



St. Winefride's Catholic Voluntary Academy

We pray, we live, we play, we learn

December 2017

Dear Families

At St Winefride's we are always looking at ways to improve the school. In the last year as you know, we received a grant from the National Lottery to provide play equipment in the Key Stage 2 playground. Recently, we have been very fortunate in having support from the Rotary Club which has helped us to develop our outside learning environment in Key Stage One, with Rotary Club members giving their time to lay the artificial grass and assemble the shed. Along with the support from the KJ Trust, we now have a much improved outside space for our youngest children. We also received a small grant from the local charity, The Bernard Thorpe Foundation, to buy equipment to support learning in maths. All of this goes to enhance the learning for your child and we are grateful to all our partners and supporters.

PE and Sports premium – you may know that the government has given schools extra money to use in sport and PE; money raised through the sugar tax. As part of this we are purchasing new playground equipment for Key Stage One so that the children have plenty of playground activities at break and at lunch time.

Thank you to all who supported the school and the parish at the St Winefride's Parish Christmas Fair on Saturday. The choir, even though small in numbers, sang beautifully. They will be singing at Shepshed Christmas Market on the 17th December. I know it's a busy time of year but your support is much appreciated by the school and also the local community.

Shepshed Christmas Tree Festival is this weekend. We have never won this and the winner is decided by the number of votes cast by visitors to the festival which takes place at St Botolph's church. Please visit and vote for our tree.

I wish you all blessings at this advent season

Mrs Catherine Murphy

Recent events and trips

The St Cecelia's assembly was a huge success with music groups and individuals showcasing their musical talent. Congratulations to all who took part especially those who did solos or duets! Remember at St. Winefride's there are a range of musical opportunities including brass, piano, guitar and oboe. Please ask your child's teacher or the office for more information.

The pantomime was a great occasion with everybody getting into the spirit of it with fantastic panto-themed costumes. We look forward to watching our next M&M Production in the spring which will be Charlotte's Web

Year Six had a very informative and enjoyable visit to Warning Zone where they learned about personal safety including on-line, fire and railway safety – a really valuable day.

Year Five visited Tesco as part of their project on where our food comes from. As well as tasting different foods they visited the warehouse and bakery and learned about the journey that food travels before ending up on the supermarket shelf.

Liturgies

This year the house captains are leading a liturgy to celebrate each of our patron saints. This week we began with a liturgy for St. Andrew.

We commemorated Armistice Day with a liturgy of Remembrance from KS2 and a Friendship Liturgy in KS1 & Foundation

We celebrate the start of the church's liturgical year with our Advent Mass today.

Rosary Club with Father Michael will take place each Monday lunchtime during Advent

Celebration Assembly usually takes place on a Friday afternoon at 2.55pm. We are inviting parents to this and will notify you by text the day before if your child will be receiving an award.





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St Winefride's School Christmas Fair is on Friday 8th December. Thank you to our new Parent Group who will be helping. If you would like to volunteer please let Mrs Dunbar in the office know as soon as possible.

As in earlier years the fair will be open in the afternoon for you to visit with your child. You can come to collect your child from 2.30pm. The fair will be open until 4.30pm. There will be lots of interesting and exciting stalls including outside stall holders and, of course, Santa will be making a visit. Please can we have donations of bottles for the bottle stall?

Allergies

Please remember that we are a nut-free school so we ask you not to give food containing nuts as part of your child's snack or packed lunch. This is to protect pupils with severe nut allergies. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

After-School Club runs every day until 5.30pm. Children may also attend the other art and sports clubs run at school at the same time. For more information please contact Mrs Dunbar in the school office on 01509 503353.

Uniform – If your child wears boots to and from school please bring in shoes to change into or children may wear their plimsolls. The uniform policy states that no earrings, piercings or jewellery are allowed. Children may wear an inexpensive watch. If your child wears earrings then they should be covered up with tape during PE and at playtimes and lunchtimes. The school will only be able to supply tape in an emergency. Please either take out the earrings before school or supply your child with tape. Please also note that fashion hair styles for both boys and girls are not part of the uniform.

Please note the dates for your diary as there are lots of events this month.



Beyond Bullying Award Update

As part of National Anti-Bullying Week all the children learned about bullying – what it is, what it isn't and what they can do if they see or experience it. The school council led an assembly to which parents were invited. Thank you to all who attended.

Mrs Robe, our family support worker held a parent drop-in on 31st October.

Thank you to those parents who completed a feedback form about the draft anti-bullying policy, the suggestion about having a flow diagram to show the procedure was very useful and one we will try to incorporate.

