



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

No. 172

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

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CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2019-20 All Catholic children currently in Y6 (and above) are eligible to be confirmed in their faith by the Bishop of Leeds on **5th February 2020**. We held an Information Evening on the 10th of September about the programme of workshops and all candidates who are undertaking the programme should attend a Parish Mass this Sunday 29th September to be presented to the Parish. (St Alban's - 9.30am **OR** St Mary's - 11am).

The first workshop for both parents and children will take place in school on Tuesday 1st October at 6.30pm.



ROSARY We will be starting our Rosary Prayer sessions from **Wednesday** next week at 8.45am. From then on, these will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday until half-term. A member of staff (or children from our Faith in Action group) will lead us in saying a decade of the Rosary – a traditional Catholic prayer to Our Lady. Everyone is welcome.



MACMILLAN COFFEE DAY A big thank you to everyone who donated cakes and buns for this event today and to everyone who came along to enjoy eating them and sharing a coffee/tea alongside! A big thank you to Mrs Dunnett, Mrs Woodhead and friends for organising this.



ALL SAINTS' CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENING - 3rd October 5.30pm – 8pm We have been asked to remind all our Y4, Y5 and Y6 parents that there is an Open Evening at our Catholic feeder school at Bradley Bar next Thursday to which everyone is invited. You will have the opportunity to look round the school (which is only a couple of years old) and speak to students and staff. We sent 18 children to the school this year. <https://www.aschc.com/>

INFORMATION / WELCOME EVENINGS It has been great to see so many parents attending our numerous Welcome Meetings this week and last. We hope you found the information useful in supporting us to get the best from your children this year.

HOLIDAYS The Governors have recently approved our holiday dates for 2020-21. These can be viewed on the school website by following the 'Parents' link.

OPEN DAY (Thursday 21st November) Our school will be open 9.30am - 11.45am and 1.15pm - 3pm on this day. All prospective parents (especially those whose children are due to start school in September 2020) are encouraged to come along for a guided tour of the school with our Headteacher (Mr Brennan) and Deputy Headteacher (Mr Brown) lasting about 30 minutes. There are no fixed appointments – just turn up at your convenience.



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.

FOREST SCHOOL As you can see below, our new Forest School sessions, accessed by all the children in school on a fortnightly rota, are going down very well indeed! A big thank you to Mrs Brown (Lead Instructor) and of course all the Teaching Assistants who have been going out with the children in all weathers!



Mrs Brown would like to encourage any parents who are able to commit some time to support these sessions on a regular basis to contact the School Office. Obviously you will need to undergo safeguarding checks but you would be very welcome!



PTFA Thank you to everyone who came to the first Committee meeting last week. The committee have generously agreed to pay for some new blinds to be fitted in the KS1 Hall, to go with our newly installed panel of windows that went in during the Summer holidays. The first event will be the Joint KS1 & KS2 Film Night on Friday 18th October 3.30pm to 5.15pm. Details to follow.

KESWICK (Y6 – 18th to 22nd May) AND AMPLEFORTH (Y5 – 11th to 13th March) All parents of children in Y5 and Y6 are reminded that the deadline for payment of the non-refundable deposits is today (Ampleforth - £19 & Keswick - £38). We are able to accept payments via www.eduspot.co.uk until Monday, but anyone who has not paid (or spoken to Mr Brennan) will be assumed to have decided that their child is not going on their respective residential. Please be aware that if there is not enough support for either of these trips we may need to review their viability.



LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS We have 2 vacancies for Midday Supervisors in our school. If you are able to commit to a minimum of three lunchtimes every week to support the children as they have their lunch and make sure they are happy and safe on the playground please ask for more details in the School Office.

NEWSLETTERS Our Newsletters can be accessed digitally from the front page of the school website. You can also sign-up to receive them automatically. Just scroll down to the RED box at the bottom and fill in the linked form. **Please read our fortnightly newsletters, so that you don't miss things that have happened, or things that are coming up soon.**



THANK YOU We thought you might like to know that for the first time in at least 11 years the school dinner and after-school club debt is now consistently below £10. This is a fantastic achievement and we thank everyone for ensuring they pay for school services in advance.