



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

No. 192

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

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**LENT** We are into the fourth week of Lent and as all children return to school we are again able to help them learn about the obligations of Fasting, Prayer and Charitable Giving. Over the next few weeks the children will be able to buy raffle tickets for Easter Eggs that have been donated by the staff. Parents can buy tickets for 20p each on the School Money App commencing next Monday. (To a maximum of £2 per child – 10 tickets)



**SOUP & BREAD LUNCH** On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March we are asking children in Y5 and Y6 to take part in this event at lunchtime. They will give up their normal lunch and will instead be given soup and bread to eat. We will set up a donation on the School Money App for parents to make a contribution to CAFOD, our Lent Charity this year.

**YEAR 6 PASSION PODCAST** Our current Y6 children were rehearsing for their Y5 stage production of The Passion of Christ as we went into the first Covid lockdown last year. This meant that they missed the opportunity to actually present it to their parents and the school community. Many of them still remember their parts and the words they were meant to be speaking, so we have decided to let them record a Covid adapted production, as a Podcast, accompanied by photographs of key scenes, on our website. We will let you know when it can be accessed.

**OUR NEW HEADTEACHER** We are delighted that the Governors were able to appoint our new Headteacher for September 2021 last week. Miss Jenna Smith will start her role properly in the Autumn term but she will be making lots of visits to school to get to know everyone between now and then. Miss Smith is currently the Deputy Headteacher at St Patrick's Catholic Primary in Birstall and is very pleased and excited about working at St Mary's. If you meet her in the next few months please say hello and make her feel very welcome.

**RED NOSE DAY (19<sup>th</sup> March)** Just some advanced notice that children will be able to come in Pyjama Bottoms – with normal uniform above the waist OR Just Pyjamas/Onesies..... Small donation on School Money.

## UNIFORM REMINDERS:

- We **do not allow** the wearing of large, brightly coloured 'fashion' bows (JoJo Bows) in hair.
- The same applies to the wearing of any footwear inside school that is not black.
- We strongly recommend traditional plimssoles or sturdy shoes only. Coloured trainers, or Ugg boots, boots that rise above the ankle, high heels etc. are not allowed. We also do not allow earrings other than studs.
- All children should have a white T-shirt and black shorts or tights for PE.

Attached to this Newsletter is our [School Uniform Policy](#). We ask for your cooperation in complying with our policy. Thank you.



## INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA WARNINGS

In the first week back after lockdown we have had to deal with a number of issues caused by children having access to social media groups or inappropriate gaming apps. We would like to remind parents that it is in fact illegal for children under 13 (or even 16 in some cases) to have accounts with most social media platforms. **There is a reason for this.** In our experience even innocent chat groups often turn into a platform for children to be very unkind to each other, or to talk about inappropriate topics. For advice on monitoring and controlling your child's access to social media [CEOP](#) is always a good start. Where these issues continue into the Summer we will speak to individual parents and ask for

them to help us stop this problem. Mr Brennan's personal view is that children should not have access to a mobile phone or social media until they are in High School and mature enough to deal with the implications. **Please at least make sure you know everything your child is doing online.** All Y5 and Y6 have been spoken to this week.

**COVID SECURITY** Please continue to protect the health of all our community by wearing masks in the grounds (unless you have a medical reason for not doing so), observing 2m spacing and not staying longer than absolutely necessary or talking in groups for more than a few minutes. Thank you.



**Y6 RESIDENTIAL TO KESWICK (w/c 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021)** We have not changed anything concerning this trip. Parents should continue to pay instalments through School Money. If we have to cancel the visit to the Lake District for our Y6 children we will let you know immediately the decision is made and we will of course return all payments made up to that point. We are very keen to go ahead and for all the children to attend if we are allowed.

**LOANED-OUT LAPTOPS** We gave out more than 40 laptops to families during the lockdown in January and February. All these families have hopefully been contacted this week to remind them to return the devices as soon as possible. They will be used in school by our oldest children in the future.



**NEW SPRING MENU** We have reviewed and changed our school meal menu for the return to full opening. This has been published on our website. Please remember that whenever we start a new half-term we always start on Week 1. Please continue to talk to your children about the new menus so that we can get them used to thinking about their food preferences and will be more willing to try new things. Thank you.

### **LEARNING LOGS**

**(KS2)** A new Learning Log mission will be going out to children from this week. We ask parents and children to work together on filling one whole open page of their Learning Log with any information they can find on 'Heroes through History'. The deadline for the return of these will be the first week after the Easter holidays.



**HELP YOUR CHILDREN READ – WITH NO EFFORT!!** Some recent research has been promoted in the Media, fronted by Sandi Toksvig, Sir Lenny Henry and Steven Fry..... It is a really simple and proven idea for helping children to learn to read whilst watching TV!!! Just turn the subtitles on when they are looking at their favourite programmes. The research is so convincing that the Indian Government has actually made it a legal requirement of children's TV producers that the subtitles are locked-in and can't be turned off.

Article Link: [GIVE IT A TRY! WHAT HAVE YOU TO LOSE???](#)

**SCHOOL STREETS SCHEME** - Proposed permanent closure of Swires Road to through traffic. A survey link will be sent to all parents next week on a proposal to put semi-permanent barriers at the top of Swires Road. This will allow Holy Trinity and ourselves to maintain the temporary closure situation that has worked extremely well since May 2020. When you receive this survey link please complete it.... It only takes a few minutes. The results will help inform the Council about whether the proposal can go ahead. Thank you.



**YELLOW BUS** We are delighted that the Yellow Bus is fully operating again. We have around 15 children regularly using it to get to and from school each day. If you would like information on the route, costs etc. please ask.



**SCIENCE WEEK** A big thank you to Mr Parkinson for organising some great Science experiences this week.