



"A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows."

St. Francis of Assisi

(let's hope summer is just around the corner!)

Dear parents/ carers

It has been a week of many tests around school this week with Year 6 children in every available room – with every available adult – taking their end of Year 6 SATs tests. The children have been absolutely brilliant and we are really proud of them. The Year 6 children have tried their best – and not let themselves get upset at the bits that have been hard – and the other children have been really respectful by being quiet in their lessons so they can concentrate! Year 2 will continue to carry out their assessments through the month of May.

Your views:

We want to know your thoughts about the school to help us prepare for next year and learn from this. Please fill in the online survey [here](#). There are quite a few questions but they are mainly multiple choice so it should only take a few minutes to complete. The surveys are completely anonymous unless you choose to give us your details.

PTA:

The school used to have a really active PTA that raised a lot of funds for the school and bought a lot of fun to the school. We'd really like to get a PTA up and running again – it doesn't take too much time – and we would have a named school contact for the group. Again – there's a short survey to fill out about a PTA – can you help?

Costs are going up and up for things like school trips – the cost of the coaches to get somewhere can add £15 on to a trip and using PTA funds to subsidise these trips could mean we could do more with the children to add to their experiences and learning – for less!

The survey is [here](#)

Term time holidays:

We are getting an increasing number of requests for holidays and absences during term time. There are very few exceptions where we are able to authorise term time absence so this will almost always be unauthorised. If attendance is already low or there is a history of term time holidays, the absence will be unauthorised and may be sent for the issue of a fixed penalty notice.



St. Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Chesterfield Road, Matlock, DE43FT
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Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Dates:

We may have to change a few of our planned dates for the year – we will let you know if we need to. It is good to see a full diary again!

Upcoming:

Friday 13th May – Year 6 trip to Harry Potter World

Thursday 19th May – Miss Doxey's Class Liturgy/ assembly – 9:30am – parents welcome

Friday 20th May – Miss Doxey's class trip to the Stone Centre

Friday 20th May – Mrs Webster's class to Highfields for a sports event

Tuesday 24th May – Class photos

Wednesday 25th May – Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration Day

Thursday 26th May – Year 6 trip to 'The Bunting Cup'

Friday 27th May – May Procession (NEW DATE – further details still TBC)

Friday 27th May – Last Day of term

Monday 6th June – Back to school

Charity during the summer term:

We are very aware about the challenges that families are facing at the moment with the rises in the cost of living. Instead of our charity work being focused on fundraising this term for those in need – we will focus on making practical donations.

We will be asking for donations that we will pass on to the local Matlock Food Bank – based at The Church in the Peak. We will look to make a donation regularly and will put a donations box in the entrance area from Monday. They particularly need: tinned fruit, tinned meat, UHT milk, tinned soup, pasta sauce, custard, rice pudding, meat, tuna, biscuits – but accept any tinned and packet food. If you need support and need to access the food bank – school can help. Please get in touch with Mr Lobb or Mrs Shirley in confidence.

(We will continue with the cake sales)



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Queen's Jubilee Day:

Queen's Jubilee Day on 25th May is planned to be a whole school fun day..... we are hoping to have a bouncy castle; activities outside for the afternoon; making party hats and flags..... we will be asking for a voluntary donation of £1 to cover some of the extra costs of the day.

Summer Fayre:

This will now be on Friday 24th and will be 2pm to 4pm.

Planning has already started and it is clear this will be a wonderful day.

Dates in the run up:

Friday 10th June – non-uniform day – donation of a bottle

Friday 17th June – non-uniform day – donation of sweets or chocolate

If you are able to help with organising the day or running stalls on the day – please fill in the PTA survey link to show what you might be able to do and we will be in touch. These events can be bigger and better with more help!

Congratulations:

You may have spotted Miss Doxey with a larger smile than usual recently – this will be due to the fact she got engaged over the Easter holidays. (She may well have showed you the ring.....) I'm sure you all join the staff in sending her your congratulations!

Thank you – as ever – for you continued support

God bless

Mr Lobb



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