



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

No. 167

A Community Where we Live, Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love

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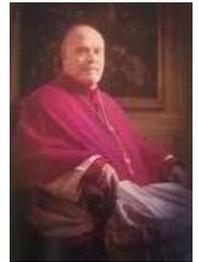
10/5/19



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS (Sunday 19th May: 11am) Our 12 Communicants will be receiving this very special Sacrament at St Mary's Church in just over a week's time. Please pray for them and their families.

We are very grateful to our wonderful Choir for their commitment on this day. They will be singing 'Anima Christi' (Body of Christ) during Communion.

GOOD SHEPHERD FUND The enormous efforts that went into our Lent charitable work has allowed us to make a donation of **£800** to Catholic Care at a special liturgy at St Ann's Cathedral in Leeds on the 24th May. Three children from our School Council will go to this celebration, where they will give Bishop Marcus this very significant cheque. Well done everyone, and thank you!



VIRTUE FOCUS THIS HALF-TERM We are focussing on the virtue of **FORTITUDE** for the next few weeks. Mr Brennan and Mrs Foster have led assemblies on this personal quality and the basic message we want the children to take away and put into their daily lives is **"WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET GOING"** Billy Ocean has helped us to get this message into the children's minds!!



ROSARY PRAYERS (May is the Month of Mary) Everyone is invited to join a member of staff to say a decade of the Rosary on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings (8.45am) starting next week in the KS2 Hall. If you have a special intention you would like us to pray for, please let us know.



CHORDIALITY & FRIENDS (15th June, 7pm) Featuring our Choir!! Mr Brennan is one of the members of this Choir so he will also be singing!! The event will be in aid of the Church Heating Fund and will be a celebration of the music of America. Tickets are on sale via the parish and through school at **£7** each. This includes light refreshments in the interval.

YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TO KESWICK Most of our Y6 children will be spending the week at Castlerigg Manor from the 20th May to 24th May. They will be doing lots of walking, exploring, climbing, canoeing, swimming, abseiling and much more of course!

BABY NEWS We are very pleased to congratulate Mrs Foster and her husband on the news that they are expecting a baby around the end of September.



STATUTORY ASSESSMENT TESTS / TASKS The children in Y2 have already started to do some of their formal assessment tasks and the Y6 children will be doing theirs every morning next week. Please do your best to support your child if he/she is involved in tests, by making sure they have a good breakfast, a bottle of water, lots of sleep and lots of positive encouragement! We all want them to do their best!



MOBILE PHONES Mr Brennan would like to remind all parents that we **do not** allow children to use mobile phones in the school grounds. This is for very important safeguarding, internet security and privacy reasons. Children caught using a mobile phone (even after school) will have it confiscated and parents will have to collect it from the school office. A small number of children in Y6 have been given specific permission to hand in their mobile phone to the office

in the morning, so that they can collect it at the end of the day and have it with them as they begin to walk home on their own, in preparation for High School. There is **NO** other reason for children to have a phone in school.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH ANXIETY It was great to see so many parents attending our two events yesterday evening, focussing on this issue – which is of course an increasingly common challenge. We hope those who attended found it useful. The powerpoint from these talks will be on the school website in the next few days.

Our Y5 and Y6 children had some sessions on Mental Health on Tuesday this week, which the teachers and children found very helpful in terms of identifying the causes, symptoms and coping strategies available to us all when this illness strikes.

It happens to be **NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK** next week. You can find out more at <https://www.mind.org.uk/> **OR** <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

CLASS	Attendance 1/4/19 – 12/4/19
REC	98.6
1/2D	94.2
1/2HB	90.8
2M	98.8
3/4BV	93.3
3/4S	97.6
4V	93.6
5G	90.8
5P	98.3
6L	97.0
6C	90.3
School Average	95.1%

ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS Well done to all those classes above our School Target of 97% and especially **Mr Morley’s class, who achieved the highest attendance in our 2 last newsletters as well as this one!!!**

We are monitoring attendance even more closely over this half-term, with a prize planned for the class that does the best.

CCTV BIRD BOX!! As in previous years, Mr Griffin has set up a camera in one of our bird boxes in the school grounds, connected to a monitor in the KS1 Hall and over the last few weeks the children have been able to observe a pair of Blue Tits building a nest, laying eggs and taking it in turns to sit on them to keep them warm. It won’t be long before the eggs hopefully hatch, and the children get the chance to see the chicks being fed and eventually leave the nest.

CHICKS! Mr Morley’s class have been watching the hatching of 7 very cute and fluffy chicks over the last few days. All the children in school have had the chance to have a look and some have been able to hold them! They left us yesterday to go to a farm. ☺



CENSUS DAY (16th May 2019) Next Thursday we will be completing a Census for the DfE. The information collected will contribute towards calculations for the funding we receive in our budget. One of the figures counted is the number of children eating a school dinner. It is a Curry Day next Thursday (always a favourite for the children) and it would be great if as many children as possible could opt to have a dinner on that day. Thank you.

Y5 TAG RUGBY The team will be in action on Tuesday 21st May at Old Rishworthians RUFC at an Inter-schools Tournament.

PARENT READING SESSION A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents etc. who attended the KS1 Reading session today. It was lovely to see so many adults reading with their children and so many smiling faces – from all of them! We hope to organise some more sessions like this in the future.

PIRATE DAY We had a visit from a very impressive pirate last week. He came along on Wednesday the 1st of May and answered lots of the children’s questions about his life! The only disappointment was that he didn’t bring a parrot!

DONATIONS OF WELLIES The FS Base would be really pleased to receive donations of used and unwanted wellies. They are always useful to keep feet dry and to plant flowers in!!! ☺



4V HULA HOOP CHALLENGE As mentioned earlier our virtue focus at the moment is FORTITUDE and Mrs Vickers’ class wanted us to tell you about the great fortitude they showed whilst trying to put a hula hoop down on the floor as a team – It is not as easy as it sounds!