



Friday, 8th November 2024

News Bite

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now well into the second half of the Autumn term, and it has been a busy but exciting time for our children! They are working hard, and it's fantastic to see the progress they're making across all subjects. From the look of their books, it's clear they are deeply engaged in their learning. Equally, their behaviour has been exceptional, and we continue to be so proud of them.



Year 6 have been immersing themselves in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, exploring this classic tale of love and tragedy. Their passion for drama and performance is growing, and it's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for literature.

Year 2 had a very special visit from Goldilocks and the Three Bears! The children enjoyed this hands-on experience, bringing their learning to life and sparking their imaginations.

Celebrating Diwali - Our children embraced the beauty and traditions of the Diwali festival, taking part in activities to learn about its significance and culture. It's always a joy to see our students engaged in celebrating diversity.

Forest School - We are thrilled to have started our Forest School journey this term. The children are enjoying their outdoor learning experiences, where they can connect with nature, develop new skills, and work together as a team.



A special thank you to **Father David** for leading a beautiful All Saints' Day Mass this week, which was a truly meaningful way to mark this important occasion in our liturgical calendar.



We are also excited to see our **Mini Vinnies** starting their work with the St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) team at St. Joseph's Church. This initiative will help our children deepen their understanding of charity and service to others in the community.

PE and Sports News - Our children in **KS2** are learning the exciting sport of cricket, while **Year 5** are mastering the art of badminton. In addition, **table tennis** has been introduced at lunchtime and has already proven to be a big hit with the children.

After School Clubs - I have had the pleasure of chatting with many children this week, and they are absolutely enjoying the new after-school clubs offered by our teachers. These activities are a wonderful way for our students to explore their interests and develop new skills outside of the classroom. A huge thank you to our teachers for their creativity and dedication in offering such a wide range of activities.

As we move into the busy lead-up to Christmas, please keep an eye on the **diary dates** for upcoming events, some of which we hope you will be able to join us for.

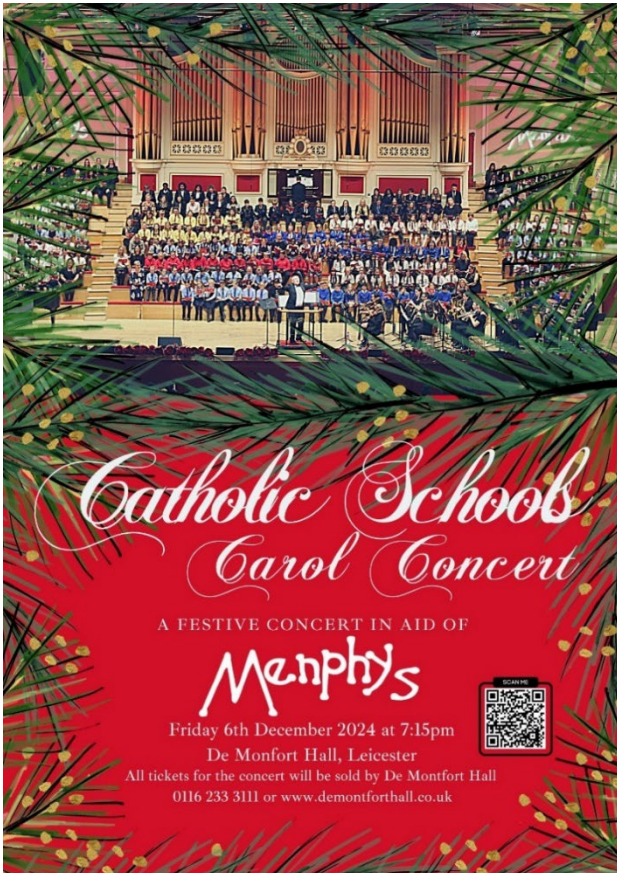
As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We value your partnership in supporting your child's learning and development.

With warm regards, Mrs Dedman

Menphys Carol Concert – Tickets are now on sale

Use this link below to purchase your ticket for the event.

[Catholic Schools Carol Concert In Support Of Menphys - De Montfort Hall](#)



Staying Safe Walking to school

What Age Can a Child Walk to School Alone?

Years ago, it wasn't uncommon to see kids walking to school. However, nowadays people are far more wary about children walking to school alone. This is because there is far more traffic and the media convinces us there is an increase in danger.

If you're wondering if your child is ready and what age a child can walk to school alone, check out this simple guide on how to prepare your child for walking to and from school.

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/walking-to-school-alone/>



If you do wish for your child to walk home from school independently, please write an email / pop into the office to let us know.

