

"Grow in Faith, Have Faith in Growing" Trust, Respect, Faith, Forgiveness, Aspiration, Determination, Curiosity

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your generous response to the appeal to fund Benjamin's treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia. At present, the whole community is working together to raise £100,000 to send Benjamin to Israel for pioneering CAR T-cell treatment. The children have been so thoughtful in their response to our act of worship sharing the story of Benjamin's battle and I know that our forthcoming fundraising plans will make a real difference. I will share those plans with you in a moment. We have certainly got off to a good start! Last Wednesday, we took an aerial photograph (by drone) of all of the children spelling out Benjamin's name. It was quite a feat manoeuvring 350 people into position – thanks to Miss Lewis and Mr Holmes for organising this! We then recorded video messages of support for Benjamin to let him know that we are thinking of him.



A huge 'Well done' also to Mr Hanif for making the 18 mile journey from the Royal Derby Hospital to Nottingham's Queen's Medical Centre on foot to raise money for Benjamin. It wasn't an easy thing to accomplish, especially as he was fasting!





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





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Today, the children came to school in non-uniform in exchange for bringing in some chocolate for our chocolate raffle. We will draw the raffle on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Here is run down of our future fundraising events for Benjamin:

#### Wednesday 19th May - Whole School Sponsored Sing-a-thon

As a school, we have always been renowned for our singing! We love to sing and so we've decided that we are going to do a non-stop relay of singing on Wednesday 19th May! This event will be sponsored, so instead of continually asking for parents to put your hand in your pockets, we thought your children could ask grandparents, aunties and uncles and wider friends and family to sponsor them to sing for a day. Each class will sing two sets for around 15 minutes each in the school day... it may not sound like it's difficult, but flat out singing for a 15 minute period of time is exhausting. The children have already taken home a sponsorship form. Please, please, please support your child to get as much sponsorship as possible.

#### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May - No Work Day!

In exchange for a £5 donation per family, children will participate in lots of fun activities throughout the day rather than doing any work. The children are busily planning out their dream day!

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Dress as a hero day

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, we will be having a hero themed non uniform day. Children can dress up as someone who inspires them – maybe an author, sports person, superhero, teacher, nurse, family member etc! Please feel free to send donations into school and we will then credit them to Benjamin's fundraising page OR you can donate via the following link directly:

https://bidandgift.com/campaigns/benjaminsbattle/

#### Catholic Life

May is a busy month in the Church calendar. During this month, we come to the end of Eastertide, celebrate the Ascension and receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost!

The disciples no doubt experienced a whole wide range of emotions during this time, and, especially as the world starts to open up again after lockdown, it might feel like we're experiencing a rollercoaster time too. However, the predominant attitude during this season is that of celebration. I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some resources that your children have experienced in school.

#### Feeling Fruitful

### Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." John 15:5

In the week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the children learned that to produce **good fruit, the branch with the grapes must be attached to the vine.** If not, the grapes won't grow. They need the sap within the vine to flow up and into the branches to feed the grapes, so that the branches produce good fruit. When Jesus says, 'remain in me', **He is telling us to stay close to Him** so that the Holy Spirit can grow good 'fruit' in our lives, like love and kindness. Children watched a short video about the work of **Mission Together**, a charity that helps children to share love and kindness with other children around the world.



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Our children learned that we can stay close to Jesus through prayer, listening to the Gospel, receiving Holy Communion and sharing what we have with others, and that we can be inspired by the good 'fruit' growing in other people's lives, e.g. Sr Eulie helping the children in Cambodia and the children here in the UK praying for the Cambodian children and raising money for their centre.

You might like to:

- Plant some seeds with your child and discuss what they need to grow, to reinforce the message that to grow 'fruit' we need to stay close to Jesus.
- Discuss how 'good deeds' aren't restricted to people who believe in Jesus. Anyone can do a good thing! But Jesus promises that when people are motivated by the love of God and commit to share that love with others through their actions, He will ensure that these actions 'bear fruit'.

