



# NEWSLETTER - Friday 28th May

"Grow in Faith, Have Faith in Growing"

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic day in school today as we were all dressed as our heroes in support of Benjamin's battle. I am really pleased to report that at the time of writing, school has raised £10,600. I believe that the overall total now stands at around £40,000! Amazing! We have had a really fun fortnight of fundraising for this very worthy cause, including a sing-a-thon, a 'no work day' (very much enjoyed by all!) and a chocolate raffle. Your kindness and that of our children knows no bounds and it makes me feel very proud to be part of such a caring and generous community. Thank you! If anybody would like to donate to this cause, the link is as follows: <https://bidandgift.com/campaigns/benjaminsbattle/>



## Catholic Life

As May is the month of Mary, we have been thinking very carefully about how we can say 'Yes' to God, just as Mary did. Y2-6 children have been using the rosary to reflect on key moments from the lives of Jesus and Mary.

### So what is 'The Rosary'?

The Rosary is a set of prayers to God, Our Lady and the Holy Spirit. As we repeat the familiar words, we allow our minds to think about a wonderful part of Jesus' life here on earth - a mystery.

### The Mysteries

There are four parts to the rosary, known as "mysteries":

- The Joyful Mysteries - The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation, The Finding of Jesus in the Temple
- The Sorrowful Mysteries - The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, Carrying the Cross, The Crucifixion.
- The Glorious Mysteries - The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption, The Coronation,
- The Luminous Mysteries - The Baptism of Christ, The Wedding at Cana, The Proclamation of the Kingdom, The Transfiguration, The Last Supper.

Each set of mysteries is divided into **five elements** (known as 'a decade') which allow for reflection on different passages from Scripture. A decade is a set of prayers including the Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and a Glory Be.



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If you would like to pray the rosary with your children at home, I have uploaded some useful powerpoints that will guide you through the prayers and the mysteries here:

<https://stgeorgescva.secure-primariesite.net/the-rosary/>

The younger children (EYFS and Y1) have been learning to sign the Hail Mary. A video for that can also be found on the aforementioned page.

Last Friday, the children experienced a short 'Pentecost Retreat' with One Life Music as part of our 'No work day'. The children loved joining in with the songs, actions, reading and prayers as they reflected on how the Holy Spirit works in our lives today.

Finally, let's keep Benjamin in our prayers over the half term period. We prayer that God will strengthen Benjamin and his family as they continue with this battle. Amen.

Have a wonderful half term break. I hope you all have a rest as well as lots of fun!

Mrs Snowdon-Poole

## Staffing Updates

I am delighted to share that Mrs Goodman, who previously had taught for 27 years at St. George's, will be returning to cover Class 3 until at the least the end of this term for Mrs. Holmes' maternity leave. I will update you again, once cover has been arranged for the remainder of the maternity leave.

## 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.
- If you have forgotten your mask, we will bring your children to the pedestrian gate as soon as the playground is empty of pupils and parents. This is to avoid bubbles crossing over. This will be around 3.25pm.
- 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.
- Please do not leave children unattended at the start or end of school day. They should be with you at all times to avoid bubbles crossing over. We have noticed that some pupils are being dropped off early to wait alone. We would kindly request that you remain with your child/ren until the gates open.
- Please continue to wear your masks on the playground. Many thanks.



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## News

### New Parents' Information Meeting – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

We will be meeting with our new FS2 parents for September 2021 online on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June. They have all received emails asking them for which session they would like to attend – 9.30am, 1pm or 5.30pm.

### Sports Day 2021

FS2 and KS1 Sports day will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June throughout the day due to keeping the two bubble separate. Key Stage 2 Sports day will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July throughout the day for the same reason. Unfortunately as government guidance has not ostensibly changed for schools, parents will not be able to attend. Although, we will do our best to make some images and footage available on social media for you to enjoy.

### Breakfast Club and After School Club Policy Updates

Some key things to notes are: Breakfast and Afterschool club **must** be booked and paid for online. Bookings will close 3 days prior to your chosen session, so please leave plenty of time to book. Similarly, bookings can only be credited back to accounts with three days' notice of cancellation. Due to staffing, afterschool club will not be available on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 (the last day of term).

### Safeguarding Information – The Danger of 'Selfies' in School Uniform / Tik Tok Usage

Selfies on the way to and from school or even in school, may seem innocent, but they're not. Photos showing a child wearing their school uniform can potentially attract predators who **can identify the school the child is attending** simply by looking at the photo. A uniform is not the only dangerous thing about posting school pictures. Even little details in the background of the photo, like the school building or a logo can reveal enough information about the child's location to put them at risk.

Then there is the added risk that children might then upload these photographs to Tik Tok. In recent months children up and down the country have become obsessed with the app TikTok. It allows users to post their own music videos - copying dance routines and lip-syncing to the latest tracks. But, as with many online sharing platforms, there are some hidden dangers. TikTok is a global video community where users create, share and discover 'funny and memorable moments' via short video clips - typically about 15 seconds long. Videos can be 'spiced up' with special effect filters, stickers, music and sound clips.

