



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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

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ACADEMY CONVERSION CONSULTATION MEETING (23rd October – 6.30pm) All parents should have received a letter from our Chair of Governors (Mr David Hymas) explaining that the school will be joining the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust, hopefully before the end of Autumn 2020. A meeting has been organised for parents to express views on this decision and to ask questions about the implications. It would be useful to have any complex questions in advance, to help us find the correct answers. These can be left in the school office.



GOD WHO SPEAKS: YEAR OF THE WORD The Catholic Church in England and Wales has dedicated the next liturgical year (starting in Advent 2019) to deepening our understanding of Scripture. You can find out more on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/education/year-of-the-word/>

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**. The next workshop for both parents and children will take place in school on Tuesday 15th October at 6.30pm and then again on the 22nd October at the same time.



ROSARY We have been holding Rosary Prayer sessions at 8.45am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during October. These will continue to run 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.

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. Please note that in **2021** we will be going into Holy Week before we break for two weeks over Easter. This is not our normal pattern of holidays so please don't make the mistake of assuming you will be OK to book holidays etc. at that time.



MR PARKINSON IS LOSING HIS HAIR!!! Mr Parkinson (Teacher 5P) who is blessed with lots of hair has offered (been persuaded/forced) to have his head shaved in aid of **Prostate Cancer UK**. The 'Shaving of the Head Ceremony' will take place in school on Thursday 24th October at 2.45pm.

You are welcome to come along, but be prepared to offer a donation!! He is asking for donations towards this massive sacrifice and you can do this by accessing his Just Giving Website. He is hoping to raise £650 – Surely he deserves to beat this target!!!??? <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joshua-parkinson>

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 264 followers at present.

DO YOU FANCY JOINING AN ADULT CHOIR? We have been asked to publicise a newly forming adult Choir in the Hebden Bridge Area. The ethos will be fun and relaxed, and is for anyone who just loves to sing! If you are interested

in finding out more and attending a few sessions on a trial basis please contact info@onevoicechoirs.com or contact www.facebook.com/onevoicechoirs

NEW BLINDS IN OUR DINING HALL A big thank you to everyone who has contributed money towards events organised by our PTFA Committee over the last year. Thanks to your involvement and generosity the committee have been able to buy new roller blinds for us in our dining hall. This will enable us to moderate the sunshine and light getting in and will allow us to use the hall for things that in the past we have not been able to do, such as Film Nights etc. These will be the finishing touch to our brand new windows that were fitted over the Summer.

PTFA The first event will be the **Joint EYFS/KS1 & KS2 Film Night** on Friday 18th October 3.30pm to 5.15pm. Payments are to be made on School Money, before **17th October**.

FOREST SCHOOL More fantastic photos from our most 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!

KESWICK (Y6 – 18th to 22nd May) AND AMPLEFORTH (Y5 – 11th to 13th March)

Thankyou to all parents of children in Y5 and Y6 who have paid the non-refundable deposits towards these residential experiences for their children. We have looked at the numbers involved and although we are disappointed that a number of children will not be going, we do think we can still run them. We are now assuming that anyone who has not paid (or spoken to Mr Brennan or the School Office) has decided that their child is not going and no longer wishes to receive reminders about the payment plan. Mr Brennan would like to make it clear to parents of children who do not attend these trips, that they are still required to attend school when their classmates are away and any absences will be recorded as 'Unauthorised'.



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.**

PARENTS' EVENINGS Our Parents Evening Booking system has been online for nearly two weeks. The evenings will take place immediately after school on Monday and Wednesday next week. We hope all parents have been able to make convenient appointments.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS (INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY GROUPS) All children in school will have an individual photograph taken on Wednesday 16th October. Siblings will also be photographed. Details have been sent to you about this, but we would like to ask for your support making sure uniforms and hair are especially tidy and clean on the day. Pre-school children can have photos with their older siblings from 8.30am to 9am in the KS2 Hall. Thank you.

TRAINING DAY (Friday 25th October) A reminder that children are not in school on this day. We close for half-term on Thursday 24th October.

H&S INSPECTION 5 STARS!! We are very proud to confirm that the LA have given us the maximum grading for our H&S provision recently. Much of the credit for this judgement is due to the hard work, professionalism and expertise of our wonderful Site Manager Mr Griffin! We are very lucky to have him!

