



Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Families,

What a wonderful week we have had celebrating our love of learning across the school. The children have taken this into the playground this week as they have tried new activities and games at lunchtime. The children have shown their love of learning through their creative play!

Moments of Pride

A small group of children from Year 6 were interviewed on BBC Radio Leicester on Tuesday 14th January as part of the breakfast show, to talk about a topic that is very important to us: [Smartphone Free Childhood](#). Here is the link to listen to [Ady Dayman - 14/01/2025 - BBC Sounds](#) and the special feature called 'Uncomfortable Conversations' (which starts 1 hour and 10 minutes into the show, you can hear our contribution 1 hour and 15 minutes into the show). We believe that by debating and discussing this important issue we can bring about greater awareness and understanding of the importance of keeping children safe online.



St Thomas Aquinas Non-Uniform Day – Friday 24th January

On Friday 24th January our Trust will be holding a non-school uniform day for all 23 schools across our Trust. We kindly ask for donations of £1 or more. All money raised will be going to the Catholic Life Hardship Fund, which was set up by our Trust a couple of years ago.

This fund was initially created to specifically support young people in any of our schools who may miss the opportunity to access a religious retreat or pilgrimage because of a lack of funds. Over the last few years, the fund has supported many students in this way, enabling children to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes and on retreat to places like Alton Castle, Soli House, the Briars and many other places. The fund has also been used, in exceptional cases, to support children and families who face other situations of hardship and supported with access to other opportunities which have enriched the lives of some of our young people.

This non-uniform day will also mark a day of celebration in our school as we join with all the Catholic Schools in England to launch the Jubilee Year... we will continue to share updates with you throughout this special Jubilee year.

[Jubilee launch day resources for schools](#)

Have a wonderful weekend,
God bless,
Mrs Dabbs

Key dates for your diary:

- Friday 24th January Own Clothes Day in aid of 'Catholic Life Hardship Fund'
- ~~POSTPONED Saturday 25th Jan PTFA Pre-loved sale~~
- Friday 31st January Open Classrooms – Maths Focus
- Friday 7th Feb PTFA Clothes & Cake sale in the Hall
- Friday 14th February Last day of the term
- Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February Half Term Holiday
- Monday 24th February Back to school
- Monday 24th February Parents' Evening (VIRTUAL)
- Tuesday 25th February Parents' Evening (In PERSON)
- Friday 28th February PTFA Quiz & Chips night 7pm
- Thursday 6th March World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book character)
- Friday 21st March PTFA Paint Pottle@StJoes 3:30pm
- Friday 4th April Homework Project hand in day
- Wednesday 9th April Open Classrooms - Curriculum

PTFA Summer Fete – Saturday 17th May 2025

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: A MESSAGE FROM FR CHRIS

The first meeting for parents will take place on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.00pm in the Octagonal Hall when we will introduce the course and give out the plan.

The first session for children will take place on Sunday 26th January 2025 from 9.20am- 10.20am and the children will join their parents and the congregation after the Liturgy of the Word.

