



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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

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ADVENT 2019 The Church's season of Advent, lasts for approximately 4 weeks from the 1st December to the 25th December and is a time for us to pray and engage in charitable works in preparation for the great feast of Christmas when Jesus was born. All our fundraising (except the Christmas Fayre) will be focussed on CAFOD World Gifts.

SMALL CHANGE FOR CAFOD Every class will be collecting small change over the next four weeks towards our Advent Charity. Any brown or silver coins will be very welcome. Children and teachers will try to target a particular gift to buy from the CAFOD World Gifts catalogue. What will they choose? A goat for a family in Ethiopia for £28? Reading lessons for a child in Congo for £10? Or a Starter Bee Colony for a family in El Salvador for £7 perhaps? There are lots of other options of course!

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

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 the 26th November at 6.30pm.



NATIVITY PERFORMANCE Our KS1 and Foundation Stage children will be presenting us with the timeless story of the birth of Jesus on Thursday 12th December at 2pm. All parents and friends of our school are very welcome to join us!!

FIRST CONFESSION PROGRAMME 2020 (Y3s) We will send parents of Catholic children in Y3 all the details regarding the First Confessions Programme before Christmas, but please put the 15th January (6.30pm) in your diaries now. This will be the first meeting for parents and children.

ADVENT CALENDAR RAFFLES The staff have donated lots of Advent Calendars and we have also bought some special ones that tell the story of Christmas. Children can buy as many raffle tickets for these as they want at 20p per ticket. We will draw the raffles in each class at the end next week so the children who win them can start using them on the 1st of December.



'OTHER FAITHS WEEK' All classes will have at least one lesson next week about a Faith other than Catholicism. KS1 children will be learning more about Islam and KS2 will find out about Hinduism. If you think you can help with some artifacts or interesting items that we could show the children please let us know.



PTFA

REMINDER: Parents should remember that appoints to

- **INTRODUCTION TO PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID** The parents that took part in this opportunity to learn how to react in an emergency situation with an injured or poorly child found the session extremely useful. We hope to offer another similar session next term for those who couldn't take part this time.
- The first **Joint Film Night** went very well before the holiday. The next one will be for both KS1 and KS2 on 29th November. There will be a Non-Uniform Day on this day, and we ask children to bring items for a 'Luxury Christmas Hamper' as payment. Details have been sent out.



- **Christmas Fayre** will be on Friday 6th December (3.30pm to 5.30pm). Please join us and help raise funds for the school.

FOREST SCHOOL Our Forest School sessions are already having a significant impact on the general attitudes and well-being of our children across the school. The children are saying to us that they love the activities and parents attending the sessions this week have confirmed overwhelming support for the initiative. We have had a very small number of parents, perhaps understandably concerned about children getting mud on their clothes and getting wet in the rain. Of course we do everything we can to avoid this happening to children, and we always want children to be dry and warm – it is never pleasant to be outside wet or cold. For this reason, please make sure children come to school for these sessions with lots of warm jumpers (two or even three layers is advised) and a coat that is going to keep them warm and dry. We do have some spare clothing and we regularly give these out to children who want them, but sometimes they are reluctant to take us up on the offer. Thank you for your support.



WINTER CLOTHING Please do your best to ensure that children have a good coat (which fastens at the front), winter shoes, scarf, gloves and a hat in school as the weather begins to get more challenging. Please label clothes so they can be easily returned if lost.



SCHOOL BARRIER You may have noticed that our Car Park Barrier has been out of action for about a week. It was unfortunately damaged by a delivery van that was reversing through it. No one was hurt although the driver was a little bit embarrassed. Thank fully the repairs have now been completed.



MAD SCIENCE All the children will be treated to a special visit from a 'Mad Scientist' on Friday 6th December. Some classes will then also have workshops with him, and hopefully learn a few things they didn't know!

OPEN DAY / RECEPTION APPLICATIONS 2020 It was great to have so many people coming to look round the school yesterday. If you have a child who will be 5yrs old between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 you should be looking for a place in a school now. The deadline for applications, which must be made online is 15th January 2020. If you apply after this date your child **may not** get the school of your choice.



LINK: www.calderdale.gov.uk/admissions

NASAL SPRAY IMMUNISATIONS Children whose parents have given permission for their children to receive this free immunisation against flu this winter will have this done on **Thursday 28th November**. All parents have had letters about this national programme which the NHS is promoting. Around 50% of our parents have given permission for their child to receive this (the national average is about 62%) and anyone still wanting to opt-in can do so by asking the School Office for information.



MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools>