



9th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 6 Headteacher Update

On Thursday last week, we celebrated our Year 7 Welcome Mass at Our Lady and the Apostles Church in Edgeley. It was lovely to see so many parents and families at this event supporting their child's formal induction into the St James' family. Fr Martin spoke about the journey that our children are undertaking as well as the importance of seizing the opportunities that are afforded to the children. We look forward to seeing the children pick up their pebbles and watch them develop into diamonds over the next 5 years.

This year we will once again be supporting CAFOD as our school charity, a huge thank you to all families who donated to our Family Fast Day on Friday via ParentPay, it is not too late to do so if you are able. Our children have already been thinking about charity fundraising ideas and we appreciate the generosity of our school Family to those in the greatest need. In assemblies last week, Mrs Pickles and our Year 11 Faith Prefects shared information about CAFOD and the work they do, one of CAFOD's tag lines is "No one beyond reach" and this is something we want to contribute to during our fundraising efforts this year. We will also be doing our annual Foodbank collection in the run up to Christmas and more information will follow about this after the October half term.

As I am sure you are aware our school continues to benefit from Diocese building projects. Over the last few years, these have seen us replace ceilings, install a new Food and Nutrition room, and gain a new fire alarm. However, we are required to fund 10% of the costs. Please can I ask that you look out for the Building Fund letter which will be sent this week by our School Business Manager and support if you can.

Our school is currently working hard on sustainability, and we are working towards attaining the Eco School Award. If any parents/carers have "green" careers or work for companies looking to develop links with the local community, we would be delighted if you could support this ambition. If you think you and/or your company could help please contact Mrs Dooley, our School Business Manager, via email sbm@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

This week we have welcomed four trainee teachers from both Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester. They will be joining the English, Expressive Arts, and Modern Foreign Languages Faculties for the next ten weeks and we are delighted to welcome them into the St James' family. It really is a privilege to guide, support, and mentor them in becoming beacons of excellence in their future careers in teaching and education.

Our core values underpin the wonderful work that our Y11 Prefect Teams carry out. The values of Family and Excellence are clearly seen as the Excellence Prefects prepare to begin their 'reading buddy' sessions with selected Y7 children. We see this experience as invaluable to all children involved: the Y7 students who receive the guidance and expertise of their older counterparts, whilst building the stewardship skills Y11 will really benefit from, as they progress on their journeys to become global Catholic citizens.

The first reading and the Gospel yesterday both use the image of the vineyard to speak to us about the patience and generosity of God. Jesus tells the chief priests and the elders a parable. The owner of the vineyard sends workers into his vineyard to collect the harvest. However, these poor servants don't receive a very positive welcome. The owner then sends more workers into the vineyard but sadly these workers are



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treated in much the same way. Lastly, the owner decides to send his own son in the hope and belief that they will treat him with some respect. Alas, his hope is ill-placed; they kill his son. It comes as no surprise to us, that the owner of the vineyard represents God and his son is Jesus Christ. The parable is held up to us today so that we can see ourselves in it and learn from it. This week we look forward to seeing what sort of fruits and harvest the children and staff at St James' will produce through our ordinary daily lives as followers of Jesus.

I hope you have a fantastic week and if you need anything please do not hesitate to get in contact via email at headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher