



NEWSLETTER – Friday 13th November 2020

“Grow in Faith, Have Faith in Growing”

Trust, Respect, Faith, Forgiveness, Aspiration, Determination, Curiosity

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I do hope you are all adjusting to life in lockdown. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any kind of support for your family. We understand that this can be an incredibly challenging time for families for all sorts of reasons. We will get through this period of lockdown stronger together.

Over the past year, the school has been working very hard towards gaining the nationally recognised 'Mental Health Award'. Miss Davis has skilfully led our staff and pupil team to great success in this area as we have been awarded 'Bronze' status in recognition of the pastoral work that goes on in school to support positive mental health. Congratulations to everyone involved and special thanks goes to Miss Davis!

We have had a busy but fun start to the new half term. The children have been working very hard and it was wonderful to share their learning with you at our recent Termly Learning Conferences. Thank you so much for attending! The 'School Cloud' system seems to be a great way of communicating with you all face to face!

Another of our most recent highlights has been seeing our fantastic Foundation Stage pupils leading their own act of worship for the whole school yesterday (via video). It was a wonderful opportunity for us all to see how well they have settled into our school community; their confidence and enthusiasm was fantastic to see! A big thank you goes to Mrs Bennett, Miss Johnson, Mr Ormond, Miss Wright and Mrs Handford for bringing out the best in our new starters. The children were able to tell us all about their learning journey so far and how Jesus has been with them every step of the way. We are so proud of them all!

A little earlier this week, the Chaplaincy team marked Remembrance Day by leading the school in a beautiful online liturgy of Remembrance. The children all took away the name of a soldier who had died in battle from the Derby area to pray for. What a thoughtful idea! This then led into 'Anti-bullying week' with the focus on creating peace in our school through kind words and actions. Our Anti-Stigma Ambassadors led us in a wonderful act of worship to help us to understand the part we can play in making St George's a peaceful and bully-free environment – huge thanks to Miss Davis for organising this! In addition to this act of worship, all classes had special PHSE lessons themed around the anti-bullying message.

Next week marks the beginning of our 'Other Faiths' week, in which we will be learning all about Judaism. As part of this we will welcome Eve from Derby Open Centre into school (virtually) to teach us more about her Jewish faith. We also look forwards to next Thursday when Class 7 will lead us in an assembly all about Judaism to reinforce the learning that had taken place in our RE lessons.

Advent Liturgy – Wednesday 2nd December at 9am - Years 1-6

As we approach the season of Advent, the children have been busily preparing an amazing virtual Advent liturgy (filmed in bubbles) for you all to enjoy. We will be emailing you the link to watch on the evening of Tuesday 1st December. Years 2-6 will be playing an active part and the rest of the school will be participating.

Book collection for school fires

From Monday 16th November, we will be placing collection boxes outside our 3 gates (double gates, top gate and single gate onto the KS1 playground) for reading books to be donated to the two schools (St Mary's and Ravensdale Infants). Collection baskets will be out at the start and end of each day for that week.

Maintaining Social Distancing at the end of the school day

In the light of the recent national lockdown, all adults are kindly requested to wear masks (unless medically exempt) during drop off and collection of pupils. Let's also make sure that we continue to:



St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Uplands Avenue, Littleover, Derby, DE231GG
admin@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



- **Wait in zoned areas when it is your time slot to collect. Waiting in zoned areas in advance of your time slot causes unnecessary congestion on the playground and blocks the sight lines of staff.**
- **Make sure that if you have collected your first child but have another later slot to collect other siblings, please exit the playground and come back in when it is the correct time slot for your next pick up. Again, this will reduce congestion further.**
- **Whilst waiting for classes to come out, please do not allow your children to run around the playground or mix more widely whilst waiting to pick up siblings. They need to stand next to you in the correct zoned area.**
- **Only wait in the allocated zoned areas (not at tables, benches, by fences etc) as this enables children to be dismissed without meeting children from other bubbles.**

Adverse Weather Conditions

Please do send your children to school with hats, gloves, coats and wellies (if possible) so that they can continue to access outdoor learning and play. Some children have been wearing hoodies to school instead of coats but these just are not warm enough. I do not anticipate that we should need to close school due to snowy conditions any time soon, but if this is ever the case, we shall contact you as close to 7am as possible on the day of closure (or earlier if possible) via a text message. Our website will also prominently display this information on our 'ticker' at the top of our homepage. Please do ensure that you have signed up for ParentMail so that you are able to receive such important messages. In snowy/icy weather, we also kindly ask that you do not drive down our road, but park on the estate and walk down.

Winter School Uniform – Appropriate Footwear

In snowy/wet weather, boots may be worn to school but must be changed for school shoes before lessons begin.

Winter PE Kit

Outdoor PE will still take place during the colder months, but children are allowed to wear black plain jogging bottoms and a plain sweatshirt/zip up top in their house colour. They should also wear their house t-shirt underneath. Children will require trainers as well as pumps. Please do ensure all items are labelled. Many thanks!

