



16th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 7 Headteacher Update

I cannot believe we are in our final week of half term. A reminder that this evening at 6pm our Parental Forum takes place. All information has previously been sent by Dr Guscott, as a reminder this takes place at school at 6pm Monday 16th October. If you wish to attend or pass on any feedback, please email Dr Guscott at s.guscott@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

As I shared with you in last week's letter, our chosen school charity for this year is CAFOD. I am delighted to share with you that we have already raised £308 through donations on ParentPay, a huge thank you for your generosity. We have already seen our first school charity events taking place with one of our Year 11 Forms organising a successful cake sale on Thursday of last week. This continues this week with 11C hosting their cake sale on Thursday.

We recognise that for some families, access to digital devices for completing homework particularly in Years 10 and 11 may be challenging. To support these children, we are able to offer a very limited number of laptops on a loan basis. If you wish to take advantage of this, please contact Mrs Pickles via email stating your child's name and Form group (c.pickles@stjamesheadle.co.uk). We will then be able to look at the provision of a device.

This week at Mass I was reminded that there is nothing quite like a good meal with friends and family! Whenever we share a meal with those we love, we experience a sense of joy, community and belonging. The same was true at the time of Jesus. The first reading tells us that the Lord will prepare a meal of rich food and wine, remove the veil of sadness and that all people will be invited to this celebration. In the Gospel, Jesus continues this message. The meal is prepared but those invited give various excuses as to why they could not come to the feast. In response, the king invited and welcomed strangers, good and bad alike. Jesus too calls us all by our name and invites us personally to come to the feast but it is up to us whether or not we accept this invitation. When we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, Jesus is the host and we are his guests. The Eucharist is offered to us freely and we are invited to respond freely. God invites us all but in return he asks us to repent for our sins. As Pope Francis reminds us, 'the Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak... the church is a place for everyone, with all their problems.' Thinking about our school values of Family and Faith, I would encourage you to speak to your children about this invitation from God and how they can respond to it.

I hope you have a fantastic week and an extra special half term break when it comes. Thank you for your continued support throughout this half term. Our staff will be taking a well-deserved break over half term and as such will be unavailable via email for that week, thank you in advance for not contacting them. If you need anything this week, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher