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Friday 10th January 2025

Dear parents and carers.

In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast – the Baptism of the Lord. The new year presents an opportunity to remember, or to discover, the blessings received at Baptism. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus begins his mission to the world when the Holy Spirit comes down upon him – the same Spirit we receive through Baptism and Confirmation.

Pope Francis reminds us that, "Faith is a gift which we receive in Baptism and which allows us to encounter God." Jesus came for everyone: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life.

Jubilee Year 2025

Pope Francis has given the 2025 Jubilee Year the theme of Pilgrims of Hope. This information is from the CAFOD website.

What is a Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited us to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

We will be celebrating the Jubilee year in many different ways in school and across the CMAT. One of our main actions is to create our Jubilee chapel in school.

Prayer for Peace in the Middle East.

Lord, we pray to you for the Holy Land, for the people of Israel and Palestine who are under the grip of unprecedented violence, for the victims, especially the children, for the wounded, for those held hostage, for the missing and their families.

Amen

A very short newsletter this week.

I would like to wish you and your families a very happy new year. This week we were delighted to welcome a group of trainee teachers from the Leicestershire and Rutland Teaching School Hub with

the Director of the initial teacher trainee course Cat Clark. All our visitors commented on how polite and welcoming the children were and how well they behave. They also said how “switched on” the children were in class and how keen they were to talk about their learning. As always, I am immensely proud of our wonderful children.

2025 applications.

The application process for children starting primary school 2025 closes this week.

- Remember that there is the requirement to complete an online application (and that places are not automatic.)

For parents of children starting primary school in 2025, we are still able to show visitors around our wonderful school. If you know someone who may be interested in this, please ask them to get in touch with Mrs Kennedy.

Attendance.

Our attendance so far this year is **95.6%**. This currently places us in the top 25% of schools nationally. Our aim is for attendance to be **96%**.

Please note the half termly attendance statistic for your child will be sent out next week.

Science week: 10th – 15th March 2025.

Beginning on Monday 10th March 2025, we are going to be taking part in British Science Week. We are going to spend time carrying out fun activities linked to earth science, biology, physics and chemistry. FOBE have funded a planetarium to visit the school for all children to enjoy and we have been offered a range of experiences by Radcliffe College and DeLisle College. To show the children the importance of science in society, we would like to invite visitors in to school to speak to the children on Friday 14th March 2025. These visitors can be parents, family members or family friends. We are looking for any jobs that have a link to science- vet, doctor, surgeon, nurse, personal trainer, paramedic, electrician, science teacher, lecturer, baker, plumber, builder etc. We would like to invite visitors into the hall where we will set up a jobs fair with tables and chairs where the children can move around and ask questions. If you can come to school for the morning (9.30-11.15) or afternoon (1.30-2.45) on Friday 14th March, we would love to hear from you. You don't need to prepare anything but if you have any items or photographs to help the children. If you can give up some of your time, then please contact the school office to let them know who you are, what your job role is, contact details and which session you are able to attend. We hope that this will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to see how science can be such a huge part of our lives and hopefully inspire them to learn about jobs that they may have never considered.

Mrs Franklin (science coordinator)

Diary Dates

January

Monday 6th	8:45 Lent term begins. 2:45 Celebration of the Word- Epiphany.
Tuesday 14 th	2:30 Celebration of the Word- Pilgrims of Hope
Friday 24 th	Non Uniform Day- St Thomas Aquinas CMAT hardship fund.
Tuesday 28 th	St Thomas Aquinas CMAT feast day celebrations.

February

Monday 3 rd	Mental Health week.
Monday 10 th	Random Acts of Kindness Week.
Tuesday 11 th	Parents Evening
Wednesday 12 th	Parents Evening
Friday 14 th	3:30 Half term
Monday 24 th	8:45 Return to School

March

Wednesday 5 th	9:30 Ash Wednesday Mass- Whole School
Tuesday 18 th	9:30 Reconciliation Service

April

Tuesday 1 st April	9:30 Mothers' Day Mass- led by years 1 and 2.
Friday 11 th April	9:30 Way of the Cross. 3:15 End of Lent term.
Monday 28 th April	8:45 Start of Pentecost Term

May

Monday 5 th	Bank Holiday. School Closed
Monday 12 th	Y6 SATS week
Friday 23 rd	3:30 Half term

June

Monday 2 nd	8:45 Return to School Year 4 Multiplication Check
Monday 9 th	KS1 Phonics 2:45 Celebration of the Word- Pentecost
Tuesday 24 th	9:30 Celebration of 1 st Communion Mass. Years 3 and 4
Monday 30 th	2:45 Celebration of the Word. Feast of SS Peter and Paul.

July

Monday 7 th	9:30 Bishop Ellis Founder's Day and y6 Leavers Mass Whole School.
Friday 11 th	3:15 End of Pentecost term.

God bless

Mr Monaghan

