with our hearts, so that we can discover what God wants us to do and how God wants us to live. Although we cannot go to the desert for 40 days, the 40 days of Lent give us the opportunity to come away from the distractions of every day life and to use the time gained to be with God.

Food Bank Donations Needed

During Lent, we try to make sacrifices just as Jesus did in the desert, and to help those in need. The Stoke on Trent Foodbank is running short of food at a time when demand for food parcels is higher than ever. We will be collecting donations for the Foodbank throughout Lent. If you are able to spare any items, please send them into school.

The Foodbank urgently needs donations of:

- Instant Mash
- Tinned potatoes
- Coffee
- Tea
- Squash
- Pasta
- Rice
- UHT/ Powdered milk
- Fruit juice
- Cereal
- Soup
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned tomatoes

Father Hudson's fundraising

The Fr Hudson's Society is a wonderful charity which helps young children, adults, the elderly, the sick, the lonely and those in need in Stoke on Trent and the surrounding areas. Earlier this week, the children heard from a Fr Hudson's representative about the work that they do. Fr Hudson's relies on donations and, this Lent, we are challenging the children to sacrifice something themselves to help others. For example, if children would usually have a bag of sweets at the weekend, we are encouraging them to give up their sweets one week and give the money they would have spent to Fr Hudson's. Any donations can be put in the recyclable bags which children will be bringing home.

Please pray for...

The children who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time next week:

Hollie Hope
Harry McKinley
Elsie Meakin
Lisa Quinn
Aiden Tramaloni



O my God
Because you are so good
I am very sorry that I have
sinned against you
And by the help of your
grace
I will not sin again
Amen

Family Mass

Our next Family Mass, on Sunday 17th March at 11.00am at St Joseph's Church is a great opportunity to help your child to spend time with God this Lent. Like last time, we will be asking for volunteers to read, to pray and to take up the offertory procession. Please do join us for Mass if you can.

Pre School

We are very blessed to be able to offer our children the very best start to their education from age 2 years in our wonderful Pre School. Pre School is over subscribed and some children are having to wait for a place and may not get one at all. We will consider **applications for September 24, January 25 and April 25 starts in April 2024.** If you are considering sending your child to Pre School at any time next year, **I urge you to complete an application form before April 2024.**

Pre School offers morning, afternoon and all day places and accepts 15 hour and 30 hour funding for both working and disadvantaged families



Award Winners

WOW Award	
Nursery	Jessica Hewitt
Reception	Charlie Bailey
Year One	Caelan Cotterell Rogers
Year Two	Nyle Jones
Year Three	Ethan Bewley
Year Four	Kelisienna Doherty
Year Five	Grace Ijeh
Year Six	Jax Jordan

Virtues Award – Faith Filled and Hopeful	
Nursery	Chimamanda Ikedinobi
Reception	Anele Mpofu
Year One	Salote Batisele
Year Two	George Rigby
Year Three	Francis Bailey
Year Four	Zak Gregory
Year Five	Annteresa Reji
Year Six	Mya Latham

Award Winners

Presentation Award	
Nursery	Hayley SZ-Balla
Reception	Ibrahim Raja
Year One	Daisymae Steele
Year Two	Sofia Gromova
Year Three	Hollie Hope
Year Four	Zak Gregory
Year Five	Sebastian Miroiu
Year Six	Jayden Ingram

75 Dojo Awards	
Logan Russell	Oscar Jones
Leighton Kelsall	Zachary Eveson
Spencer Smith	Logan Swinswood
Noé Offeyi	

Award Winners

100 Dojo Awards	
Ezimai Kesall	James Smith
Ted Maughan	Olivia Cope
Lola Warrender	Cody SZ-Balla
Anaya Butt	Lewis Schifano
Lacey-Mai Booth	Mia Kearney
Joseph Esposito	Annteresa Regi
Stefan Shiju	Emy Susan Jestin
Sebastian Miroiu	

Attendance

Congratulations to

Year 3

who have the best
attendance this week

100 %.

