



SCHOOL NEWS July 2017

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 this academic year. As a team we are incredibly proud of all of them and we are already looking forward to next academic year when we will be welcoming our new starters. Although we will be incredibly sad to see our amazing year 6 pupils move on to the next exciting stage of their journey we know they will continue to make us proud.

We wish all our families a happy, fun filled Summer holidays and look forward to seeing you back at school on Thursday 31st August.

Catholic life of our School

This year we can be very proud of our DCI inspection report. In February we received an **outstanding** for our catholic life of the school and good overall for collective worship and RE teaching. We are already putting in place small tweaks to ensure that Christ is really at the centre of all we do in school. The children have really enjoyed welcoming the Parish in to school for Mass on a Tuesday once a term and we will be continuing this next year. All classes have led Masses and participated in planning and delivering them. We have developed our small school chapel and Little Lights will be leading lots of activities next year with groups of children using the Chapel as a base. As a school the children have been amazing raising money for Malawi, Cafod, Oakham Foodbank, Shelter and Mary's Meals and they all have a real understanding of the need to reach out to others across the world.

Curriculum Information

We have really thought about the needs of our children in connection with our bespoke curriculum and as we have personalised it as much as possible. The children have presented some fantastic pieces of work in their topic books and have looked at a wide variety of topics encouraging as wide a range of experiences possible for all the children.

Our outcomes at the end of the school year have been incredibly positive across EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and we finish the year feeling very pleased with where our school stands with regards to results. However, we are just as pleased with the wide range of opportunities we provide as a school to ensure all children leave our school well rounded, academically proud and good citizens full of hope for the next stage of their journey.

The children have really focused on their learning muscles this year and we will continue to emphasise the importance of these to help the children be the best they possibly can be. Next year we want to devise challenges for the children to experience as much as they can beyond the curriculum which will help to enhance their learning in all areas of the curriculum. One of our focus areas will be on encouraging all children to be competent talkers using these skills in speaking to help them become even better readers and writers. We will be using themed weeks to help us provide opportunities at greater depth in specific areas such as art, maths, science, story telling and aspirations.

Outdoor environment – We will be developing our outdoor area further as all children will be experiencing forest school type activities on our school site next year rather than travelling to forest school off site. This will allow us to be more flexible with providing more than one terms worth of activities and help us to experience leading activities ourselves as a staff.



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 are so proud to have become the **winner**s of the Rutland Small Schools League at the end of this academic year and third in the overall league of 21 schools. This is an amazing achievement and is down to superb children willing to have a go at everything and anything as well as committed staff and very supportive parents.

We have competed in football, basketball, tag rugby, athletics, cricket, hockey, gymnastics, cross country, swimming, multi skills, tennis, rounders, netball and orienteering which is fantastic. Our healthy living days have been a huge success and we feel all our children have a concrete awareness of health living and what this looks like.



Maths UKMT Challenge

We have had incredible successes throughout the year across upper KS2 with the maths challenges and finishing this year by coming **first** in the Kings School Maths Challenge Competition out of 31 schools altogether. Fantastic !

Things we are looking forward to next academic year.....

- Embedding our new governing body as we defederate with St Augustine's CVA in Stamford although we will still work closely with the school as part of our Multi Academy Trust.
- Developing our new pupil leaders and introducing our head boy and girl.
- Welcoming all our new starters into our school community both in Early Years and across the school.
- Participating in a regional maths project through East Midland Maths Hub looking at mastery in maths, we applied for this as a school and we have been selected from a large number of local schools.
- Further development of our bespoke curriculum and new exciting opportunities for all our children which will be detailed on our class pages on our new website.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all 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. We have received some amazing comments and testimonials from both parents and visitors to the school this academic year and this is wonderful for children and staff to hear.

We would also like to say a special thank you to all our governors, volunteers in school and to all members of FEM who work so hard to provide extra opportunities and resources for all our children.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Summer and look forward to working with you all next academic year in our new exciting roles as Head Teacher and Chair of our new Governing Body.

Sarah Archer and Alison Chambers