### The age restriction from Tik Tok is 13+ as there have been concerns about inappropriate content.

#### Online predators

If a child's profile is open, strangers can use the app to comment on the child's videos. While this isn't always sinister it gives potential predators the ability to contact your child through the platform.

#### In-app purchases

Users can buy coins to be exchanged for virtual gifts. These can be expensive and easily purchased - there is the option to buy 10,000 coins for £99.99 with one-click buy button.

#### Inappropriate content

TikTok lets users lip-sync to their favourite songs and produce their own music videos. Some of the music choices contain swear words or sexual themes. So not only can children be exposed to potentially



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inappropriate content but they can broadcast themselves singing these lyrics. In addition to this, some of the outfits and dance moves in videos can be overtly sexual and provocative. There have also been reports of some users sharing concerning content, such as videos that promote anorexia, porn, self-harm and violence.

## Nottingham Diocesan School Chaplaincy Apprenticeship Opportunity

**Apprenticeship Areas:**  
Mansfield  
South East Derbyshire / Erewash  
Derby City  
Leicester City  
South West Leicestershire

**NOTTINGHAM DIOCESAN  
SCHOOL  
CHAPLAINCY  
APPRENTICESHIP**

RESULTING IN A CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS A CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PRACTITIONER.

EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE IN HIS VARIOUS FORMS. - 1 PETER 4:10

**6 School Chaplaincy Apprenticeships based in various locations across of the Diocese of Nottingham**

**2 year fixed term • £12792\* p/a**  
\*or nmw dependant on age  
**To begin September 2021**

**Virtual Info Evening: Weds. May 12th 6PM**  
**Application Closing Date: Monday May 17th**

**Receive grounding and formation in Lay Chaplaincy**

Training with an accredited provider for 20% of your working time alongside support, formation and on-the-job training from the school/trust, NDCYS and the NRCDES

Work closely with staff and students from both primary and secondary phases in the school/trust community of which you will be a key part

You will have a link mentor/line manager and will not be expected to work independently or in isolation

\*This apprenticeship is subject to limited university offering this course for 2021. If they are not able to act as our training provider, other schemes will be explored. It is however possible that without a training provider we will be unable to offer this post.

email [apprenticeships@ndcys.com](mailto:apprenticeships@ndcys.com) to register or to apply

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## Standing Items

### 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 ☺ Any donations can be sent in directly with your child or dropped off at the school office. Many thanks.

### Assessment and Testing Update

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.

### 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=4TTn0FP30EK-xoGjIM1Ku4SZU71rZ\\_BGgPxXFrIXB11UQ1QwWUxTWEIzVEVKTik4TjdWWE9MN1VGNs4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4TTn0FP30EK-xoGjIM1Ku4SZU71rZ_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:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4TTn0FP30EK-xoGjIM1Ku4SZU71rZ\\_BGgPxXFrIXB11UM0xPS0RGUEw1WIFLRkM0VkvIRVlaNzNMWi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4TTn0FP30EK-xoGjIM1Ku4SZU71rZ_BGgPxXFrIXB11UM0xPS0RGUEw1WIFLRkM0VkvIRVlaNzNMWi4u)

### City-Wide Transition Day plans - July 2021

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.

### Being prepared whatever the weather!

The weather at the moment is 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 school day and



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then children will be given the opportunity to reapply the lotion before they go out to lunch. They should bring in their sun cream in a labelled bottle with their name on. 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. 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. Children are most welcome to keep their jumpers and cardigans in their school bags. Should the weather grow cooler, they will then have the option of wearing their jumper/cardigan as appropriate. Finally, it's always wise to send children in with a rain coat, regardless of the temperature, in case we have a sudden downpour!

## 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.

## 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/hardship-policy.pdf>



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## Dates for your Diary...

<u>Dates for your Diary...</u>		
<b>Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June</b>	<b>Pentecost Half term</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
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 24 <sup>th</sup> 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
<b>DATE CHANGE</b> Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June: After Mass	<b>Sports Day for EYFS and Year 1 and 2</b>	<b>Due to COVID restrictions, parents will not be able to attend, but we will hopefully share some images and footage from the day.</b>
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.
<b>DATE CHANGE</b> Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>Sports Day for KS2 (in separate bubbles)</b>	<b>Due to COVID restrictions, parents will not be able to attend, but we will hopefully share some images and footage from the day.</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> : 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 23 <sup>rd</sup> 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
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Thursday 2nd September (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September is an INSET day)</b>	<b>Summer Holidays</b>	<b>School Closed</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021: All Day</b>	<b>Return to school for the start of Advent term. FS2 - mornings only for the first week</b>	<b>All pupils</b>



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## Term Dates for 2021/2022

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 23 <sup>rd</sup> December
Christmas Holidays	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December - Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Lent Term 1	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January - Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Lent Half Term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> 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 25 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May (Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May Closed - Bank holiday)
Pentecost Half Term	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
Pentecost Term 2	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June - Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> 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 Bank holidays falling in term time Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022



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