### <u>News</u>

#### **Staffing Updates**

I have another staffing update to share with you all. On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June, Mrs. Beth Holmes will be starting her period of shielding prior to her maternity leave beginning at the end of August. Mrs Holmes will retain the position of SENCO until the end of this academic year and then Miss Fay Walker will be covering this role. Well done, Miss Walker on your new post! As soon as we have appointed to the position of Class 3 teacher, we will update you again.

#### Supporting Maths Learning at Home

Over the last half term, Miss Walker and some of our Year 6 children have further developed the Maths area on our website to support pupils and families with learning at home. They have created pages for the different calculation areas and broken it down into year groups so you can see exactly what your child is learning and how we are teaching it. There are pictures of specific methods we use, as well as mini tutorial videos demonstrating how to complete different types of questions. This is a great tool for supporting your child with their Maths homework. The maths curriculum page can be found here: <a href="https://www.stgeorgescatholicacademy.co.uk/maths/">https://www.stgeorgescatholicacademy.co.uk/maths/</a>

#### COVID 19 Updates/Reminders

Finally, just a few key updates regarding COVID-19 measures in school:

- We cannot accept children back into school before the end of an isolation period based on a negative lateral flow test, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic. Only PCR results will be accepted.
- Parents who are not medically exempt must wear a mask upon entering the school gates.
- Finally, please do not be offended if we ask to see proof of medical exemption. We cannot remember all parents who are exempt each day.

There have been 2 instances of parents refusing to wait to collect their children when they have forgotten to wear a mask. If parents cannot abide by our safety measures, we will have to issue a site ban to those parents. This is something that I do not like doing, but I cannot tolerate the safety of others being put at risk or indeed my staff being treated in such a disrespectful manner.



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#### Classes for next year (Updated)

Thank you so much for your speedy responses to the 'New class transition form' via ParentMail. The deadline for the submission of friendship grouping suggestions has now passed as it was set to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May. If you have missed this deadline, please access the form as soon as possible! Your responses will make the process of assigning pupils to their new classes for next year much more efficient and will allow you to contribute your perspective. We always put a lot of time and careful consideration into creating the class lists that are balanced in terms of gender, pupil needs and ability. Remember, on this form, you will be able to work with your child to choose three possible friends (from the same year group as your child) that they would like to be with next year. This is on the understanding that they will most likely not be placed with all three friends but will be placed with at least one of these children. There is also space for you to make us aware of anything else that you think we need to know. With this in mind, please do remember that this is a consultation process and although we try to accommodate valid requests, the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team's decision on class lists is final.

#### Year 6 Fun Week

Due to COVID restrictions, our year sixes will not be having their residential week away at The Briars this year. It is one of the most memorable weeks for our Year sixes and it would be such a shame not to mark it in some way. We have decided that we will have a fun week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> of June which will mean non-school uniform all week, no classroom based 'work' and some sporting events (it coincides with the second of our Healthy Weeks), alongside picnics, walks, 'cinema experiences' and liturgies, like we would at the Briars. We have been collecting ideas around what the children would like to do and we are creating a timetable of activities that we can do given that there may still be some restrictions in place. There may be a small cost incurred for some of the activities that we have planned, so we may well be asking year 6 parents for voluntary donations. We'll send this out to Year 6 parents separately.

#### Assessment and Testing Update (Updated)

As you know, the government has cancelled all statutory testing for this academic year due to the pandemic. In light of this, our Trust has been working hard behind the scenes to devise a clear plan for the assessment of pupils across all year groups; including those at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. This will help support the pupils' transition process into their new year groups/schools for the next academic year. As many pupils have been learning at home for a significant part of the Lent term, we have delayed this assessment process until the second half of the Pentecost term. Assessments will take place during the week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> June. This approach will maximise the amount of time available for pupils to learn the knowledge and skills planned for them this year in different subjects, to prepare them well for the next stage of their education. All assessment decisions will be informed by using teacher judgement, using materials that are familiar to the children. We believe that this low-key approach will be fair, informative and supportive of our children's well-being.

