



SCHOOL NEWS March 2018

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY
Federated with St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Stamford
Part of the St Gilbert of Sempringham Catholic Academy Trust

"We grow and learn as a family in the footsteps of Jesus"

Dear Parents,

I felt it was important to summarise some of the wonderful opportunities and great learning that all our children have been involved in during term 3 and 4. As a team we are incredibly proud of all of them and we are already looking forward to term 5 and 6.

We wish all our families a happy, Holy and peaceful Easter and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 16th April 2018 !



Catholic life of our School

All our children have been amazing by fundraising for their 4 chosen charities during Lent. We have managed to raise a total of £257.50. House captains organised an assault course, sweet tombola, cake sale and film afternoon which the children have all thoroughly enjoyed. We have welcomed the chaplaincy team from Sacred Heart in Leicester across to our school, and together the children planned and delivered a Lenten Liturgy. Bishop Patrick has asked all schools in the diocese to focus on the Eucharistic Adoration this academic year, and a second date Thursday 19th April has been planned across all schools in the diocese. The constructive feedback from the initial service has been gratefully received by the diocese and there will be changes to the live broadcast in response to this. We are very much looking forward to the year 3, 4 and 5 Easter play on Monday 26th March.

Curriculum Information

All classes have thoroughly enjoyed their topics this term and staff are already busy planning exciting learning for all the children in terms 5 and 6. Topics will be Spring and growing in EYFS moving to holidays, How does your garden grow and food glorious food in Year 1 and 2, rivers and creative computing in Year 4 / 5 and World War 1 in Year 6.

Our themed learning weeks have really inspired the children and all the children were highly engaged in science week finding out about properties of bottles and further investigating capacity.

The feedback from aspirations week in term 3 was very positive and our careers fair provided all children with the opportunities to discover more about a wide variety of careers. The Rutland Youth team worked closely with the older children discussing this further encouraging them to look at their strengths when finding the right job for them in the future. We have launched our year 3, 4, 5 and 6 awards for celebrating the achievement of goals beyond school and we look forward to presenting some of our children with their badges soon.

Our involvement in the maths mastery programme is extremely positive and the impact of this programme is being seen in the teaching and learning in EYFS, the year 2 class and the year 3 / 4 class. Through the teacher research group more teachers within the school get the opportunity to observe and trial this approach before we decide as a staff the direction we want to take for next academic year. Teaching assistants are also being exposed to the training and have already received some CPD internally from Kate Long on mastery within EYFS.

Arts Mark –Mrs Scott is leading this initiative and we are working hard as a school to try and achieve our silver arts mark by the end of the year.

SPORT

We are very proud of all the sporting events we participate in and how our children participate in everything with great enthusiasm and impeccable conduct.

We have had another busy 2 terms with lots of sporting opportunities for all our children to be involved in. Our gymnasts performed really well in the Rutland Schools Competitions and we came back with silver medals to celebrate in school. Children have also competed in swimming and cross country where individuals won their respective age groups and all our teams finished in better positions than last year. The basketball team represented Rutland in the recent county championships as did our new Boccia team which went on to win the county event!

We have won both the year 3 / 4 and 5 / 6 dodgeball events and now hold 7 shields for this academic year alone – wow what an achievement !

Our small school is currently top of the small schools league and also the main schools league and we are incredibly proud of this achievement.

The path is now completed to the Astro turf and we held our first event, the assault course on the Astro this week. It will be used more frequently in terms 5 and 6 and we can't wait to make full use of it both at lunch times and during curriculum time. A huge thank you to all the families and members of our extended community that have worked so hard to achieve the building of this facility and it is something I am incredibly proud of as Head Teacher.

Things we are looking forward to in Term 5 and 6

- English Martyrs Day Friday May 4th School Mass 9.15 am.
- Lots more sport and staying top of the leagues!
- Music evening May 17th at 6 pm.
- Year 3 residential to Edith Weston Wed 27th June to Friday 29th June.
- Sports Week Mon 2nd July onwards
- Sports Day Friday 6th July
- Transition week Monday 9th July onwards.

Thank you for your continued support, we couldn't provide the wonderful experiences for our children without your ongoing support and commitment to wanting the very best for your children.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you firstly to all our members of FEM who work so hard to provide extra opportunities and resources for all our children. Secondly, I would like to thank all our volunteers who work so hard each week with the children in school. I would especially like to thank Mrs Torien, Mrs Alston and Mrs Kembrey for reorganising the library and categorising each book providing us with a very organised new system that we can't wait to use. Finally I would like to thank all the staff for their ongoing commitment to providing high quality teaching and learning as well as volunteering to fund raise in a variety of ways wherever possible.

Alison Chambers
Head Teacher.