Holiday Activities and Food programme or HAF is gives eligible children the opportunity to access



free activities and food over the Easter, summer and winter school holidays.

Activity programme

normally take place over 4 hours a day for 4 days. However, some of the HAF providers offer flexible programmes that may run for longer hours over less days, or shorter hours over more days. Each eligible child will also be given a nutritious and healthy lunch on each programme day that they attend. The HAF programme is funded by the Department for Education.

Who is this for?

Our HAF programme is only available to children and young people who meet all of the following criteria:

live in Leicester city, or live outside of the city but attend a city school

are aged between 4 to 16 and in full-time education

are [receiving benefits related free school meals](#)

[Winter HAF 2024 | LCC Family Hub](#)

Attendance

Your legal responsibilities as a parent

By law, all children of school age (aged four to sixteen) must receive a suitable full-time education. For most parents, this means registering your child at a school or you may choose to make other arrangements to provide a suitable, full-time education.

Attendance has dipped but Persistent Absence has improved compared to National Data.

Class	Class Attendance Average 20.09.24	Class Attendance Average Year to date 04.10.24	Class Attendance Average Year to date 18.10.24	Class Attendance Average Year to Date 07.11.24	Attendance National Average year to date	Persistent Absence 20.09.24	Persistent Absence 04.10.24	Persistent Absence 18.10.24	Persistent Absence 07.11.24	National Persistent Absence
Mrs Bailey FS1	98.0%	97.0%	96.4%	97.2%						
Mrs Bailey FS2	95.5%	95.4%	96.2%	95.8%						
Mrs Abel	100%	97.9%	94.6%	94.9%		0%	9.5%	28.6%	20.0%	
Mr Crewe	98.5%	97.2%	96.5%	96.4%		0%	3.3%	6.7%	6.7%	
Mrs Spencer	98.4	96.8%	94.9%	95.0%		6.5%	9.7%	22.6%	22.6%	
Mr Challoner	97.1%	96.9%	95.8%	96.0%		8.8%	8.8%	11.8%	11.8%	
Mrs Darby	99.1%	97.7	97.3%	97.0%		3.1%	9.4%	9.4%	6.5%	
Mrs Stack / Mrs Franklin	96.4%	94.8%	92.1%	93.3%		10.0%	12.8%	33.3%	22.2%	
Mrs Murray		98%	97.6%	97.0%				9.5%	9.5%	
Whole School (This year so far)	95.9%	96.7%	95.8%	94.3%	95.3%	5.3%	9.1%	16.0%	13.4%	15.2%

Good attendance means...

Being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days



Don't Forget that we can administer Medicines at school if your children are well enough to attend managed by Calpol - We are approaching the winter season, but we need to keep your children in school as much as possible.

Attendance Matters

If you wish for us to administer medicine, please contact the school office and complete the required form.

Dates for the Diary

11 th November 2024	2.30pm	Year 6 Mrs Stack's Class Remembrance Day Liturgy	Year 6 Parents/carers/ grandparents
13 th November	All Day	Wear ODD SOCKS for Anti Bullying week	
14 th November	3.15pm	Bake Sale in the Hall for Children in Need - Donations welcomed	
15 th November	All Day	Come as your superhero/ wear something spotty for Children in Need	£1 donations for wearing non-uniform. Money raised will be donated to Children in Need.
15 th November 2024	12 noon	Year 1 Parents/ Carers/ Grandparent to come and have lunch	One adult per child to come and sit and eat lunch Pre Book through the Arbor App
18 th November 2024	2.30pm	Eco Team to lead whole school liturgy	Eco Team Parents/Carers/ Grandparents
29 th November 2024	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY TRAINING FOR TEACHERS		
2 nd December 2024	2pm	Advent Mass	All Welcome
4 th December 2024	9am	Foundation Stage Nativity	Foundation Stage Parents/Carers/ Grandparents
4 th December 2024	5-6pm 6.15-7.15pm	Winter Disco	FS/KS1 Parents Welcome KS2 No Parents
6 th December	Evening at De Montfort Hall	Menphys Carol Concert	Please book tickets for this event online (See Poster Above)
7 th December 2024	11am - 2 p.m.	Christmas Craft Fair	All Welcome
13 th December 2024	9am	KS1 Nativity	Year 1 and Year 2 Parents/Carers/ Grandparents
16 th December 2024	2pm	Year 6 Christmas Liturgy and Carols	All Welcome
Christmas Holiday Saturday, 21 st December 2024 - Monday, 6 th January 2025			



St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy
WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE WE LOVE, LEARN, RESPECT AND FORGIVE

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