



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Celebration of the Word Week One**

As the new Catholic Lead within St James', I am delighted to share with you that I will be continuing the tradition of sending a weekly update throughout the coming academic year, sharing with you as parents and carers the prayer focus for our week.

This aims to foster a deeper connection between home and school. This initiative is designed with the intention of allowing parents/carers to actively participate in the spiritual journey of their child. By sharing weekly reflections and prayers we hope to create a space where families can come together to pray and reflect.

It is a wonderful opportunity for parents/carers to engage in meaningful conversations with their children about faith, values, and the beauty of shared beliefs. We believe that this initiative not only strengthens the bond between parents and children but also contributes to the spiritual growth and development of our children.

This week's Celebration of the Word focuses on New Beginnings. As we embark on a new academic year, I would like to welcome our Year 7 children to our St James' Family. As the children start their journey with us, I would like to call to mind Joshua 1:9 *"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* The week ahead may feel daunting and unfamiliar for our Year 7 children, but as the Lord has told us; nothing is impossible or unmanageable with Him by our sides. We ask Him to look over our new cohort, especially this week, giving them strength and resilience.

We have a healthy Catholic life within St James' and I look forward to sharing updates on this with you over the coming weeks. I will also share information about charity events taking place across the school throughout the year.

St James' puts Catholic Social Teaching at the heart of our school mission. Catholic Social Teaching is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. As we strive to create Global Catholic Citizens, it is vital that we encourage children to live out the seven Catholic Social Teaching principles.

**Dignity** is one of the Catholic Social Teaching principles. We believe every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. This is a gift that we all share as fellow human beings; we are all infinitely loved by our Creator. God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect. This week, as we embark upon a new school year, let us strive to recognise God in each and every person we encounter within our St



James Family.

Another area of devotion within St James' is our Liturgy of the Hours. As you may be aware, each Form time starts in prayer and we also pause as a school Family to pray at lunchtime and at the end of the day. The end of the day prayer changes each month according to the liturgical time of the year. This September, Pope Francis has asked us to pray for **our environment and those affected by climate change**.

The prayer for September and our lunchtime prayer are as follows:

End of day prayer for September:

God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet. Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.

Amen.

Lunchtime prayer:

Bless us, Oh Lord,  
and these thy gifts which  
we are about to receive from thy bounty,  
through Christ, Our Lord.  
Amen.

I hope you find this information valuable each week and I look forward to helping you support your child on their faith journey

We are always happy to receive feedback so please do get in touch if you have any comments or queries, my email address is [h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss  
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