



25th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 4 Headteacher Update

As we begin week four, I cannot believe how fast this half-term is going. Having delivered assemblies to all Year groups it has been fantastic to see how the children have settled so quickly into the normal routines and rhythms of school life this academic year.

As we live out our value of Faith, our retreats at Savio House start this week for our Year 7 children. This is an opportunity to take time out of school with their Form group to reflect on their faith, why they attend a Catholic High School and what makes it so special. This is always a fantastic opportunity and one that is remembered by all children for the duration of their time at St James'. All information was sent to parents/carers on the 5th September by Ms Woods and Mr Reid, the letter can be accessed [here](#). During the retreat the children will also continue their preparations to give thanks at our Year 7 Welcome Mass. A reminder it will take place at 6pm on 5th October at Our Lady's Edgeley. It is really important that all children and parents/carers attend this celebration, as all Form groups are playing an active role within the Mass.

As always, we have lots taking place this week. On Monday the children taking part in our Bake-off competition for European Day of Languages will be bringing in their cakes to be judged. The official day for European Day of Languages is Tuesday and, as such, the children who have baked them over the weekend will then sell the cakes at Tuesday breaktime with all proceeds going to our Macmillan Cancer support, please ensure your child comes with cash in order to purchase some fantastic cakes! Our staff will be holding their annual coffee morning on Thursday again, will all proceeds going to Macmillan. On Thursday we also have a trip to the theatre to watch "Annie" which is also our chosen production for this academic year. I am sure the children will have a fantastic experience. If you require any further information about this trip please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Grainger (h.grainger@stjamesheadle.co.uk).

In the Gospel we are reminded that God gives each one of us our talents without comparing them to what He gives to another. In the parable of the labourers in the vineyard, Jesus tells us that we should not be driven by jealousy and greed. In our school I have the pleasure of seeing the children in so many different lessons and witnessing first hand their many different God given talents. We have fantastic future artists, sportspeople, musicians, mathematicians, linguists, scientists, historians, geographers, engineers, the list is almost endless. Therefore, this week I know the children and staff will do God's work the best way they can with the power, resources, strength, knowledge and graces that He gives to us.

I hope you have a fantastic week, please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or queries headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher