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10th February 2022

Dear Families

On behalf of the staff, I really wanted to thank and praise all our fantastic children who have worked hard, played hard and prayed hard this half term. Their attitude towards their learning is absolutely brilliant. We really do have the most talented and happy children which has been shown today in our 'Super Me' day organised by the PTA which has raised valuable funds for our school. Your child has also brought home a smartie tube which we would be very grateful if it could be filled with pennies and returned to school.

Catholic Life

This week's word of the week has been 'healing' which we have focused upon as part of Children's Mental Health week.

Our Y2 pupils started our week off with a collective worship focus on the word of the week and our Chaplaincy Team extended our Biblical knowledge of healing with the story of Jesus healing Jairus' daughter in their Wednesday mission. We have also celebrated the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes** with children Y2 upwards attending an online Mass with the bishop, while the younger children made and prayed with healing hands.

The feast of 'Our Lady of Lourdes' is when our lady appeared to St Bernadette, she called people to her to bathe in the water, to repent and find healing. Today, millions of people visit Lourdes looking for the same peace and healing in their lives. There have been many miraculous healings in Lourdes over the years and we too can look for healing in our lives through faith. That healing is not always physical, sometimes it can be mental or emotional too and as we celebrate this beautiful feast let us think about the things that we need healing and how we can bring healing to others. .

When we return from half term, **Wednesday 23rd February is Ash Wednesday** and the beginning of Lent. We will be having a school-based Ash Wednesday liturgy where ashes will be brought to school after being blessed during Mass at All Saints' Catholic Academy, our secondary school.

First Holy Communion Programme

After speaking with Fr. John Kyne, I am delighted to share with you the arrangements for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the First Holy Communion programme. If you would like to register your interest in your child completing their First Holy Communion this year please complete the form via the link by Monday 21ST February <https://forms.office.com/r/Y13SfUey7y> .

The sessions will be led by school parish catechists at St Patrick's Church before the 11 O clock Mass at 10.20am on the following Sundays:

Sunday 27th February

Sunday 20th March

Sunday 27th March

Sunday 24th April

Sunday 15th May

Sunday 6th June

Sunday 26th June

Sunday 24th April- Sacrament of Reconciliation after 11 o clock Mass.

Saturday 2nd July- First Holy Communion @ 11am.

If you are interested in being a catechist for the programme, you are warmly encouraged to speak to Mrs Lund or myself for further detail.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday we took part in Safer Internet Day 2022 within the theme of **'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'**. For 2022, the day celebrated young people's role in creating a safer internet and the ways they are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. The platforms young people use are spaces for connection, community and collaboration, which is why the Day challenges them to foster supportive relationships and respectful communities, whilst equipping them with the skills they need to keep themselves and others safe in these spaces.

There are some emerging safety issues in these spaces, as well as issues young people have been navigating for some time; particularly the lack of respect individuals display towards each other, groups 'ganging up' against other groups, and the sense that it is easy to 'get away' with negative behaviour such as meanness, bullying and swearing. The story, 'Little Bird's Bad Word' was used last week with our younger children, when we looked at word choices during our 'Care don't Swear' week, can be shared at home via:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTgVQktfpwQ>

All classes in school took part in Safer Internet Day activities. This provided pupils with valuable information and practical ideas about how they can stay safe when using technology. The day was launched with age-appropriate assemblies led by Mr. Kitchinson and Mrs. Lund and the children have continued learning in this week's RSHE lessons. Details and links were sent out by Mr Kitchinson's Parentmail message, so please take time to revisit these resources and updates with your children and update your own knowledge on any new



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safety measures you can add to your devices. For example, in KS1, children learned more about messaging and ways to prevent in-app purchases, even on free games and in KS2, appropriate messaging and ways to report and respond appropriately were covered.

As part of our commitment to support families in keeping safe online, we are able to give all parents the opportunity to access the safer schools app. **The Safer Schools App** is your school's digital safeguarding communication and training toolkit. It has been designed by safeguarding professionals to help make your entire school community safer online. Our online contextual safeguarding information is tailored to specific roles providing your school with access to contemporary, credible and relevant content. Our Safer School's App will help you educate, empower and protect your entire school community. Scan the QR code to download the Safer Schools App for your device! Alternatively download straight from the App Store or Google Play by searching 'Safer Schools'.



Login to the app

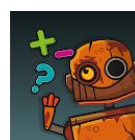
1. Select Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust from the dropdown menu and click **'continue'**.
2. Enter the **four digit entry code** 7440
3. Alternatively the user can scan the QR entry code for their role (table below) by clicking the **'Scan QR code'** button on the app login screen, which will automatically log the user in.

By teaching children a safe way to use the internet, we are enabling them to use it to its best abilities. Below are some apps which the children could use to support their learning:

- White Rose 1 minute Maths app



- Numbots and Times Tables Rock Stars



In this world of social media, it is more important than ever that we have a close home-school partnership and we ask for your support in educating and guiding your child to be responsible and safe in their usage of the internet. Please do spend time with your child reading the attached Esafety leaflet. Please feel most welcome to contact Mr Kitchinson should you wish to discuss any aspect of this topic. We are also holding a **Safety internet workshop on Thursday 24th February between 4.15-4.30pm via Teams for all.**

Schools multi skills event

This week Miss Bingley and Miss Whelan took some of our y3/4 pupils to a multi skills event at Manor Academy. The pupils involved showed their great team sports skills and came 2nd overall. A big well done to all those pupils involved and thanks to the staff for enabling this event to happen. Coming up over the next half term we have:

- Tuesday 1st March– Yr 5/6 Striking and Fielding (Girls only)
- Tuesday 15th March – Yr 5/6 Tag Rugby
- Tuesday 22nd March – Yr 3/4 Tag Rugby
- Wednesday 30th March – Yr 3/4 Dance Festival

Please keep a look out for the parentmail to sign up for these events.

Staffing News:

Sports Teaching Assistant Apprentice

As part of our commitment to sports and well-being, we have welcomed our new Sports teaching assistant apprentice Miss Hannah Francis who will be working alongside all the classes during their PE and well-being sessions and running lunchtime and after school sports.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Mrs Gregory back into Y1 after half term following her maternity leave.

PE days for the second half of next term are as follows:

Monday	Y3
Tuesday	Y2
Wednesday	Y1 and F2
Thursday	Y4 and Y5
Friday	Y6

After school clubs:

Please use the form on Parent mail to book.

Day	Activity	Year groups	Payment
Monday	Art and Craft	Y1-Y6	6 weeks £3 per week £18 in total
Monday	Dance	Y1-Y6	6 weeks £3 per week £18 in total
Tuesday	Mansfield Town Football	Y2-Y6	Previous payment was for the whole term
Tuesday	Ball games	Y1-Y6	6 weeks £3 per week £18 in total
Thursday	Reading and writing	Y1-Y6	6 weeks £3 per week £18 in total
Thursday	ICT	Y1-Y6	6 weeks £3 per week £18 in total

Choir is open for all children from Y1 upwards and takes place during Thursday lunchtime.

Swimming

This year we have made the decision to prioritise first of all the classes which have missed out due to the restrictions which have been in place. With this in mind, our Y5 children will begin their 8 week block of swimming on Monday 28th February and the Y4 block of swimming will then follow. The Y5 families will receive a parent mail which will give further information.

School closes for INSET on Friday 11th February and reopens on Monday 21st February.

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing half term break.

In partnership and prayer,

Mrs JL Smedley
Head teacher
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Mansfield

