



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

8th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Celebration of the Word

As Catholic Lead within St James', I am delighted to share with you that I will be sending a weekly update sharing with you as parents and carers the prayer focus for our week.

This aims to foster a deeper connection between home and school. This initiative is designed with the intention of allowing parents/carers to actively participate in the spiritual journey of their child. By sharing weekly reflections and prayers we hope to create a space where families can come together to pray and reflect.

It's a wonderful opportunity for parents/carers to engage in meaningful conversations with their children about faith, values, and the beauty of shared beliefs. We believe that this initiative will not only strengthen the bond between parents and children but will also contribute to the spiritual growth and development of our children.

I am excited about the prospect of deepening our sense of family through these shared moments of reflection and look forward to the positive impact it will have on our school family. Together, let us embark on this journey of spiritual enrichment, uniting as one in faith and shared prayer.

We are always happy to receive feedback so please do get in touch if you have any comments or queries, my email address is c.pickles@stjamescheadle.co.uk

This week's Celebration of the Word focuses on the Epiphany that was celebrated on 6th January, in the gospel of Matthew, we hear the story of how some wise men from another part of the world were led by a star and travelled the long journey to Bethlehem, looking for Jesus. They found him in a stable. This feast of the Epiphany is a significant and important one for people of every race and nationality, because the wise men represent God's people throughout the world. The Son of God, the Word made flesh, came into the world as a Jew, to give life and salvation to every member of the human race. No matter what our race, nationality, colour or religion, each of us is made in the image and likeness of God. For all of us, this is a day of real celebration –we, too, are chosen. We will be reflecting on this with the children this week. The children will also be looking at some stories from CAFOD and how the charity works to help others, in this we will be thinking about subsidiarity, one of the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the children will consider how if they help the people they hear about from CAFOD, the world will be a better place. You may wish to share this prayer as a family:

Lord, the sight of the guiding star brought hope, courage and joy to those who had journeyed to find you.



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When our journey seems long, when hope seems far away, when our courage is failing, fill us with faith and trust; shine your light on our fears, lift our hearts with your joy.

Help us to recognise you in our brothers and sisters throughout the world; show us how we can work together, so that we may all come to share in the life promised to us by Jesus, the Saviour of us all.

Amen.

As you may be aware, each Form time starts in prayer and we also pause as a school family to pray at lunchtime and at the end of the day. The end of the day prayer changes each month according to the liturgical time of the year, the prayer for January and our lunchtime prayer are as follows:

End of day prayer:

Angel of God,
My guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide
Amen

Lunchtime prayer:

Bless us, Oh Lord,
and these thy gifts which
we are about to receive from thy bounty,
through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

I hope you find this information valuable each week and I look forward to helping you support your child on their faith journey.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher