

Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs M Evans

Associate Headteacher: Mrs E Janvier



Friday 27th January 2023

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion preparation will begin in St. Joseph's Church in February. Baptised Catholic children in Y3 and above are eligible. The initial Family Meeting will be after 11:15 Mass on Sunday 26th February and forms can be picked up from church from this date. The date for First Holy Communion is Sunday 25th June 2023. All further details will be shared at the meeting. Preparation for First Holy Communion is done in the parish and we look forward to celebrating this very special occasion in school afterwards.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 30th January – Y4 to Wath Academy for Movement Evening Rehearsal (after lunch)

Monday 30th January – VEX club

Tuesday 31st January – Library Club Y1

Tuesday 31st January – Wath Academy Movement Evening – Y4 children to perform

Wednesday 1st February – Day of Industrial Action

Thursday 2nd February – Y5/6 Fitness

Thursday 2nd February – Mac the dog working with Y5

Friday 3rd February – Y2 Gymnastics

Friday 3rd February – Young Voices Concert: coach to leave school at 12

Friday 3rd February – Y5 to attend Wath Academy DT day (not children in Young Voices choir)

Friday 10th February – school closes for half term break

Friday 10th February – Dress to Express Day

Monday 20th February – school opens to all pupils



ST CLARE
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

St. Clare's CMAT update

Our formal request to join the St. Clare CMAT went to the Regional Board on December 13th but unfortunately the request has not yet been granted. Our school application was complete but the Regional Board required further information from the CMAT directors. This week we heard from the CMAT CEO that our school will not go to a Regional Board now until at least April 2023 so our earliest possible date to join would be September 2023. Please see the following message from Steve Davies, CEO.

You will remember that our application to join St Clare Multi Academy Trust went to the Regional Director's Advisory Board in December. The Advisory Board have to approve conversion to academy status before we can progress with the process to join the CMAT.

We and St Clare's trust were surprised and disappointed that the Advisory Board decided to defer the decision. We have now had further feedback from the Advisory Board that they would like to allow for a period of consolidation in the development of the new CMAT before approving further schools joining. They recognise the rapid way in which we are forming a large CMAT with our family of schools and want to ensure that there is sufficient time before the next step in growth to allow things to go as smoothly as possible for us and for all the schools already in the Trust.

While we are disappointed that we will have to wait a little bit longer to formally join St Clare's CMAT, we continue to work closely with them in building partnership and growing the CMAT that we want for our schools. We recognise that the additional time will be helpful in further embedding the new ways of working together that we are building, with the aim of making our transition into the CMAT as smooth as possible.

We don't have a definite timeline for when we can go back to the Advisory Board, but we do expect that to be later this academic year, so we expect the delay in joining the Trust to be just a few months. Once we have a confirmed date for the advisory board, we will be able to set a new target date for joining St Clare's CMAT and we will of course keep you updated.

Attendance

Congratulations to Y2 who have won the attendance bear for the third week this half term with an excellent 98% attendance! High attainment, confidence with peers, future aspirations and future careers depend on good attendance and punctuality!

Whole school attendance 95% Target 96% - well done everyone!

Industrial Action

As you aware the National Education Union (NEU) has announced national and regional strike action for teachers in England on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 1st February 2023**
- **Tuesday 28th Feb 2023**
- **Wednesday 15th March 2023**
- **Thursday 16th March 2023**

Teachers who are members of the NEU are not required to inform their schools if they are taking part in strike action beforehand. In theory, they could just be absent on the day, with no prior warning. This makes it extremely difficult to have an accurate picture of staffing levels for the day of industrial action.

Next Wednesday 1st February, school will be **closed to F1, Y4, Y5 and Y6 all day**. Currently, school will be open to F2 all day, **Y1 and Y2 for the morning session until 12:45**.

Any information about future days of Industrial Action will be shared as soon as possible.



Children's Mental Health Week

We all know how important good mental health is and we will be highlighting this with children through a range of activities, organised by our School Council. This year the theme is "Let's Connect" and parents and carers may want to use the link for further information.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

On Friday 10th February, School Council will be organising a Dress to Express day. Children will wear uniform but can express themselves further by choosing socks, hats, scarves, badges, headbands, hair accessories etc. Further details from the School Council will follow!

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

This takes place from the 27th-29th January. We will be taking part in the Big School Birdwatch but families can join in to participate. Use this link to find out more and claim your free information pack.
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/birdwatch-take-part/>

Jess Cup

Congratulations to this week's winner of the Jess Cup, Amy Smallwood! Well done!



Exploring Bullying Virtual Event

Mrs Foxley-Johnson, who regularly works with and advises school, will be running two virtual workshops for parents/carers on Tuesday 28th February. KS1 will be at 4pm and KS2 will be at 5pm. There will be some overlap between the sessions if you are unsure which one to join. The session will include identifying bullying behaviour and how to support your child if they experience or witness bullying. Please contact the office if you would like to attend and a zoom link will follow.