



11th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 14 Headteacher Update

As we approach the conclusion of the term, our school is buzzing with various events and celebrations. This week, several of our children are participating in a concert rehearsal day in preparation for their performance on the evening of Tuesday, December 19th, at 6pm. Additionally, we are honoured to have Fr Mark joining us for our lunchtime Mass on Wednesday. Our Year 11 and 10 children will be engaged in Advent services on Thursday of this week, led by Fr Peter. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our priests for generously dedicating their time to celebrate and express gratitude with our children. Looking ahead, the rest of the Year groups will have their Advent services during the week beginning December 18th. Finally, on Friday, we eagerly anticipate our Local Parishioners Party, a delightful event led by our children who embody our school value of Family.

Yesterday, the second Sunday of Advent, the anticipation and spirit of preparation intensified as we continue our journey toward Christmas. This special time, marked by the lighting of the second candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizes the theme of peace. Our children in their dynamic and formative years, can find resonance in the idea of seeking peace amid the busyness of academic life. The Advent season serves as a poignant reminder for these young individuals to reflect on inner tranquillity, harmony in relationships, and a sense of balance amidst their demanding schedules. As we light the second candle, our children can embrace the opportunity to cultivate a peaceful mindset, not just during the holiday season but as a valuable practice for navigating the challenges and responsibilities of their academic journey. The symbolism of Advent becomes a guiding light, encouraging these children to foster a sense of calm, resilience, and unity within themselves and their school family.

Thank you to those families that have been able to donate to our local Chelwood Foodbank. A final reminder for any items to be brought into school over the final two weeks of term, we will be accepting our final donations on Monday 18th December. These are the items currently on the wish list for the Foodbank but any donations of non-perishable items are fine:

- Tinned fruit
- Tinned tuna
- Tea towels
- Disinfectant spray
- Crisps
- Jam
- Cereal
- Dried pasta
- Kitchen roll
- Toilet roll
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Pasta sauce jars
- Sugar
- Shaving foam
- Rice
- Deodorant
- Tinned chickpeas
- Tinned meatballs
- Tinned hot dogs
- Washing powder
- Tin foil
- Biscuits
- Squash
- Toothbrushes
- Washing up liquid
- UHT milk
- Nappies
- Teabags
- Lentils

Any donations can be brought in by your child and handed to their Form Tutor. Should any families find themselves in difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year who can signpost you to support.

I hope you have a great week, if you need anything please contact headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher

