



# St Mary's Catholic Academy



Newsletter No.5 – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Happy New Year everyone!**

## Dates for your diary

Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> January	10am - Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Child Anxiety Workshop – 4 weeks
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Parent Forum – planning ahead...
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Y5 Bikeability
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb and Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb (pm)	<b>Parents' Consultations</b> – times to be released in the next few weeks
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2023	INSET – School Closed
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Return to school
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Ash Wednesday Service
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Coronation Celebration
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – School closed

## Thank You

The Christmas disco was a great success. The children loved the occasion and the amount of parent helpers made the evening so easy to run. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

For me, the highlight of the event was seeing the community come together, chatting, dancing, working as one!

I hope I can tempt a few parents to come together in the next few weeks to think about a follow-up event!

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Jan – save the date!**

## Parent Governor Vacancy – please return your vote

Votes closes on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Primary School Admissions to F2 / Reception

### Will your child be 4 years old by 31<sup>st</sup> August?

For those families with children who will be 4 years old by 31<sup>st</sup> August, you must complete your local authority school admissions form by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. There is just over a week to go. Every child needs their school preference submitting on line, **even if they attend St Mary's Nursery**. Please, if you are unsure about whether you need to apply for your child or not, come and speak to a member of the school office and we will help you.

Please also remember that you must complete and submit an additional form to each Catholic school you request a place for. Supplementary forms must be submitted prior to the admission deadline.

## Family Learning – Coping with Anxiety course

Please look out for a leaflet that will be sent home inviting you to attend a 4-week course. Take time to read the information on the leaflet as this is an invaluable course that you may benefit from.

- Is your child able to manage their emotions?
- Does your child have good listening skills?
- Would you benefit from learning a bank of stress management? techniques to support your child?

There are limited places, so sign up on Arbor or by returning the leaflet as soon as you can.



## Feast Day – Epiphany of the Lord

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany tomorrow in church with the parish. This is a special feast where Christ is revealed to the nations, symbolised by the visit of the wise men.

Last year, Father David shared the ancient tradition of the Epiphany blessing of chalk. If you would like a blessed piece of chalk to "bless" your home with Christ's protection then please ask your child to pop by the school office.



### Instructions:

Use the blessed chalk to write 20+C+M+B+23 ...above your doorway. This means: 2023 for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi (kings) – Casper, Melchior and Balthasar – and for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for "May Christ Bless this House."

## Attendance and Term Time Holidays

As you know, attendance is monitored closely at school and your child must be in school when they are well. The first and last days of each half term are no less important. For example, starting in September, the children are supported to get to make rules for the class, learn teacher expectations and recall their previous learning. It impacts greatly when children miss this time. After the Christmas holiday, children are straight back into their learning, the curriculum is taught and children absent miss this learning.

Term time absences, including holidays, have a significant impact on your child's progress and achievement. From January 2023, requests for term time absences will not be authorised (unless there are exceptional circumstances) and **will be** subject to a Nottingham City Council referral for a penalty notice to be considered.

### Fines

If paid within 21 days, the fine is £60, rising to £120 if paid between 21-28 days. Fines must be paid in full and there is no part payment. Where there is more than one child and one parent in a family a penalty notice will be issued per parent per child.

### Appeal

There is no right of appeal regarding the issuing of a Penalty Notice. Any queries regarding Penalty Notices will be directed to the referrer.

Thank you for your on-going support. As a team at St Mary's, we work with determination and commitment to help your child/ren to become the best 'me' they can be. I look forward to all the success, joy and achievements we share in 2023.

Kind regards,  
Anne-Marie Bell