



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA

Head of School: Sarah Hendricks

8th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As our festive celebrations have drawn to a close, we wanted to thank you for another wonderful year and thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our beautiful school family for the year ahead. Ahead of the half term, we wanted to summarise the draft events for the half term ahead which we are all looking forward to! This Spring update features a summary of information and a 'take away' of dates for ease for your kitchen calendars! We hope this helps to support finding information quickly, particularly for those of you that have children across year groups.

We hope you have enjoyed a lovely festive and reflective break with your families and friends. We look forward to seeing you for some fabulous events this half term.

Kind regards,

Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher

Sarah Hendricks
Head of School

Spring 1 'What's on'

Spring Gardening Day

Do join us in our day of getting the school grounds spruced-up for Spring. This will take place on Friday 9th February and everyone is welcome from 1.30pm. Do bring along your tools and gloves. The children work every week planting and weeding and it would be lovely to see as many families as possible helping to get set for the warmer weather.

Reading and reflections

Following the children's feedback, every child will be able to visit Waterstones to purchase a book with monies raised by the PTA. Children will then go to share their selected books with one another at the church hall. This will begin this term, with classes taking turns across the remainder of the year. We do hope the children enjoy their reading and reflection time together. A big thank you to our PTA for sponsoring and supporting this opportunity.

PTA Movie Evening

We warmly welcome families to our cosy movie event in our school hall on Thursday 8th February. Dates and further formation to follow shortly from our fabulous team.

Hampshire Fire & Rescue

The Hampshire Fire & Rescue team has been visiting every class at Our Lady & St Joseph this week and delivering sessions that support the children with fire safety messages through some class based activities. We are looking forward to developing the children's PSHE knowledge and supporting their development in order to help them stay safe, make sensible choices and continue to develop being responsible citizens at home.

Coffee mornings

We welcome parents to coffee morning this half term beginning at 8.25am. We understand that the mornings can be a busy time, particularly for working parents. Please do pop in with your reusable cup or utilise our takeaway eco cups and biscuits. It would be lovely to see you momentarily in between drop off and journeys to work. Our PTA uniform swap shop continues on the first Thursday of every half term. Our next coffee morning will commence on 1st February with Miss Walker & Miss Calton.

Priestlands Sports Events

This half term we will be competing against other schools in swimming, girls' football and dodgeball weekly. Mr Clark is looking forward to proudly taking Our Lady & St Joseph's representatives. We have no doubt they will try their best and make us all proud. We wish them good luck for the half term ahead!

Community Christmas Mass

We look forward to welcoming Father David as a school community for Christmas mass on the 11th January at 9am. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible as we launch into 2024 together as a wider school community.

Poetry By Heart

Poetry By Heart is back for 2024! Key Stage 2 pupils will be partaking in a national competition to learn two poems by heart, as part of our oracy and literacy work.

After our successes in the competition last year, where our Poetry Club members were awarded a "Highly Commended" certificate for their group poem, plus Elizabeth (Y6) named 'Best in County', we will be hoping to go one step further and reach the final! Finalists will have the opportunity to perform at the Globe Theatre in London!

We would very much appreciate your support in helping your child to learn their chosen poems at home during our poetry week on 15th January. Parents will then be invited in for a special poetry performance, to see pupils performing their poetry! We welcome year 3 & 4 parents on Tuesday 23rd January & Year 5 & 6 parents on Thursday 25th January.

Spring House Competition

Our House competition this half term will be a "Reading Quiz," designed to celebrate our love for literacy! In the first four weeks of term, pupils will revisit books they have read and enjoyed during their time at OLSJ, in their House Teams. Then, a 'grand final' will be held in Week 5, designed to test the children's knowledge of all they have learned in their house assemblies!

But that isn't all! Eight pupils with exceptional literature and knowledge of children's books and authors will be selected to create two 'super-teams' to partake in the partnership Grand Final - a 'University Challenge' style quiz that will take

place at Mansel Park on 7th February, against other partnership schools. The 'super-teams' across the partnership will also be entered into the National Literacy Championships, hosted by the National Literacy Trust. Here, pupils will compete virtually in the South England Regional Heats against schools from across neighbouring counties, with the national final being held in London. Watch this space for more news!

Pip and Pap Parent & Pupil Workshops

Following extremely positive parent feedback about last half term's Pip and Pap Phonics Workshops, we will be continuing to run a series of workshops around phonics for all. We have found your feedback extremely valuable and have used this to tailor and adapt our offering for parents and pupils. Following feedback, the overwhelming opinion was that parents' preferential choice would be to attend a workshop in the afternoons with their child, as opposed to another time or through another medium. If you are not available to attend the sessions or to send a representative, you are welcome to ask your child's class teacher for a copy of the questions to match each book or to enquire about the art activity, should you wish to replicate this at home.

Blue Peter Book Club

Our Spring Blue Peter Book Club book will be "Finding Her Feet" by Eve Ainsworth, a story about a shy but talented footballer, who navigates challenging friendships and anxiety at school. Our Reading Ambassadors and Librarians will be reading this story to the rest of the school at lunchtimes. Don't forget, your child can apply for a Blue Peter Book Badge that they can wear at school via:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

Congratulations to pupils who are already wearing theirs in school!

Bikeability Year 5

Year 5 will be participating in bike ability. They will be learning how to check the safety and operation of their bikes, becoming more competent when cycling and improving their road safety and awareness in the local area. This will take place on the 22nd and 23rd January and pupils are welcome to bring their bikes into school in order to take part. Please do speak to our school office or Mr Clark regarding any queries.



Spring 1 'take-away' dates



January

Wednesday 10th Priestlands Sports Competitions

Thursday 11th Christmas mass 9am - *parents invited*

Monday 15th Deadline for 2024/25 Year R applications

Poetry by heart week in school - Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6

Wednesday 17th Priestlands Sports Competitions

Monday 22nd Y5 Bikeability

Tuesday 23rd Y5 Bikeability

Tuesday 23rd Y3 & Y4 Poetry by heart performance - *parents invited*

Wednesday 24th Priestlands Sports Competitions

Thursday 25th Y5 & Y6 Poetry by heart performance - *parents invited*

Wednesday 31st Priestlands Sports Competitions

February

Thursday 1st 8.25am Coffee morning with Miss Walker & Miss Calton

Wednesday 7th Priestlands Sports Competitions

Thursday 8th PTA Film Night - *parents/family invited*

Friday 9th Spring Gardening, 1.30pm - *parents invited* Non-school uniform day

Friday 9th Non-school uniform day