



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 171

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

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WHOLE SCHOOL MASS (Thursday 19th September 2.15pm) We invite all our community to join us for this first Mass of the academic year, to ask God to give us another great year at St Mary's. Everyone is welcome, even if you are not a Catholic – You can always just come along and sit at the back. 😊

WELCOME We have loved seeing the children back in school last week. They all look a little taller and a little older, and all of them are wearing our uniform so proudly and smartly. A big thank you to parents for your efforts over the holidays to get them kitted out and well prepared for the year ahead.

- Please make sure that as the weather gets wetter and colder your child has a **suitable coat** and footwear to put on when they are playing outside.
- **Dinner Money and Hang-out Hub Payments...** Please ensure that all school meals are paid for in advance and places in our Breakfast Club and After-School Club are booked in advance using the School Money App.
- **Nuts in Packed Lunches....** Please do not send children to school with food products that contain nuts or nut traces. We have some children in school who can have severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions if they come into contact with these. Thank you.
- **Contact Information.....** It is extremely important for us to be informed if you change your mobile number, address or other contact details. We have to be able to contact you if your child is poorly or has had an accident, or even just if we need to inform you of something else via our texting service. Thank you.



FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS Every class in school will be taking part in these outdoor learning sessions once a fortnight. They are led by Mrs Brown, who is a fully qualified Forest School Leader and spent much of the Summer term putting the facilities in place. We believe your children will benefit hugely from this exciting provision! The first sessions this week have been absolutely fantastic, with all the children saying they have enjoyed them – including those that were out in the rain on Monday! A letter was sent out for every class last week giving you the dates of your child's sessions and asking you to make sure that on these days in particular your child has appropriate clothing to change into, in a bag. This might include wellies, coat, hat, gloves, jumper etc. depending on the weather. Please be aware that it is very likely these clothes will get muddy or dirty or get scuffed so don't send them to school with 'best' clothes please. If you have lost this letter the Office, or your child's teacher should be able to help.

KS1 INFORMATION EVENING...We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 19th September at 3.30pm or 5.30pm for this important event where information on your child's forthcoming school year will be given out.

MACMILLAN COFFEE DAY (27th September) The School Library will be converted temporarily into a Café to help raise funds for this very worthy charity. Parents and friends are very welcome to come along to enjoy a chat, a beverage and of course some cake or buns. We will be open for business between 9am and 10am and then between 2.45pm and 3.45pm on the same day.



PTFA MEETING Our very dedicated committee will be holding their first planning and establishment meeting on Tuesday next week (**17th September 6pm**). We look forward to **seeing all** committee members and any **new members at this meeting** to help us raise extra funds for the school throughout the year.

TWITTER We have a Twitter account which we use to publish lots of photographs and news about our daily activities in school. If you would like to join this community you need to search for [@stmaryshalifax](https://twitter.com/stmaryshalifax) Please note that we do not interact with re-tweets or comments and please be aware that in some circumstances your own account may be visible to others, unless you have applied security options. We have 261 followers at present.



NEW PARENT GOVERNORS We are pleased to say that following elections held just before the holidays, Mr Ed Jones and Mr Mark Coleman have been appointed as our new Parent Governors. Mr Brennan would like to take this opportunity to thank the other candidates who nominated themselves but were on this occasion unsuccessful.

CLUBS AND SPORT Our various clubs, sport training and other extra-curricular activities will mostly be commencing next week. A timetable is available on the school website, however specific letters will also go out for each activity, for children to sign up to.

GUITAR CLUB Mr Brennan will start lessons again on Wednesday 25th September. A letter about this will go out soon.



SCHOOL START AND FINISH TIMES Please remember that FS&KS1 and KS2 start school at 8.55am. The end of the day is slightly staggered to allow for parents picking up children from the two playgrounds..... FS&KS1 – **3.25pm** KS2 - **3.30pm**. **Please also be aware that children who are late need to come into school via the Main Entrance, so that this can be**

recorded. Adults MUST bring late children into the school personally, to ensure we have safely taken responsibility for them. Please do NOT send them in from a car or from the gates. Thank you.

ON THIS DAY Occasionally, when we have spare space in our Newsletters we like to share with you some of the entries in our school logs from the past -

Sept. 19th 1924..... "The boys did not visit the swimming baths today - the men's baths not being available".

Sept. 4th 1939.... "The school was due to re-open this morning but owing to the beginning of the war the Education Officer instructed schools to send children home if they attended for 9am and instructed the staff to await instructions".