#### Planter Donations

We would be really grateful for any donations of bedding plants and seeds that can be planted in the planters on the playground. The children absolutely love getting involved in this <sup>(2)</sup> Any donations can be sent in directly with your child or dropped off at the school office. Many thanks.

#### Being prepared whatever the weather! (Updated)

The weather at the moment continues to be incredibly changeable! On hot, sunny days, I'd be grateful if you could send your child in with sun cream and a sunhat. Please do apply sun cream before the start of the



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school day and then children will be given the opportunity to reapply the lotion before they go out to lunch. To ensure everyone remains well hydrated in the hot weather, I would also be really grateful if you could continue to send your child in with a plastic bottle of water or weak squash. **Some children have been coming to school without a water bottle and so we would kindly request that families check that their child has this with them each day**. This is so that they can have a drink whenever they need during break, lunchtime and PE lessons. Due to covid, we are unable to allow children to drink from classroom water fountains. Finally, it's always wise to send children in with a rain coat, regardless of the temperature, in case we have a sudden downpour! **Again, some children have been forgetting to bring coats and then have been caught out when the weather has taken turn for the worse**.

### Standing Items

### Confirmation programme October 2021 for current Year 6 pupils

If you would like your Year 6 child (currently in Year 6) to be confirmed in November 2021, please complete the following the form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4TTn0FP30EKxoGjIM1Ku4SZU71rZ\_BGgPxXFrIXB11UQ1QwWUxTWEIzVEVKTIk4TjdWWE9MN1VGNS4u

Please note that if they have either not yet made their First Holy Communion or been baptised, they will need to join this year's First Holy Communion programme. They may sign up for this here: <u>https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4TTn0FP30EK-</u> <u>xoGjIM1Ku4SZU71rZ\_BGgPxXFrIXB11UM0xPS0RGUEw1WIFLRkM0VkVIRVIaNzNMWi4u</u>

### City-Wide Transition Day plans - July 2021 (Updated)

The vast majority of schools across the city are rolling out 3 consecutive days of transition for Year 6 pupils going to secondary schools located within Derby City. We anticipate that they will attend their secondary schools across all three days, with the exception of Littleover Community School pupils as they are running transition days on the Tuesday and Wednesday only. Year 6 pupils attending Littleover Community School are expected to attend St George's on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July for a day of fun activities! Children in all year groups will spend 3 days in their new classes on the following dates: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of July. This should help children to feel more settled and ready for the start of the new academic year. We will also be welcoming our new FS2 pupils into school over the transition days. Information regarding this has now been sent out to families via email.

### End of Year Reports

End of year reports will go out on Friday 9th July. On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July from 3.30pm, appointments will be available for you to come and discuss your child's report with their class teacher. This is not like the TLCs and is really **only if you need to discuss something specific within the report**. Please speak to your child's class teacher if would like an appointment.



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#### Remote Learning

Remote Learning will continue to be in place should households/pupils need to isolate due to their own symptoms or the symptoms of other household members or in case of bubble closure. We only expect this work to be completed if pupils are well. This work is available on MS Teams in the usual way and more guidance can be found on individual class pages. There will always be two weeks' worth of work available at any one time. We will not be able to provide live lessons where individual pupils are isolating as the class teachers will be teaching their classes. However, where a bubble has closed and the staff are well, live lessons will begin.

