



The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy

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Diary Dates

Headteacher Newsletter 9, 10th February 2023

February

13th – 17th Half Term week – have a great holiday!

20th Back to school

21st PTA meeting – 7pm in school

22nd Ash Wednesday – 9.30am Liturgy in school

27th EYFS & KS1 Book Look – from 2:30pm

28th KS2 Book Look – from 2:30pm

March

1st Teacher strike day 2

2nd World Book Day – come dressed as your favourite character / in your comfiest PJs

15th & 16th Teacher strike – days 3 and 4

17th Reception Mothers' Day Liturgy – RAW: 10am RKD: 2pm

21st Year 4 trip to Cadbury's World

30th Year 2 trip to White Post Farm

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for all your support this past half term. I hope you have a fantastic break & I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on 20th February.

Mrs Toner

Parental Questionnaire – Catholic Life, Collective Worship and Religious Education

Many thanks to those of you who completed the parental questionnaire, we had 77 responses in total. Overall, the results were overwhelmingly positive with lots of things for us to celebrate:

- 99% agree that your children are happy at school
- 100% agree that your children feel safe in school
- 99% feel the mission of our school is clear and fully reflects our Catholic character
- 98% feel we support the spiritual and moral development of the children

Things some of you feel we could improve on:

- **Reporting how well your children are doing in RE.** In line with other core subjects, teachers report attainment and progress in RE at two key times throughout the year - as part of the main parents' evening in February and in our end of year reports. In addition, parents are invited to come into class to view books along with your children – in March and July.
- **Pupil enjoyment in RE.** Pupil interviews across school revealed our children enjoy RE most when they are given the opportunity to be more creative when presenting their work. When planning RE, staff are working hard to ensure activities and tasks have a more creative focus, thus boosting pupil enjoyment of the subject.
- **Working with our parish community.** Currently, we join our parish community during Advent to celebrate mass, during Lent to lead the stations of the cross and at the end of the year to celebrate our year 6 leavers. In addition, our year 6 children lead the Liturgy of the Word once per month and our parishioners are always invited to celebrate mass with us in school. Over the coming weeks, Fr Philipp and I will meet to discuss what further opportunities we can create to strengthen our partnership even further.

Mental Health Week and Safer Internet

This week across school, we have been focusing on the importance of our mental health and what we can do to keep our minds healthy. On Thursday afternoon, all children will take part in a variety of mindfulness activities that they can try at home too e.g: breathing techniques, journaling and meditation.

Children have also been looking at what we enjoy about the internet and online dangers we might encounter such as bullying, scams and fake news. They have explored how to keep themselves safe online and the importance of talking to others about anything they see or hear that worries them.

First Reconciliation – parents’ meeting – revised date/time

For those parents of children making their First Reconciliation/Holy Communion, Fr Philipp has asked me to let you know that the next parents’ meeting has been brought forward by two days due to a clash with Ash Wednesday. This will now take place on Monday 20th February at 7.30am in the parish centre.

Also a reminder that children will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday 25th February at 11am. Please keep the children in your prayers.

School Council

We have been so impressed by the children who put themselves forward for School Council – so much so that we’ve elected 3 representatives from each year group (see table below)! They worked so hard to prepare their speeches and showed such courage when presenting their ideas to their classmates. Mrs Woodward will be running the school council and they will meet every week to discuss issues raised by their classmates and also have an input into our school improvement plans. Congratulations children – Mrs Woodward and I can’t wait to start working with you.

Year Group	Representative 1	Representative 2	Representative 3
Reception	Francesca P	Lois C	Frank H
Year 1	Josie A	Jeevan S	Anabelle S
Year 2	Xavi C	Dolly S	Matilda S
Year 3	Millie C	Isaac W	Harry B
Year 4	Kitty R	Anya D	Teo J
Year 5	Renee A	Will C	Pandora H
Year 6	Isabella R-D	Oliver L	Nancy S

Parents’ Evening

It was great to have everyone back in school to run face-to-face parents’ evenings again. I hope you found your meeting valuable and that you received information about how well your child is doing and what their next steps are – both academically and socially.

Many thanks again to Mrs Leman for providing a tasting menu for you to enjoy while you waited.

A few reminders/requests please

- Please park sensibly around school. It really is such a pity that we continue to receive complaints every day regarding the unsafe and inconsiderate parking of a minority of parents.
- On PE days, children must wear plain or school logoed **navy** PE kits/white t-shirt/polo-shirts only – **branded kits are not permitted**. The correct PE kits are available online at most of the main supermarkets and department stores at a reasonable price. Alternatively you can buy GSA logoed kit via our uniform provider - <https://just-schoolwear.co.uk/>