



WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

This term, children in Year 3 and 4 will take part in Forest School sessions with Mrs Harrison, Mrs Nicholson and Mr Jessop. The children will go outside in all weathers so it is essential children wear suitable clothes as they may get wet and muddy. They need a hat, scarf, pair of gloves and bring wellies to wear. Also, this term, children in year 5 have started their swimming lessons so need to bring their swimming kit each Wednesday.

On Tuesday night, we have a selection of children from year 5 and 6 representing our school with competing in an athletics tournament. They will return to school for 6pm so please ensure you are prompt in collecting them.

Year 3 and 4 have started their choir sessions again with Mr Treloar and we look forward to listening to what they learn during the season of Ordinary Time and later on Lent. Year 4 will enjoy a retreat afternoon on Thursday led by our Chaplain Joe.

Our House Captains have done a wonderful job of organising our Talent Show. We look forward to our final on Friday afternoon. Congratulations to all those children who took part.

Please make a note of our remaining two INSET days this academic year. The first one is on Friday 10th February when staff from all the schools within Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust will come together. The final one is Friday 30th June. School will be closed for all children on both of these days.

As always, follow us on Twitter [@elseacademy](https://twitter.com/elseacademy) for the latest news and photos

INCREASE IN COST OF SCHOOL MEALS FROM 30TH JANUARY

Last week you received a letter informing you of Aspen's intention to increase the cost of school meals. As from the Monday 30th January 2023 the new cost per day will be £2.45.

This increase will not effect those on universal free school meals (reception, Year 1 and Year 2) and those that are entitled to free school meals and is not available to those in Nursery (AM, PM and 30 Hours). If you like to pay weekly this will now be £12.25 per week, £49.00 every 4 weeks.

YEAR 6 VISIT THE BRIARS 22ND – 24TH MARCH

Year 6 head to the Briars again in March. On route, we will be visiting Conkers, which has 120 acres of indoor and outdoor adventure. Please pay £20 deposit by Friday 20th January and any outstanding balance by Monday 20th March. Payments can be made at any time online on Arbor or by popping in to the school office. We ask you do not send your child in to the office with cash as we would like to issue you with a receipt due to the larger than usual amount. If you have any concerns/difficulty paying, please make an appointment to come and see me.

WORD OF THE WEEK: CHALLENGE



How often do we accept the challenges from God and follow Jesus? As Christians, we face many challenges along our faith journey and we can look to the inner strength that is given to us by God so that we are able to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Think this week about the challenges you face and who you can ask for help?

Daily Breakfast Club 7:45-8:45	EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	
Monday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Futsal (Year 4, 5 and 6)	3:15 - 4:30
Tuesday Breakfast Club	Music Tuition TB Sport: Handball (Year 1,2 and 3)	All day 3:15 - 4:30
Wednesday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Futsal (Year 1,2 and 3)	3:15 - 4:30
Thursday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Handball (Year 4, 5 and 6)	3:15 - 4:30
Friday Breakfast Club	No afterschool provision	

ATTENDANCE SHOUT OUTS!!

Our Education Welfare Officer, Mrs Bradshaw, monitors attendance daily and continues to make home visits to support parents to ensure their child attends school regularly and on time. **Not a brilliant week last week for attendance last week. There has been a sickness bug doing the rounds in school. The top three classes last week were Year 6, Year 2 Year 4 with 98%! Well done to those year groups! Please encourage your children to wash their hands regularly to keep those bugs at bay. Thank you**

School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



Week beginning:	School Event	Assemblies/Services	After School
02.01.23		06.01.23 Mass to celebrate Feast of Epiphany	
09.01.23	12.01.23 Year 6 Retreat afternoon - Discipleship	09.01.23 Word of the Week Assembly - Discipleship 10.01.23 Celebration Assembly	EXTENDED SERVICES CLUBS BEGIN
16.01.23	19.01.23 Year 5 Retreat afternoon - Discipleship 20.01.23 Feast of Blessed Cyprian Tansi	16.01.23 Word of the Week Assembly - Inspire 20.01.23 Talent Show Auditions	
23.01.23	26.01.23 Year 4 Retreat afternoon - Discipleship	23.01.23 Word of the Week Assembly - Challenge 27.01.23: Talent Show Final	
30.01.23	02.02.23 Year 3 Retreat afternoon - Discipleship	30.01.23 Word of the Week Assembly - Care 03.02.23: Celebration Assembly	
06.02.23	07.02.23 Safer Internet Day 10.02.23 INSET Day	06.02.23 Word of the Week Assembly - Healing 07.02.23 Safer Internet Day Assembly 08.02.23 Achiever of the Half Term Assembly	
13.02.23	HALF TERM		
20.02.23	23.02.23 Year 2 Retreat afternoon - Discipleship	20.02.23 Word of the Week Assembly – Forgiveness 22.02.23: Ash Wednesday Mass in school 9:15am 24.02.23: Celebration Assembly	
27.02.23	01.03.23 World Book Day Dance Workshop 03.03.23 World Book Day	28.02.22 Word of the Week Assembly - Prayer	
06.03.23		06.03.23 Word of the Week Assembly - Fasting 06.03.23 Lent Reconciliation Service Year 4- 6 10.03.23 Celebration Assembly	08.03.23 Parents Evening 1:15-6:30pm
13.03.23	13.03.23 British Science Week	13.03.23 Word of the Week Assembly – Almsgiving 17.03.23 Celebration Assembly	
20.03.23	20.03.23 Assessment Week 23.03.23 Year 1 Retreat afternoon 24.03.23 World Maths Day	20.03.23 Word of the Week Assembly - Sacrifice	22.03.23 – 24.03.23 Briars Residential Year 6
27.03.23		27.03.23 Word of the Week Assembly – Journey 31.03.23 Achiever of the Half Term Assembly	

