



ENGLISH MARTYRS

CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



Newsletter

19th December 2025

COMING UP

Monday 5th Jan	Back to school! Y5 Swimming AM	Rock Steady PM
Tues 6th Jan	Epiphany Mass @ St Joseph's 10am	Flute Lessons PM
Wed 7th Jan	Piano/Drum Lessons PM	
Thurs 8th Jan	Guitar Lessons AM	Drum Lessons PM Dodgeball Club 3.30-4.30pm
Fri 9th Jan	LAMDA/Piano lessons AM Singing Lessons PM	Celebration Assembly 3pm Dodgeball 3.30-4.30pm

NOTICES

• Arbor balances

Please ensure any debit balances for meals and wraparound care are cleared before we return to school. Please contact the office if there are any difficulties with this.

• Drop off

From next term we encourage all parents to drop children off at the gate in the morning instead of walking round to the classroom with them, to help with independence (unless an arrangement is in place with the class teacher).

Thank you.



Dear Families,

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for making my first term as Headteacher at English Martyrs Catholic School so memorable. Your children are a true blessing, and you should be so proud of their achievements—their courage and confidence, their support for one another, and the kindness they share throughout our school community.

This Advent has reminded us of the hope and light that Christ brings into our lives. As we celebrate His birth, may we continue to reflect His love in our words and actions.

On behalf of all our staff, we wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas, and pray that the love of Christ fills your hearts and homes.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will." (Luke 2:14)

With every blessing,
Mrs Rutledge
Headteacher



BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Y4 - Abigail, Mia-Rose, Ruby

Y5 - Mabel

Y6 - Adam

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

Courage

If your child has shown the weekly virtue out of school, please post a picture on their portfolio on Class Dojo so the teacher can see!

Y2 POLAR EXPRESS DAY

Miss Turner's class have had a fantastic Polar Express Day to celebrate the children's hard work this term. They had a special ticket to enter the classroom and then had fun practising wrapping presents. They have finished the day with watching the Polar Express movie and enjoying a hot chocolate and biscuits.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A huge thank you to Mrs Burgess and Mrs Gregory for this year's amazing Christmas lunch this year which was delicious!



Well done to Bea in Y1 who won the 'name the elf' competition with the name Winnie!

GUITAR AND FLUTE ASSEMBLY

Our guitarists and flautists treated our KS2 children to some fantastic Christmas songs on Thursday. Well done everyone and big thanks to Mr Joyce.



KS2 CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Well done to all the KS2 children who sang and read beautifully at the Carol Concert on Thursday. Despite the soggy start and end, it was lovely to get together with families to get into the Christmas spirit. Thank you to Yuri for playing the organ and to Mrs Passey for selling cakes at the end.



FEM HAMPERS - WINNERS!

Well done to this year's Hamper winners:

Jack Y1
Orla Y2
Evelyn Y4
Mrs Valiente
Mrs Burdass



CHRISTMAS CARDS

A big thank you to everyone who bought the Christmas cards designed by the children. By participating in this, we have raised **£157.40** for school! Thank you also to Mrs Needham for organising this.

SHELTER FUNDRAISING

Thank you for all the donations for our Christmas Jumper Day. We raised a total of **£157.50!**

SLEEPS TIL SANTA

Make sure you tune in to Rutland and Stamford Sound on Tuesday at 7.30am and 8.30am to hear our Y5 children sing 2 Sleeps to Santa with Rob Persani!



PRAYER



God of joy,
it is in Your love
that we find lasting joy.
Teach us to find joy
in the gift of Your Son,
who came into this world with nothing,
yet gave us everything.
May His joy fill our hearts
and overflow to all we encounter.
Amen.



St Joseph's Church

Keep up to date with the
Parish news [here](#).

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

EYFS, Y1 and Y2 had a fantastic time at Melton theatre to see the Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime! They all sat beautifully throughout.



FEM CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped at the FEM Christmas Bake Off/Stories with Santa this week. It was a huge success and the children had a fantastic time! The winners of the Bake Off were Daniel for KS1 and Sebby and Kara for KS2. Y6 won the prize for most bakes. Well done everyone!



GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Our governing body is in need of new Foundation Governors. Foundation Governors are practicing Catholics that have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education, acting as 'critical friends' for the school leadership team and setting the strategic direction of the school. For more information, please click on the link below and contact Mrs Rutledge.
<https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/departments/education-service/becoming-a-school-governor>

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Keeping children safe online

Advent Term 2025-2026

Top tips for talking to children about staying safe online

Start with the positives

Online life can be great for learning, creativity, and staying connected. Balance helps children feel confident, not scared. **Pick the right moment** Choose a calm, everyday time i.e. a walk, car journey, or shared activity. Avoid starting the chat during a disagreement or when emotions are high. **Use child-friendly resources** Age-appropriate videos, guides, and tools can make safety messages clearer and more engaging. **Ask about their experiences** Use open questions: "Have you seen anything that made you uncomfortable?" "Who do you chat or play with online?" "Do you know them offline?" "How do certain apps or games make you feel?" **Keep it ongoing** These don't need to be formal, one-off talks. Regular, relaxed check-ins make it easier for children to speak up if something worries them.



Parental Controls

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices. Parental controls can help you to:

- Plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- Create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- Manage the content different family members can see

Parental controls can be a helpful tool, but they have limits — so they shouldn't be seen as the whole solution. Even if you've set controls on your home broadband and your child's device, they won't apply if your child connects to other Wi-Fi networks without them. Parental controls work best as one part of a wider approach to keeping your child safe online.



More Top Tips

- **Talk it through:** Explain controls are there to keep them safe, and invite questions about the settings.
- **Use strong passwords:** Add a password so settings can't be changed.
- **Adjust with age:** Ease controls as they grow, at a pace that suits your child, not peer pressure.
- **Filters aren't perfect:** They may still see upsetting content, so keep the conversation open.

Get advice on supporting children if they have seen harmful or upsetting content online

[CLICK HERE](#)

How to start the conversation about online safety and how to navigate tricky topics

[CLICK HERE](#)