



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

*A Community Where we Live, Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love*  
[admin@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk)

No. 179

Tel: 01422 362365

7/2/20

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME (Y6)** We are very proud of our newly Confirmed Y6 children, who were received formally and fully into the Church on Wednesday this week by the Bishop of Leeds. Congratulations to them all!



A big thank you as well to the Calderdale Catholic Schools Choir for making the Mass so beautiful with their singing.



The children were sent a little box of cake by Fr Martin on Thursday morning, to eat at playtime.



**ASH WEDNESDAY (26<sup>th</sup> February)** The whole school will be attending Church on the 26<sup>th</sup> February and all Christian children will receive ashes on their forehead to mark the beginning of Lent.

**FIRST CONFESSION PROGRAMME 2020 (Y3s)** The next First Confessions meeting is at school on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> February - 6pm.



**AMPLEFORTH 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March (Y5)** Our Y5 children will soon be off on their Retreat experience in North Yorkshire. They will be doing some nice walks and visiting the swimming pool, as well as spending time thinking about their time in St Mary's to date and the manner in which they will approach the challenges of Y6 from September. We believe nearly all the children will be going, but Mr Brennan would like to remind parents that if your child is not going they are still expected to attend school as normal while their friends are away. As you can see.... Last year's Y5's certainly enjoyed themselves!

**There will be an Information Evening about Ampleforth on the 26<sup>th</sup> February at 5.30pm.**

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS** These opportunities for parents to work alongside children in class continue to be a great success. Feedback from parents attending is always very positive. This week the Y6 parents worked on some wonderful Ice World Creature models and FS & KS1 parents shared a Maths lesson with their children.

**BALANCE BIKES (FS)** (14<sup>th</sup> February) A letter asking for permission from parents for children to be involved in this activity is in Book Bags tonight. Please return it asap.

**BOOK FAYRE** Lots of children have taken advantage of the opportunity to look at our shelves of brand new books and many have persuaded their parents to let them buy one (or two!). The Book Fayre is open before and after school every day until Wednesday.





**INTO THE DEEP** The children in Y3&4 will be visiting this amazing undersea world in Hull on the **25<sup>th</sup> February** to stimulate and enhance their topic next term 'Into The Deep'. Among other things, their topic will cover the impact of plastics in the oceans. We do recognise that the cost of this trip is quite significant for some parents (especially when other trips are happening to younger or older siblings at the same time), but we have tried to give a good amount of notice and we have subsidised the cost from the school budget. Thank you for your support.

**KNOWSLEY SAFARI PARK** Children in Y1 & Y2 will be going on a trip to the Zoo on the 10<sup>th</sup> March. Parents have had letters about this. Please make sure you have returned the Emergency Contact and Medical Details Form asap. Payment is online through School Money.



**YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK** Children in FS will be going to this wonderful place on the 6<sup>th</sup> March. Please return the Emergency Contact and Medical Forms to us asap.

**WHOLE SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY** Thank you to all those people who have completed the survey. One lucky parent has won the £20 M&S Voucher and was sent it at the end of last week. Unfortunately only 20 out of 229 surveys that were sent out have been returned so of course we have to be very careful about making major decisions or deducing parental opinion from the results but we have a few ideas that have emerged which we are considering for discussion by Governors in the future.

**Some headlines:**

- 100% of respondents said they judged the school as either Good or Outstanding overall.
- You chose our school because it has a strong Faith ethos and a very good reputation
- You would like us to try to make the KS2 Waiting Area more user friendly and comfortable.
- We could try to inform you even more than we do, of what is taught in classes.
- Our children absolutely love Forest School.
- 95% of respondents judged that the school was either Good or Outstanding at keeping children happy.
- 100% of respondents said the school was either Good or Outstanding at welcoming parents.

**ATTENDANCE** The best attenders over the last two weeks were Miss Goulden's class with 100%. They were very closely followed by Mrs Roe's class on 99.5% and Mr Smith's class on 99.3%. *WELL DONE AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS!*

CLASS	ATTENDANCE 20/1/20 – 31/1/20
FS	95
1D	95.4
2/1AM	96.7
2/1JM	95
3R	99.5
4/3PS	99.3
4/3JS	95.7
5P	95.5
5BV	98
6G	100
6W	97.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97%</b>

**HALF-TERM HOLIDAY** We break for a week's holiday on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. The children will return to school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.