E-Safety Information – YouTube

Many of our pupils really enjoy using YouTube, but it can be a minefield in terms of the content that might be accessed. In school, we have a rigorous filtering system in place and so we would like to share with you some key ways of keeping your child/ren safe whilst using YouTube.

What's the problem?

- Videos that look like they're child-friendly can include violent or disturbing content, and it's difficult for YouTube to catch all of these videos before children see them. They might be suggested videos, or appear in search results.
- There's a risk that adults can use YouTube to contact children and 'groom' them into sharing explicit pictures or videos of themselves.
- Children can share personal information which could put them in danger, such as which street they live on or their school.

5 steps to safer 'YouTubing'

1. Turn on 'restricted mode' to help hide videos that may have inappropriate content.

On the website:

- >Click on the icon in the top-right corner that represents your YouTube account
- > In the drop-down menu look for 'Restricted Mode'
- >Toggle 'On'

In the iPhone and iPad app:

- >In the top right, tap your profile picture
- > Tap 'Settings'
- >Tap 'Restricted Mode Filtering'
- > Tap 'Strict' to turn restricted mode on

In the Android app:



St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Uplands Avenue, Littleover, Derby, DE231GG
admin@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



- > Tap the 3 dots icon in the top right
 - > Tap 'Settings'
 - > Tap 'General'
 - > Turn 'Restricted mode' on or off
2. Turn off autoplay and manage recommendations to help stop your child seeing upsetting or disturbing videos by accident.
 - In a video page, toggle the 'Autoplay' option to off. Depending on your device, this may show in the top right of the screen, or below the video.
 - You can also use the 'Don't recommend channel' option to remove channels from your recommendations. To do this:
 - > Click the 3 dots next to a video on the homepage
 - > Select 'Don't recommend channel'
 3. Tell your child not to share any personal information with others This is anything that could identify them or give away their location, like the name of the street they live on, their school name or their school uniform.
 4. Check for comments on videos your child uploads YouTube says it has disabled comments on videos of children, but do still regularly check for comments made on any videos your child shares. Look out for comments asking for more specific videos or personal information.
 5. 5. Flag inappropriate videos and comments to YouTube Use the 'flagging feature' to prompt YouTube staff to check content and decide whether to block or restrict it in line with its community guidelines:
 - > On the page with the video, tap the 3 dots ('more') icon next to a video or comment
 - > Select 'Report' (this is a flag icon in Android and iPhone and iPad apps)
 - > Select the reason for flagging, and provide any extra details you think will help YouTube staff.

Parent Governor Voting

You will be able to vote for our new parent governors via the online voting form, this will be sent out to you via Parent Mail on Monday 16th November 2020. The deadline for voting is Friday 20th November. Many thanks.

Polite Request re: Smoking and Vaping

For the safety and well-being of pupils, we kindly ask that you please refrain from smoking and vaping outside of school during drop off and collection times. Much appreciated.

Remote Learning

Last month, we emailed out to you log in information for pupils in relation to the 'Busy Things' and 'Century' online learning platforms. These are our remote learning platforms and will be used when/if children need to self-isolate or in the case of a bubble closure. The 'Busy Things' platform is intended for KS1 pupils and the 'Century' platform is for KS2 pupils. Both are really engaging, fun and provide comprehensive curriculum coverage; whilst allowing work to be submitted to the class teacher. Both platforms can also be used for additional home learning should you wish. Teachers have now also posted a fortnight's worth of work on the class pages, if you would rather access learning in another format. We are currently checking that all families can access online learning and so a survey has gone out to you via ParentMail to ascertain whether families have internet access and suitable devices. If you could complete the surveys as quickly as possible, this will then help us to help you.

Easy Christmas Gift idea - Turning your child's Christmas art into gift items through 'My Childs Art'

The children have been busily drawing Christmas pictures that have been uploaded onto www.mychildsart.co.uk/order ready to be turned into anything from Christmas cards, to gift tags, wrapping paper, candles, jigsaws, place mats, mugs, sweet jars and cushion covers! To view or purchase, all you need is to visit the website and enter our:

Username: StGeorges

Password: D72PPHRr



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Uplands Avenue, Littleover, Derby, DE231GG
admin@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



All items ordered will be delivered to your home address and school will receive a percentage of the profits, which will be put towards new reading books.

Our Christmas Plans in this 'new normal'!

The following events will be filmed with links emailed out to the relevant families on the day of the scheduled event:

Tuesday 15 th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity
DATE CHANGE! Wednesday 16 th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Extravaganza
Friday 18 th December: 9am	End of Term Mass

The FS2 Christmas Crafts morning on Wednesday 9th December will be unable to go ahead with parents in attendance. However, we fully intend to share pictures of their amazing work on class pages.

The following Christmas events will proceed as planned.

