



7th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely break and managed some precious family time together. Thank you very much to all the children and families who shared gifts and kind words in Christmas cards to the staff and myself, it really is appreciated. It was wonderful to see so many families attend the carol concert at St John's in Stapleford, despite the unfortunate traffic delays. It is always such a lovely community event. Our next school community and parish event is the Big Lent walk which we will be taking part in again this year on 7th March, walking (or perhaps with the help of a scooter!) from Attenborough to Beeston and back again with a stop for refreshments at The Assumption church hall in Beeston. Please pop the date in your diaries and join us if you can.

Additionally, thank you so much for the many of you that have taken the time to email or speak to me personally following the recent Ofsted visit, I have now received our draft report and so I hope that the final report will be available to you all very soon. We will send it out via Parent Hub once it is available.

SEND

PSP meeting have now taken place for our pupils on the SEND register. If you think you have missed your meeting or still need to make an appointment, please get in contact with the school office or your class teacher.

Uniform

Please remember that ALL pupils, including Reception pupils, are expected to wear ties as part of our uniform. If you are missing a tie following the holidays, they are always available from the school office at a cost of £4.50, payment is to be made via your child's parentpay account and ties will be dispatched to the class teacher on Monday's and Friday's. If you do have a tie at home that has been lent by school, please could it be returned so we can keep hold of spares. Thank you.

SATs and Year 1 Phonics Screening

Statutory testing 2026

The tests will take place during the following dates. It is imperative that all pupils are in school during this time, so please do not make holiday plans, dental appointments etc. during any of these dates.

- Year 6 SATs tests will take place during week commencing 11th May 2026.
- Year 1 phonics screening will take place week commencing 8th June 2026.
- Year 2 SATs take place throughout the month of May 2026.
- Year 4 Multiplication check will take place during the month of June 2026.

Class and Whole School Charity Fundraising

Thank you for supporting the children's chosen class charities. They will continue to fundraise throughout the year; here are the totals raised so far! Not all classes have had their coffee mornings or events yet.

- Year 5 and 6 Classes – *coffee morning raised £155.05 to go to the following charities - Rainbows Hospice, The Joseph Cooper Trust, Derby & Burton Hospital Trust, Breakthrough.*
- Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £212.30
- Children in Need £487.00



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English Martyrs' Catholic Voluntary Academy,
Bracken Rd, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 4DA
Tel: 0115 973 3209
enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Year 6 (current year 5 children) Residential to The Briars

We will be holding a short briefing and question and answer session on the 2026 Briars trip for the current Year 5 parents on Monday 2nd February at 8.45am. The first letter with full details of the trip will be sent home after the meeting.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating *World Book Day* on Thursday 5th March. Please do not feel that you have to buy an outfit specifically for this day, I know this would support our sustainability agenda as a school. Instead, if the children would like to come in pyjamas with their favourite bedtime story that can also be an option.

Parking & Walking Bus

Please bear in mind the following at drop off and pick up times:

- Residential driveways are not blocked by cars – however quick you think you may be dropping off, this is still an inconvenience to residents of Bracken Road and causes friction between the school and the community
- Disabled parking bay – Please be considerate with the use of this space, we only have one space and we do share this with Brackenfield when they need it. Please can we ask that it is only used for those that have a blue badge themselves that are dropping off a pupil at the school.
- Visitor car park - Again please be considerate when parking in here and do not block other families in no matter how quick you think the drop off or pick up may be
- School bus parking bay – If the bus lane is not in use, please do use either end of the bay to drop off or pick up but please leave ample space for the bus as it may not have arrived yet. Additionally, please don't leave the car running for a long period of time as this can further impact air pollution around the school.
- Consider parking on Briar Gate and walking the final part of the journey.
- Use of the walking bus that is available each morning from the Petersham play area.

WALKING BUS - 08:35AM Monday - Friday from Petersham Playground near the Coop.

Please do consider the way that staff are spoken to when members of the school community are being asked to move cars. We want to ensure that everyone is kept safe and that we retain good relations with the community around us and no member of staff should have to entertain verbal abuse for trying to do this.

Dogs

Can we remind you that dogs are NOT allowed on the school playground at the start of the day or end of the day, carrying the dog is not allowed either.





English Martyrs'

CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

FEM

We would all like to say a big thank you for everyone that continues to support our events and fundraising for our children.

In the new year we would like to get you more involved and will be sending out a feedback form. This is to help us improve our efforts and get some valuable feedback so that we can give our school community what they really want. Please keep a look out.

Your FEM

Also a big Thank You to you all – The total raised for the Christmas Fair was £1485.19

Parents Evening

Parents Evening will take place on Tuesday 3rd March 3:30 - 5:30pm and Wednesday 4th March 3:30 - 5:30pm. Teachers will be available in the hall for you to discuss your child's progress and the classrooms will be open for you to view their work. Booking will be via Arbor, we will send details on how to book nearer the time.

Parent Governor Position

We are pleased to say we have appointed one Parent Governor and they have accepted. We are in the process of processing the DBS checks and when we can, we will announce who we have appointed.

Have a wonderful half term and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

God Bless,

Mrs Ellis
Gemma Ellis | Headteacher

Don't forget to keep up to date with news and events on our Instagram page, Facebook page. Any curriculum information for each year group can be found on the website.



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Important Dates

Jan-26	
5th	INSET Day - School Closed
W.C.	
6th	Lent 1 afterschool clubs start
6th	School re-opens
	10:00am Whole school Mass (Epiphany)- Parents and parish welcome
15th	Primary School Applications close at Midnight
	Year 2 Celebration of the Word - 2.40pm Miss Keeton class
16th	(Parents/carers welcome)
19th	5pm Year 6 parent/carers meeting SATS
	8:20-09:00am Years 3 & 4 class charity breakfast morning
21st	(Newham Oldershaw Young's classes)
26th	FEM Balloon Duck Race Starts
27th	Year 5 Mr Watson's class to St Francis for Mass
28th	08:45-09:00am Stay and read EYFS parents welcome in the classroom
Feb-26	
2nd	Briars residential Year 5 parent meeting - 8.45am
	Year 3 Celebration of the Word - 2.40pm Mrs Newham's class
6th	(Parents/carers welcome)
	3:45pm PSA meeting
W/c	
9th	Last week of Lent 1 clubs
	Last Swimming Session year 5
13th	Wellbeing day - Friendship (school uniform)
	School closes for Half Term - 3.15pm FEM treat sale
w/c	
16th	School closed for Half Term
23rd	INSET Day (School closed)
24th	School Re-opens
	Lent 2 afterschool clubs start
27th	Go Green for CAFOD (non school uniform for a donation)

