



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

No. 177

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

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**A WARM WELCOME BACK!!** Happy New Year to everyone in our wonderful school community. It has been great to have the children back in school and to listen to all the exciting things they have been up to over the Christmas holiday.

**PRAYERS REQUEST** We have had some sad news from two of our families recently and we ask you to pray for them.



**FIRST CONFESSION PROGRAMME 2020 (Y3s)** The First Confessions Programme for Catholic children in Y3 will commence with the first workshop next **Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January (6.30pm)**. This will be the first meeting for parents and children and it is very important that children wanting to receive this Sacrament attend all the sessions sent to you in a letter before the holidays. Dates are also on the Calendar of the school website front page.

The **FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME** for Catholic Y4 children does not start until 11<sup>th</sup> March. The actual date of the First Communions will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May. A letter giving you the details of this programme and the dates of all the workshops will be sent to you soon.



**FOREST SCHOOL** We continue to see massive benefits happening for the children as they get increasingly used to their sessions with Mrs Brown. We have however noticed that a few children are coming in clothes that are not suitable for the wet or cold winter weather conditions. It doesn't matter what condition clothes are in – they just need to be good enough to keep children warm and dry.

We strongly recommend lots of layering of clothes as well. If children get too warm they can always take a layer off. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**CHESS CHAMPION** Massive congratulations are due to Rohan 6G who won the School Chess Tournament last term. The Runners Up were Aidan in 5P, Haaris in 5B and Nida in 6W. A special mention as well to Amelia in 3R for being the youngest child to reach the Quarter Finals.



**WHOLE SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY** We are sending out today a survey that will help us to identify both our strengths and weaknesses as a school. The information provided will then be used to support our School Improvement Plan for the next few years. Please do your best to complete the survey and send it back to us. If you would prefer to complete a slightly shorter survey online please use the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GXPVTNZ>



**TIMESTABLES ROCKSTARS** All KS2 children have been given passwords to access this website at home, where they can practice their timetables. We will be organising a School Tournament this term so now is the time to get your brains working perfectly!

LINK: <https://trockstars.com/>



**SCHOOL TWINNING PROJECT** The children in Mrs Borges-Vaz's class had a great afternoon with children from Triangle Primary at the Bankfield Museum on Wednesday this week. They worked together on 'Team Building Games' and made lots of new friends. The next step in the project is to visit each other's schools.

Mr Parkinson's class will be doing something similar soon, with new friends from Cross Lane Primary.

**LATE COLLECTION OF CHILDREN** We would like to remind parents that we are not normally able to guarantee supervision of children after school unless by prior arrangement and if children are not collected before 3.45pm we will put them in our Hang out Hub (After school club) and you will be charged £3 for the first hour to 4.30pm.

**LATES – IN THE MORNING** School starts at **8.55am** and we register children as 'on time' as long as they are in their classroom when the register is called, which is usually before 9.05am. Children should only use the Main Entrance to come into school in the morning if the normal entry gates have been locked. This will help us avoid the Main Entrance becoming too crowded. The only regular exception to this rule is with the 30+ Yellow Bus children, who can't be held responsible for being late and who we record as being in school once they are on the bus. They use the Main Entrance for safety reasons. Thank you for your cooperation.

**NEW ATTENDANCE REWARDS!** Mr Brown (Deputy Headteacher) has come up with a new idea to try to encourage even better attendance than we already have.....

- One Term 100% Attendance = Bronze Award = Names entered into a draw for a £20 Voucher.
- Two Terms 100% Attendance = Silver Award = Names entered into a draw for a £30 Voucher.
- Three Terms 100% Attendance = Gold Award = Names entered into a draw for a £100 Voucher.

The above prize draws will take place at the end of each full term. In theory, this system, starting at the end of this Spring term, will mean that even if a child doesn't have 100% attendance in one term, they can still have a chance of winning the Awards and of winning the vouchers. The system will be explained to the children in the next few weeks.



**PEER MESSAGE TRAINING** Our children have nearly all had specialist training in simple peer massage and self-calming techniques this week. This was provided free of charge as part of a LA initiative to improve well-being and mental health in schools. Children did not have to take part if they felt uncomfortable with this and the techniques were introduced very carefully in line with clear guidance and rules around safeguarding (personal space, consent etc.). Children will only use the techniques in school occasionally and always under adult supervision. A useful website for parents to get more information on

the benefits of this training can be found at: <http://www.touchlinetraining.co.uk/Massage-in-Schools.aspx>



**Y6 TRIP TO HOLOCAUST CENTRE** Our Y6 children will be visiting the Beth Shalom Museum near Newark on Friday next week. They will learn about racism, ethnic cleansing, prejudice etc. as the tour the museum in the virtual company of a young Jewish German called Leo as the Nazi Party took power. We have run this trip for the last nine years and it is always very powerful and valuable for the children. A payment of £20 for this trip should be made on [www.educspot.co.uk](http://www.educspot.co.uk)

before next Thursday. Thank you.