Friday 18 th December: All day	Christmas Jumper Day (wear with jeans) in exchange for £1 donation for our Parish
Friday 18 th December: Lunchtime	Christmas lunch for pupils and staff
Friday 18 th December: Afternoon	Online Christmas liturgy and celebration to be shared with all children and parents – keep an eye out for the link!

Thanks to the generosity of Miss Lewis's father, Mr Kenneth Lewis, pupils will be watching an online Pantomime with sweets and treats on Thursday 17th December and will have an online zoom session with the characters afterwards. Mr Lewis' kindness is greatly appreciated! ☺

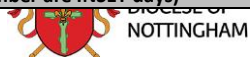
Christmas Dinner – Friday 18th December

Christmas dinner will be served on the last day of term, Friday 18th December. All parents of Key Stage 2 children are welcome to book a Christmas dinner for their child/ren at the price of £2.20. Key Stage 1 children are already entitled to a free school meal, but do let us know if your child is ordinarily sandwiches so that we can order enough meals. If you would like to book a Christmas dinner for your child, please contact the office as soon as possible. Children who are ordinarily dinners will have already had a meal booked for them.

Dates for your diary...

Thursday 19 th November: 8:50am	Class 7 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Classes 7 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 26 th November: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Classes 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 27 th November: All day	Non uniform day in support of NDCYS (Briars team) in exchange for £1 donation	All pupils
Wednesday 2 nd December: 9am	Advent Liturgy for Year 1-6 Pupils	Subject to consent, parents will be emailed a link to watch the liturgy online.
Thursday 3 rd December: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 4th December: INSET ALL DAY	INSET	SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 15 th December:	Key Stage 1 Nativity	All events to be filmed and a link will be shared with the relevant families subject to permission.
DATE CHANGE - Wednesday 16 th December: 2-3pm	Foundation Stage Christmas Extravaganza	
Friday 18 th December: 9am	End of Term Mass	
Friday 18 th December: All day	Christmas Jumper Day (wear with jeans) in exchange for £1 donation for our Parish	All pupils
Friday 18 th December: Lunchtime	Christmas lunch for pupils and staff	Please see the information provided in this newsletter.
Friday 18 th December: Afternoon	Online Christmas Liturgy and Celebration	All events to be filmed and a link will be shared with the relevant families subject to permission.

Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January (Monday 21st December and Tuesday 22nd December are INSET days)	Christmas Holidays	School Closed
--	---------------------------	----------------------



admin@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk
Company Number 7937154



Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Monday 4th January 2021	All pupils return for the start of the Lent term	All pupils
Wednesday 6 th January at 9am	Epiphany Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Tuesday 5 th January so that you can join us online
Thursday 7 th January: 8:50am	Class 11 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 11 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 14 th January: 8:50am	Class 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 5 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 21 st January: 8:50am	Class 6 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 6 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 28 th January: 8:50am	Class 12 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 12 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 th February: 8:50am	Class 7 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 7 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 11 th February: 8:50am	Class 9 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 9 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 12th February: All day	INSET	School Closed
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February	Lent Half term	School Closed
Monday 22 nd February: 8am	Termly Learning Conference booking goes lives	More information to follow
Thursday 25 th February: 8:50am	Class 8 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 8 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 th March: 8:50am	Class 10 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 10 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 4 th March: All day	World Book Day	Dress up as your favourite book character in exchange for £1 donation towards restocking our reading shelves.
Monday 8 th March: 3:30-6pm for KS1 and 3:30-7:30pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual appointments delivered through the 'School Cloud' system. More information to follow.
Wednesday 10 th March: 3:30-5.30pm for KS1 and 3:30-6pm for KS2	Termly Learning Conferences	These will be virtual appointments delivered through the 'School Cloud' system. More information to follow.
Thursday 11 th March: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 18 th March: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Tuesday 30 th March: 8:50am	Class 1 and Class 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of pupils in Classes 1 and 2 will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 1 st April: 9am	Easter Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Wednesday 31 st March so that you can join us online
Thursday 1 st April: Time TBC	Colour run to raise money for Rainbows Hospice	More information to be shared closer to the time.
Friday 2nd April – Friday 16th April	Easter Holidays	School Closed
Monday 19th April	All pupils return for the start of the Pentecost term	All pupils
Monday 3rd May: All day	May Bank Holiday	School Closed
Monday 10 th May – Thursday 13 th May	Key Stage 2 SATs Week	All Year 6 pupils
Monday 17 th May – Friday 21 st May	Key Stage 1 SATs Week	All year 2 pupils
Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June	Pentecost Half term	School Closed
Monday 26th July 2021 – Thursday 2nd September (Friday 3rd September is an INSET day)	Summer Holidays	School Closed
Monday 6th September 2021: All Day	Return to school for the start of Advent term FS2 pupils to be in for mornings only for the first week	All pupils



St George's Catholic Voluntary Academy
 Uplands Avenue, Littleover, Derby, DE231GG
admin@stgeorges.derby.sch.uk
 Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
 Sherwin**
 Catholic Multi Academy Trust