A polite reminder that children who are ill with vomiting or diarrhoea MUST stay off school for 48 hours after the last episode. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

This year, our attendance reward trip to Drayton Manor will be for any children who have 100% attendance. The class with the best attendance will have a treat of their choice in school.



As you know, St Joseph's provides a high quality education to help all children to achieve their very best. Children can only benefit from this education if they are in school and so we encourage children to attend school every day that they are well enough to do so.

As you know, we are only able to authorise a Leave of Absence in term time in the most exceptional circumstances and some requests will result in a referral to the Education Welfare Service for a Penalty Warning. Please ensure that all holidays are booked during the school holidays:

Diary dates

This term

Wednesday 28.02.24	6.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation in Church
Thursday 29.2.24	Glider Challenge for a group of Y5/Y6 children
Thursday 29.2.24	9.30am KS2 Mass in School. Please do join us to celebrate Mass.
Friday 1.3.24	St David's Day. Children in the yellow team may come to school in their own clothes including something yellow
Monday 4.3.24	Nursery Class visit to Westport Lake
Monday 4.3.24	Year Five visit to SMW for a Science lesson
Tuesday 5.3.24	World Book Day celebrations in school. Children may come to school dressed as a favourite book character <u>if they wish.</u>
Wednesday 6.3.24	Recorder Group to perform at the Recorder Festival
Thursday 7.3.24	Reception Class visit to Peak Wildlife Park Choir to perform at Stoke Gotta sing
Thursday 7.3.24	First Holy Communion preparation sessions begin for children in Y4 who have already received the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday 8.3.24 2.30pm	KS1 Mother's Day Service. 2 female relative per child in Y1 and Y2 are very welcome to join our celebration

Diary dates

This term	
Monday 11.3.24	Year Five visit to the Safe and Sound Event
Monday 11.3.24 6.30pm	Sacrament of Confirmation in Church for Y6 children
Tuesday 12.3.24	Fire Service visit to Nursery and KS1
Tuesday 12.3.24	Year Five to perform in the Manchester Camerata project
Friday 15.3.24	St Patrick's day celebrations. Children in St Patrick (the green team) may come to school in their own clothes including something green
Friday 15.3.24	3.30pm Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 17.3.24	Family Mass in Church at 11.00am
Monday 18.3.24	Y5 visit to SMW for a Science lesson Parents Evening
Tuesday 19.3.24	St Joseph's Day Please join us to celebrate Mass in Church at 9.30am and for refreshments in school after Mass
Thursday 21.3.24	Ks2 Dance Group to perform in the Dance Extravanza
Friday 22.3.24 2.30pm	Nursery and Reception Easter Bonnet Parade School closes for the Easter holidays
Monday 8.4.24	School opens to staff and pupils

Future Diary Dates

Wednesday 17th April 2.30pm - Y3 Class Saint Liturgy. Y3 parents invited into the classroom to celebrate the feast of St Bernadette

Monday 22nd April - Watch Me Learn. Parents invited to join their child in the classroom. Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y3 and Y5 9.45 - 10.45, Y2, Y4, Y6 10.45 - 11.45, Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May - Y6 SATs

Monday 20th - Friday 24th May - Y6 residential trip to Stanley Head

Monday 10th June - Class and Team Photos

Monday 24th - Friday 28th June - Change4Life Week

Wednesday 26th June - Sports Day. 9.30 EYFS, 11.00 KS1, 1.00 KS2

Sunday 30th June - First Holy Communion

Wednesday 3rd July 2.30pm Y4 Class Saint Liturgy. Y4 parents invited into the classroom to celebrate the feast of St Peter

Thursday 4th July - Summer Disco

Friday 5th July 2.00pm - Y1 Inspire Workshop

Tuesday 9th July 6.00pm - Y6 Production

Friday 12th July - Achievement Assembly

Tuesday 16th July 6.00pm - Y6 Presentation Evening, Meal and Disco

Wednesday 17th July 2.15pm - Summer Concert

Thursday 18th July 9.30am Leavers Mass in Church

Friday 19th July 9.00am Leavers Assembly, Toy Day, School closes