PUPIL VOICE

On Friday 20th January, we celebrated the feast day of Blessed Cyprian Tansi with a house Mass in church .We chose to name one of our houses Cyprian Tansi because he was born in Africa and moved to England. We have lots of children in school whose families share African traditions. We believe it is important to celebrate the diversity of our school and the different countries and cultures that make up our school. We can use Cyprian Tansi’s skills of courage, faith, bravery, kindness and respect by working as a team, sharing our knowledge and helping.



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Guided by Jesus in all that we do. Together, we are one school, one community, one world.



PARISH NOTICES:

Message from Fr Joe: last October, I was part of an Occupational Health Assessment trial organised by the Diocesan Clergy Health and Well-Being Coordinator. This mental and physical health assessment was very thorough and the doctor I saw was very concerned about various results. She described me as 'the poster boy for burn-out' and signed me off work for two weeks. After taking those two weeks off in October, it has become clear that I am no longer able to sustain my work and ministry in the parish, and as Vicar General, without taking measures to recover and safeguard my health. As a result, I have resigned my post of Vicar General and will cease this responsibility at Easter. Also, from Easter until the end of July, I will be on sabbatical leave, taking a break from ministry, having served for 20 years in various places, and the last 5 years combining parish duties with the role of Vicar General. Part of this 3 ½ months break will be spent away, on retreat and a sabbatical training course, and for the rest of the time, I will remain resident in the presbytery at Sacred Heart, but will not be playing any part in parish life. The Pastoral Team will take full responsibility for the running of the parish and are well able to do so. Thank you to all who have expressed concern for my well-being and between now and Easter, I will concentrate on handing over my work as Vicar General to my successor, getting through to Easter in the parish, and then taking the time I need to recover my energy for future ministry.

From the Pastoral Team and Parish Pastoral Council: What does this mean for the parish? From Easter we will only have one full-time priest in the parish, Fr Philip, and Fr Marcus able to help out as his health permits. We will now begin looking at how the routine of the parish will need to change. Several things will need to be thought through:

- Each priest is only permitted to say 3 Sunday obligation Masses each weekend. At the moment, we have 6 across the parish.
- Each priest is entitled to a day off each week, so there will be one day in the week on which Mass is not celebrated, nor will it be possible to have requiem Masses on that day.
- Holy days, school Masses, First Holy Communion Masses the pattern of these celebrations will also need to change.
- People in the parish will need to take more responsibility for working with Fr Philip, Diane Williams our Community Coordinator and the whole Pastoral Team. This might include leading prayer and liturgy for various occasions, managing our buildings
- The plans for the immediate future will not include the closure of any of our three churches.

How will we do this? We are well placed in Holy Family Parish to adapt to changing circumstances. We already have in place several things that will help

- A strong Pastoral Team who meet fortnightly and coordinate the day-to-day operation of the parish
- Very capable Parish Council and Finance Committee who oversee the strategic direction of the parish
- A full-time Community Coordinator in Diane Williams who is vastly experienced in the running of a parish
- A part-time Adult Formation Coordinator in Pauline Baptist who very skilfully supports catechists and organises different opportunities for us to grow in faith.
- In Frs Philip, Marcus and Deacon Anthony we have a lot of experience in parish ministry.
- A very large army of volunteers who give their time and talents in various ways. Over the next few weeks, the Parish Council will take us through the changes that are necessary. There will need to be some difficult choices and decisions, and, in many ways, any choice will mean some people lose out ---- routines will change, long-held practices will no longer be possible. All that is asked is an openness to consider other people as well as ourselves, a generosity of heart and to avoid this becoming a divisive moment in the parish. Any family faces challenges and change – including the Holy Family – and it will be a measure of us if we are able to work together as a parish community.

