

# St Mary's News

Welcome back following the Easter break-hopefully everyone had a good rest and enjoyed the brighter weather (albeit very cold the second week!). Hopefully everyone remembered the clocks went forward and that lots of chocolate was eaten. The live streamed Masses meant we could celebrate Easter even if we couldn't be at Mass in person. The Easter season continues for another 4 weeks so think about booking a place in church or watching Mass via the YouTube link found on the parish website. [www.stmarybatley.co.uk](http://www.stmarybatley.co.uk)

## Virtues

For the next 3 weeks we are focusing on the virtue of forgiveness which is very apt as we have nine Yr 4 children who will celebrate their First Confession next week in school. We are also hoping to complete the preparation for First Holy Communion (for the children who had been working with the Parish catechists last year before lockdown stopped the programme.) A letter will be sent home shortly for these families.

Please note Fr Eamonn is awaiting guidance from the Diocese to be able to enrol the next group of children for both sacraments and that Mass attendance will be a requirement.

## Nursery places

Thank you for those who have contacted school to place their child on the nursery waiting list. At the current time it is looking very positive that we will be able to keep the nursery provision open but please do still complete a form so we can forecast numbers for the immediate future, especially as it is now looking like we will convert into the academy in December or January. Any child who is 3 between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 can be accepted (as long as toilet trained) for September.

## Goodbye and Good luck

We are saying goodbye today to Miss Barker-Hill who has worked with our children for 9 years. She is moving on to a Leeds Trust working in a counselling role within a number of schools, both primary and secondary, supporting children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health. Miss Barker-Hill will be greatly missed and all her hard work, compassion and patience has been much appreciated. We wish her all the very best in her new role.

## Polite reminders

Just a reminder that even though lockdown is beginning to be eased we are still working under Government guidance which at the current time has not changed. This means we are still working in class bubbles, ventilation, extra hygiene measures etc. We also still have to follow social distancing wherever necessary in school and when waiting for school to open. Please continue to arrive just before your start/end time and wear face coverings. For safety please keep your children with you and not playing around cars or on the convent wall/steps. Thank you.

### Academy

Many of you will remember about 18 months ago we held an information and consultation meeting regarding us joining the Blessed Peter Snow multi-academy trust with 22 other schools. This has been amended slightly and is now 16 schools, including our immediate neighbouring schools of St Paulinus, St Joseph's, Holy Spirit and St Patrick's. St John Fisher are already part of the Trust. Our joining date has been delayed due to the pandemic but is now looking to be approved for December or January 2022. We will be repeating the consultation and information sharing after half term so families new to St Mary's are fully aware of the process. (At the moment it will have to be online)

### Retirement

I have been at St Mary's since training to be a teacher, so have been here nearly 24 years. For the past 14 years I have been lucky enough to be Head teacher at this wonderful school but have decided it is the right time to retire and have a rest and enjoy time with my own family including my husband, children and very special grandchildren. Therefore, this is my last term at St Mary's. The governors have started the recruitment process and the advert has been published this week and our new Head teacher will be appointed by the end of May and will start in September. We have a very special school community and I know you will all make our new Head teacher very welcome.

### Amended holiday dates for the rest of this school year.

Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Close for Spring Bank
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Reopen for all pupils
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Close for Summer holidays
Additional days	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Closed National Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Training day closed to pupils.