#### St Ralph Sherwin Hardship Fund

The St Ralph Sherwin Trust, a family of 25 Catholic academies, acknowledges the difficulties faced by many of the families we serve, particularly in light of the adverse effects of the Coronavirus on the community. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the launch of the Trust Hardship Fund. The Hardship Fund is a source of financial help available to all registered full-time students of our academies and intended to help students who are experiencing difficulty through hardship in paying for:

- Curriculum trips, visits, and residential courses
- Uniform, shoes, or sports kit
- Other materials or equipment required for academic studies
- Attendance at seminars, interviews, or work experience placements
- Emergency travel expenses

There is also potential for relieving hardship during recognised Academy holidays by providing access to one free school meal each day for those students.

Students may be eligible to apply for grants from the Hardship Fund if:

- Their household income is less than £25,000 per year
- Their parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits, including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit/Income-Based Employment and Support Allowance/Universal Credit...provided the student is not entitled to Free School Meals
- At the sole discretion of the Headteacher any student who does not fall under the categories above but considers themselves to be in a state of financial hardship

Further details regarding the Fund, and how to apply, are detailed in the Hardship Fund policy which can be accessed here on our school website:

https://primarysite-prod-

sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/stgeorgescva/UploadedDocument/86f114fc6d764ed7876ef5dfe3693736/har dship-policy.pdf



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#### Nottingham Diocesan School Chaplaincy Apprenticeship Opportunity





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Dates for your Diary		
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May: All day	Sponsored Sing-a-thon for Benjamin	Please see above.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May: 8:50am	Class 8 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 8 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May: All day	No Work Day in exchange for a £5 donation per family	Please see above
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May: 8:50am	Year 5 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Year 5 pupils in Classes 10 and 11 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May: All Day	Dress as a Superhero to raise money for Benjamin's Battle	Donations to be sent into school OR donated via: https://bidandgift.com/campaigns/benjaminsbattle/
Monday 31st May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Pentecost Half term	School Closed
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June: Various times (See communication)	New FS2 Parents Information Event	Parents of new FS2 pupils for September 2021 starts.
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> June: 8:50am	Class 9 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 9 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> June: 8:50am	Class 4 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 4 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Thursday 24th June: 8:50am	Class 3 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 3 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June: 9am	Mass for SS Peter and Paul	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June so that you can join us online
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July: 8:50am	Class 1 and 2 Assembly	Subject to consent, parents of Class 1 and 2 pupils will be emailed a link to watch the assembly online.
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July: EYFS and KS1 at 9.30am and KS2 at 1.30pm	Sports Day	Subject to government guidance, more information to follow.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8th: All day	Transition Days	Subject to government guidance, all pupils will spend most of this time in their new classes/schools.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> July: End of Day	Reports go out to parents	All parents and carers
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July: 3:30pm -5pm	Reports Consultation Evening	Appointments to be made should you wish to speak to your child's class teacher about something specific on the report.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July: 5pm-7.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Party and Liturgy	Y6 pupils from 5.30-6.30pm We will confirm if parents are able to attend closer to the time, subject to government guidance.
Friday 23rd July: 9am	End of Year Mass	A link to the Mass will be sent out on Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July so that you can join us online
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Thursday 2nd September (Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September is an INSET day)	Summer Holidays	School Closed
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021: All Day	Return to school for the start of Advent term.	All pupils
	FS2 - mornings only for the first week	



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<b>Term Dates for 2021/2022</b>		
Advent Term 1	Staff Return on	
	Friday 3rd September for INSET	
	Pupils return on	
	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	
Advent Half Term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	
Advent Term 2	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November – Thursday 23rd December	
Christmas Holidays	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December –Friday 7th January 2021	
Lent Term 1	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	
Lent Half Term	Monday 21st February – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	
Lent Term 2	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	
Easter Holidays	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	
Pentecost Term 1	Monday 25th April – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	
	(Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May Closed – Bank holiday)	
Pentecost Half Term	Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June	
Pentecost Term 2	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June – Monday 25th July	
	(Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 is an INSET)	
INSET DAYS so far	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021	
	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	
	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	
	3 further INSET days to be confirmed ASAP	
	<b>Bank holidays falling in term time</b> Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022	



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