



24th April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 2 Headteacher Update

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday last week Miss Hewson, along with several staff, led our first Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition for 2023. The children were an absolute credit to their school and their families. The level of skill, determination and grit that they displayed was exceptional. These kinds of events do not happen by chance and so much hard work and effort has gone into this from Miss Hewson in particular. Thank you to all the parents and carers who have contacted school to express their thanks.

We have received notification that the number of teachers at St James' who are members of the NEU has increased. The NEU have confirmed that they are holding two further strike days on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. Therefore, I can confirm that school **will be open on both days for Year 7, 10 & 11 only**. I, alongside other relevant members of staff, have conducted a risk assessment in relation to the strike action. This risk assessment has been used to determine the contingency measures that need to be implemented during the strike. A reminder that the strike is happening because of a national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions and the general underfunding of schools. If any further strike days are announced, these will be treated separately and new risk assessments completed in each case.

Our Year 10 footballers take part in the Cheshire School's FA Cup Final on Wednesday this week. The game will be played at Middlewich Town FC (postcode: CW10 9DR) we wish them well and kick off is at 4pm. Please keep our footballers in your thoughts and prayers and come along and support if you are able to.

Our school is taking part in trying to break a Guinness World Record which has been set up by TCS Mini London Marathon. The idea is that all children run or walk a mile in a PE lesson between now and Friday 12th May. More information can be found [here](#). Each Form Tutor will set up the pledge for their Form group, we wish all children well!

Yesterday at Mass we experienced another appearance of the Risen Lord to two of his friends and followers. The two disciples are leaving Jerusalem and are walking to Emmaus. Having just experienced the betrayal, denial, condemnation and death of their close friend, Jesus. As they walk along, they are talking about all the events that have just happened. A stranger comes alongside them and asks them a simple and polite question; *'What are you talking about as you walk along?'*. They ask if he is the only one who does not know about all the things that have happened in Jerusalem. The stranger then asks; *'What things?'* He is interested in everything that has happened to them. As they walk and talk, the stranger simply listens. Only when they have told him of all the things that have happened does he reveal that he is the Risen Lord. As we walk our journey through life, Jesus walks by our side and listens to us just as he walked along the road to Emmaus with the two disciples. As we continue our journey through this Easter Season, let us pray that we will all come to know that Jesus is walking by our side as our friend and companion in our journey and pilgrimage through daily life.

A reminder that next Monday (1st May) is a Bank Holiday so we will return to school on Tuesday 2nd May. Have a lovely week and if you need anything or have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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With God
all things are possible
Matthew 19:26