

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable half-term holiday. Tomorrow is All Saints' Day, and as mentioned before half-term, we would usually gather together to celebrate a whole-school Mass. Unfortunately, due to recommendations made during our recent fire risk-assessment audit, we are currently unable to hold whole-school Masses in the Sports Hall. We are looking into ways of managing this in both the short and long-term, including more class and Year Masses, as well as voluntary Masses, however we will not be offering Mass in school tomorrow. There will be no homework set, to allow families to attend their local parish Mass, so please check with your parish for Mass times.

On the Thursday before half-term we did gather together to welcome our new Year 7 pupils, with a Mass celebrated by Fr Chris. The theme was 'Christ has no body now on earth but yours', and each Form group prepared a different part of the liturgy. It was a really lovely occasion, and a fitting way to celebrate the new additions to our school family. Thank you to the RE Faculty, Mrs Doyle and the Year 7 pastoral team, as well as everyone else who helped to make the evening such a special occasion. Thank you to parents, family and friends who came along to celebrate with us. Unfortunately the PTA were unable to provide refreshments afterwards. As I have mentioned previously, the work of the PTA is highly valued by the school, but unfortunately, because of a lack of volunteers they are struggling to complete some of their traditional services, like providing tea and coffee at parents' evenings and other school events. If you would like to volunteer to help the PTA, even if you can't make the half-termly meetings, please do contact the school reception and your name and details will be passed on.

The Year 9 & 10 History trip to the Western Front, studying the battlefields of the First World War, will be leaving on Sunday, returning Wednesday, and we wish them the very best for what has always proven to be a very moving and inspirational experience. It is a particularly apt time of year to be going on such a trip, with Remembrance Day less than a fortnight away. Poppies are available from school reception.

Year 11 students have their December examinations starting during the week of 27th November. They will all be provided with a personalised Revision Plan for the weeks immediately prior to the exams, and these plans have proved most useful and popular with students and parents in previous years. However, all Year 11 pupils should already be revising for these exams in order to be as fully prepared as possible. Any opportunity to revise over-time will lead to improved results in the final GCSE examinations. Students will soon receive their mock exam timetable along with the plans. Please do contact Mrs Livesey at patricia.livesey@st-jamescatholic.stockport.sch.uk if you have any questions or concerns. I wrote to Year 11 parents at the end of last half-term to say how well the year group has started the term, and also to inform them about key events and dates coming up in their final year at St James'. I also informed them about the opportunity for silent revision, every Monday to Thursday, between 3.00 pm and 4.30 pm. Whilst this might be ideal for Year 11 students preparing for their exams, it is also open to students from all Year groups.

Next week, on Thursday 9th November, we are holding our annual Presentation Evening at Stockport Town Hall, and we hope to see as many of the Class of 2017 as possible return to receive their certificates, awards and huge congratulations for their tremendous successes. Could I also please remind Year 9 parents about the Apprenticeship evening on Thursday 16th November and Year 7 parents about the Parent / Tutor Evening on Thursday 23rd November - as there will be a presentation about the new reporting system at Key Stage 3, parents of Year 8 & 9 students are also invited to this evening. Further details will be sent out later this week.

Mrs Moss has now started her maternity and we wish her and her family well. Congratulations to Mr Murphy and his wife on the birth of Thomas and Mr Bulfin and his wife on the birth of Bonnie. We welcome Mrs Claire Hanley to St James' as our new Attendance Officer. Any issues relating to Attendance, please email Claire on claire.hanley@st-jamescatholic.stockport.sch.uk

This promises to be another busy, stimulating, and engaging few weeks. Thank you for your continued support, and as always, if you ever wish to contact me about these or any other issues, please do not hesitate to email me at headteacher@st-jamescatholic.stockport.sch.uk.

PRAYER

Father, you created each one of us in your own image.
Yet yours is a world made glorious by its rich diversity.
Sometimes we misunderstand this, sometimes we fear.

Give us the patience to build on what unites us,
to celebrate our differences and to learn from them.

Grant us the wisdom to recognise your Church,
beyond the walls of a building, reaching out across all
communities, countries and cultures.

Give us the courage to offer refuge to those in need,
to challenge prejudice and seek justice for all.

Help us see that you created us in your image,
neighbour or stranger, always our brother or sister.

Amen

ADVANCE NOTICE

Presentation Evening Stockport Town Hall - Thursday 9th
November 7pm

Year 9 Apprenticeships evening – Thursday 16th November

Year 7 Parent Tutor evening – Thursday 23rd November
4-7pm

Year 8 Parents evening – Thursday 30th November 4-7pm

KEY STAGE 3 DRAMA CLUB

Rehearsals are now beginning held for the Christmas Expressive Arts Evening - All pupils are welcome (speaking and non-speaking parts available)

Please come along to the Drama room on Wednesday 1st November 3p.m

Mrs Grainger – Drama Teacher

YEAR 9 CAREERS APPRENTICESHIP EVENING THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

This will give students the opportunity of gaining first-hand knowledge of Post 16 Career opportunities. The evening will be held in the main hall and be held from 6.30p.m - 7.15p.m. All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform.

Mrs Grainger - Teacher in Charge of Careers

PTA CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2017 7-9pm

If anyone would like a table at the above event we are not charging for a table just asking for a raffle prize and 10% of the takings. The PTA will be selling mince pies, mulled wine and non-alcoholic fruit punch. Please contact Sian Geddes for further information: 07900 911036 sian.geddes@j-a-s.co.uk or speak to Sue Kilburn on reception - *donations of mince pies and mulled wine would be very much appreciated.*

ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

On Wednesday 18th October, every form prayed a decade of the Rosary together during registration. This was part of a worldwide event organised by the charity, Aid to the Church in Need. It was a beautiful moment for us as a Catholic community to come together in a powerful Catholic tradition. The intentions for the Rosary were for peace around our world. Different forms had a different focus, with some thinking about Syria, others Nigeria – led by the research and preparations of their Spirituality Representatives.

As St Padre Pio said... "When a million children pray the Rosary, the world will change"

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Martin de Porres – 3rd November

St Martin was born in Lima, Peru in 1579, dying in 1639. His mother was a freed slave, and his father a Spanish nobleman. He was raised by his mother. As a result of his parentage, Martin was exposed to racism from an early age. He and his mother lived in poverty.

Martin was apprenticed to a barber, where he learnt not only to cut hair, but also to perform basic medical treatments. As he grew, he realised that he wanted to dedicate his life to God, so he joined the Dominicans. He felt called to serve God by caring for the lowly. Martin's days were spent caring for the sick and poor, and doing menial tasks in the monastery. It was important to Martin that everyone was treated equally, regardless of their race or social status. He was instrumental in the foundation of an orphanage for Lima's street orphans. Pope John XXIII canonised St Martin in 1962, in the middle of the civil rights movement in America. He is the patron saint of race relations and social justice. Pope John made it clear that Martin was a help to all, regardless of their race or background.

*Despite experiencing racism, Martin didn't become bitter, instead he used his experience to reach out and help others.
What negative experiences have you had that you can turn into a positive?*

1ST NOVEMBER – ALL SAINTS MASSES

The Masses for the Feast Day of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation are as follows:

St Peter's, Hazel Grove	12noon and 7.30pm
St Philips, Offerton	7pm
Our Lady & the Apostles, Shaw Heath	Vigil 7pm 31 st October, 12.15pm and 7.30pm
St Ann's, Cheadle Hulme	10am and 7.30pm
St Chad's, Cheadle	9.30am
Christ Church, Heald Green	Vigil 7.30pm 31 st October, 10am
St Ambrose, Adswold	9.30am
St Vincent's, Bramhall	7.30pm

YEAR 7 NEWS

Pictured below are Riley and Lochlan White from 7s at the ELF PR day at Hamleys in the Trafford centre – good luck and well done to both boys who will be undertaking the Role of Michael Hobbs in Elf the musical this Christmas!



E-SAFETY UPDATE

It has been brought to our attention that some pupils are still using social media accounts inappropriately. We would ask all parents to help and support the work we do in school around educating pupils about the importance of E-Safety by doing the following:

Check the privacy settings on any social media account your child has - these should be set to private

Look at their followers and who they are following and remove/block anything inappropriate

Talk to your child about accepting follower requests, no child needs hundreds of followers, the majority of whom they do not know

Follow your child on social media so you can see what they are posting, being tagged in and commenting on

Lead by example, make sure your personal accounts are private and you are posting responsibly

We would also ask you to watch the following clip which shows the consequences of online bullying from a parents perspective:

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/uk-news/cyberbullying-social-media-warning-parents-13751702>

Mrs Rarity and Mrs Mullen

YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

Before we finished for half term we celebrated our Welcome Mass and I was so proud of the pupils who took part in any way. Thank you to all those families who supported this event, I'm sure you agree that it was a lovely and prayerful occasion. The pupils were fantastic and had worked very hard to make the mass so special.

Mrs Doyle
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8 NEWS

A big thank you to all pupils who contributed tins and packets to our Harvest collection for the Chelwood food bank. They were greatly appreciated.

Heads of Year Ms Woods & Dr Nye



BOYS PE

Football Results

Year 7 beat Cheadle Hulme High School 2-1

Year 7 lost to Werneth 3-4

Year 9 beat Cheadle Hulme High School 6-3

Year 10 lost to Audenshaw Grammar on penalties

Year 11 lost to Cheadle Hulme High School 7-4

Year 8 and 9 Ultimate Dodgeball Tournament in aid of The British Heart Foundation – this week - Get as many sponsors as you can!

Cake Sale! Thursday 2nd November - Year 9 boys who are going to Madrid to provide cakes to sell at break time.

Mr Walker
Director of PE

GIRLS' PE EXTRA CURRICULAR INFORMATION

Week commencing Tuesday 31st October

Wednesday after school Year 9 11 a side SS Hockey
Tournament at Bramhall
return approx. 5.30pm

Year 7 & 8 Netball practice

Girls' PE

BOYS PE EXTRA CURRICULAR INFORMATION

Week commencing Tuesday 31st October 2017

Wednesday Year 7 5-a-side Tournament at Stockport
Sports meet 3pm return 6.15pm

Year 8 v St Monica's (Away) meet
1.15pm Return 4.15pm

Thursday Year 9 football cake sale at break

Friday Year 8 & 9 Badminton team practice finish
4.15pm

Boy's PE

YEAR 7 SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

On Wednesday 11th October, 8 of our Year 7 pupils took part in the Stockport Schools Indoor Athletics Transition event. 9 schools took part at Sports City, Manchester. Each secondary school were partnered with 2 of their feeder Primary schools, we had St Peters and St Winifred's, 8 from each school making up a team of 24. All pupils had to do a track and field event culminating in a whole team relay. All pupils worked to the best of their ability, supporting each other throughout the day, we finished a very respectful 4th.

Well done to: *Dominic Jones, Max Beswick, Jacob Orton, Ashton Bethell, Molly Welham, Mia Nangah, Bernadette Lynsdale, Louise Lawler Smith*

Mrs Booth
Girls' PE



GIRLS' PE

Last half term saw several pupils announced as a Sports Captain for either a netball or football team. Each captain has been given a badge to wear on their blazers. We would like to congratulate all the captains on this achievement and thank them for their commitment and dedication given to their teams. Well done to the Year 10 Netball Team who reached the semi-final of the Stockport School's Netball Tournament. We have had a huge turn out for netball and football practices this term particularly in Key Stage 3. We would like to remind you that all pupils are welcome to practices at any point in the year. Finally, thank you all to the girls who have represented the school in a sport this year. We have had almost 100 girls represent the school so far!!!

Miss Molyneux
Teacher of Girls' PE

Our Year 10 netball team had a successful night the Thursday before half term making it all the way to the semi-finals in the Stockport Schools Netball Tournament. They fought hard throughout the competition only to be knocked out by Cheadle Hulme School in the semi-finals. Congratulations to all the girls who took part.

Mrs Booth
Teacher of Girls' PE