The bigger picture This changing scene is part of a wider story across the diocese and country. In summer 2022, ten parish priests retired or left ministry in our diocese and that number is likely to be repeated in 2023. We largely have the same number of churches etc that we had 30 – 40 years ago but with about half the number of priests to work in them. The diocese has reduced the number of parishes by merging existing parishes and a few churches are now earmarked for closure but a more fundamental shift is needed to allow the remaining parishes and churches still to function and grow. This will include a focus on lay people leading parishes and priests being part of a team serving a wide area, a renewed focus on the importance of schools, fewer Masses being offered as part of the parish routine Our Church is changing and Pope Francis is trying to lead the church to be less dependent on priests and more open to the world around us. We are part of this movement and change.

This week:

- Community Café (Warm space): Thursday at 12 noon
- Warm space at Our Lady & St Edward's Café: Wednesday 12 noon
- Warm Space at St Augustine's Community Centre: Monday, 12
- Meditation Group: Thursday by zoom 7.30 pm Thursday <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/517630879?pwd=UysvOEIKSTBkVHINM WtMRDdkMEpUzZ09>
Meeting ID: 517630879 Passcode: 6em01w
- Scripture Group: this Thursday 2 pm in the St Joseph Convent • Exploring Catholic Faith Course – 26th January
- PPC Meeting 23rd January – please note change in date

Wednesday Word: this week's link for children: <https://www.paperturnview.com/uk/wednesday-word/community?pid=MTA101634&v=81.4>

Fr Joe is away 26th Jan – 2 nd Feb on his post-Christmas break.

Thank you to our parish musicians. Singing together in prayer and praise really enhances our celebrations, so thank you to the talented parishioners who lead us in music by playing instruments and singing Without it, our Masses would be much less vibrant and enjoyable.

Baptism preparation: coming up on 1st February (Sacred Heart) and 8th February (Our Lady & St Edwards's) at 7 pm. Please take a form from the back of church, complete it and hand it back into the office or Sacristy. Attendance at the two preparation sessions is necessary before the baptism can be scheduled.



OLSE'S GOT TALENT 2023

Our House Captains were very proud of the wonderful array of talent which was on show on Friday afternoon at our Talent Show auditions. There was singing, magic, instruments, jokes and lots more to admire.

Each house voted for their favourite act from EYFS/Key Stage 1 and their favourite from Key Stage 2.

Congratulations to:

Lena, Serghel, Nadal and Tyler

Lisa and Hollie-Mae

Roman and Darragh

Patrick and Darren.

House Captains were each able to choose a wild card to go through but after much deliberation this was extremely difficult to only choose 1 so congratulations to:

Congratulations to:

Nuala and Amelia

Melva and Timmi

Emmanuel and Favour

Gabi and Seth and Jeremiah

The final will take place on Friday 27th January beginning at 1:30pm. If your child is in the final you are welcome to join us. We have some very famous faces from our community joining us to judge the event!

Thank you,

Bethlehem, Thomas, Emilia, Victor Horeyb, Osinachi,

Debbie and Emily

OLSE House Captains



MASS TIMES & LITURGICAL CALENDAR

ALL MASSES IN BOLD ARE LIVE STREAMED

Monday 23rd January	9am (SH)	MASS Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 24th January St Francis de Sales	10am (SA) 12:30 (OLSE)	MASS Kitty Lyons (99th birthday) Funeral service for Ignatius Jordan RIP
Wednesday 25th January Conversion of St Paul	9am (OLSE)	MASS Forgotten Souls RIP
Thursday 26th January Ss Timothy and Titus	10am (SA) 11:30 (OLSE)	MASS Akeem Bakare RIP Funeral for Rosalynn Anne McCue-Smith RIP
Friday 27th January	9am (OLSE) 10:15 (SH)	MASS Margaret Fenton – recovery Requiem Mass for Antonio Sarrichio RIP
Saturday 28th January	6:30pm (SH)	VIGIL MASS Eddie & Rita Duggan RIP
Sunday 29th January Fourth Sunday of the Year	8:45 (St C) 9:30am(OLSE) 10.00am (SH) 11.00am (SA) 11:30am (OLSE)	MASS Mary Walsh RIP (anniv) People of the parish Mary Bates RIP Fr Bernard O'Connor RIP Eugene Murphy

INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Following on from a letter last week you are now aware that members of the National Education Union (NEU) have voted for strike action. Other teaching unions (NASWT and NAHT) did not receive the required number of ballot papers and so will not be striking at this point. The NEU has identified six days of strike, four of which will affect our schools. These are:

- **Wednesday 1 February 2023**
- **Wednesday 1 March 2023**
- **Wednesday 15 March 2023**
- **Thursday 16 March 2023**

We are currently in the process of creating a plan for these days, which will hopefully minimize the disruption to learning. However, I would urge you to arrange childcare provision for your child(ren) in case they are not able to come to school. It may also be necessary to operate a different timetable for those pupils who are in school.

We will contact you with further confirmed details as and when we have them.

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