



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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

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Tel: 01422 362365

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CURRENT SITUATION It goes without saying that these are absolutely exceptional times in our country's history. The 'normal' has gone out of the window and nearly everything has to be dealt with on a totally different basis. Change is always hard, but at this time of extreme change we must look after each other and try to remain as positive as possible, especially for our beautiful children.

Thank you for all the positive and encouraging messages we have received. It is a measure of the fantastic community we have all created here, that so many people have put themselves out to send their thoughts and prayers to us. None of us expected this, or wanted it or planned for it. All we can do is our best, pull together and get through it.



COMMUNICATION We intend to keep in touch with you all by text and we will continue to make sure our website is kept up-to-date where it is most important. We also encourage you to sign up to our Twitter account ([@stmaryshalifax](https://twitter.com/stmaryshalifax)) for other bits of news from the school as it is currently running.

This is all a very fluid situation and at some stage we may be told to completely close of course. If this happens obviously we will still try to keep producing work tasks for the children, and you can email your child's teacher at any time during the school day. We will try to reply to you as soon as possible.

As of Monday 23rd March we had 12 pupils in school. Most of these are Key Worker's children and some are from more vulnerable families who have needed extra support and whom we have been happy to help. We have reduced our staffing levels to those required to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and staff who are with us. We have approximately 9 members of staff who are self-isolating for various reasons, none of which have been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus of course. They are just being careful and protecting others by following government guidance. All staff members have been incredibly flexible and adaptable over the last week. Many have willingly offered to work through what would have been the Easter holiday.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS We are able to offer a free packed lunch to children who are normally in receipt of Free School Meals. The families this applies to have been sent a text. We are not sure how many will take us up on this offer at the moment but if these parents do want a packed lunch to be left in the Main School Entrance from 11.30am they should ring the school office before 10am each morning. (Tel: 01422 362365)

SAFEGUARDING Whilst it is very difficult for us to support you in the ways we normally do, especially through the work Mrs Pollard and Mrs Dyson would normally offer, we do still want to help if we can. Don't hesitate to contact us at school or via Mrs Pollard's email (lmentor@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk) for any safeguarding or well-being concerns. If we can't directly help we will hopefully know someone who can.



FIRST CONFESSIONS The children from all the Halifax deanery parishes made their First Confessions at St Bernard's Church two weekends ago. It was a lovely even with nearly 70 children being involved.

Y4 COMMUNION PROGRAMME Unfortunately, the Workshops have been cancelled and the First Communion Mass will not take place on the 7th June as planned. We ask that you continue to work gradually through the books at home in the meantime, as best you can. A new date will be set once things are back to something more like 'normal'.

VIRTUAL MASS Fr Kelly has his own channel on You Tube now. Each morning you can tune in and participate in Mass remotely. The first broadcast was for 11am Mass on Sunday. Please visit the parish website for information..... <https://www.stmaryshalifax.com/>

AMPLEFORTH 11th – 13th March (Y5) Our children had a fantastic time at Ampleforth last week, which now seems so long ago! We have been on the edge of tears looking at these photos, but we thought they would still be nice to put in this Newsletter..... To help us remember what a wonderful school we had just a week ago, and what a wonderful school we will have again!!!

