



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

No. 193

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

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7/5/21

WELCOME BACK We are at the end of our third week back after Easter and the 5th week of the Easter season for the Church. We have been able to start Mass in school again, under limited conditions. KS2 Bubbles are taking it in turn to attend Mass each week. We are grateful to Fr Martin for giving us his time to keep us (especially our Catholic children) in touch with this central part of their Faith.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME Our **First Communion** candidates have started their lessons via Zoom and at home with their parents. We expect them to be able to make their 1st Communion on the 27th June. The arrangements will be confirmed nearer the time, but we have already taken orders for red ties for the boys and we are sure the girls will have already started thinking about white dresses. Please let us know if you are having problems obtaining a Holy Communion dress, as we have access to some dresses which a parishioner has recently donated to the Church, which can be borrowed.

The next Zoom session for 1st Communicants is on Wednesday next week (12th May). Children will cover Session 3, so it is important they have worked on Session 2 at home, before then. Thank you.



We hope that our Y6 **Confirmation** children will finally be able to be confirmed on the 4th of July. This will be confirmed nearer the time and as long as Covid restrictions allow.

Y6 RESIDENTIAL TO KESWICK (w/c 17th May 2021) 31 children and 6 members of staff will be setting off to the Lake District for lots of fresh air and plenty of exercise for a 4 night adventure! This residential trip is a very special achievement for us, as we gradually emerge from the devastation of Covid. Last year's Y6 cohort were unfortunately deprived of their Keswick experience, so giving this year's cohort the chance to go feels like a very tangible signpost for a promising and brighter future! We are delighted that Fr Martin and Mr Hymas (Chair of Governors) will be joining us on the Wednesday for a walk.



PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION We are grateful to everyone who has voted in this election for a parent representative for our Governing Body, and especially to **Naz Mehji** and **Betukumesu Nyamabu** for standing. We will be able to announce the winner early next week.

EID OBSERVANCE ARRANGEMENTS Our Muslim families will be celebrating Eid at the end of next week. Mr Brennan is able to authorise an absence of one school day for religious observance. If you wish to take advantage of this please make sure you complete the online absence form on our website or the hard copy available from the school office.

NON-UNIFORM DAY (11th June) The PTA are planning to run a Summer Hamper Raffle as a way to raise some funds to support the school in the Autumn term. This will be organised in a similar way to the Christmas Hampers..... so children will be asked to bring items suitable for a Summer Hamper to school on the 11th June as payment for not wearing their uniform. We will suggest more ideas for donations in the future, but here are few to get you started - Wine, Juices, Serviettes, Jams, Crackers, Cheese, Nice Biscuits, Pate, Crisps, Chocolate, Balloons, Party Poppers etc.

NEW HEADTEACHER Miss Smith has kept very much in touch with us since her appointment and is visiting on a regular basis to help with her induction process. Her role will properly start in September of course and all the children and staff are looking forward to welcoming her and supporting her as she gets to know St Mary's properly.



SCHOOL STREETS SCHEME ENDS - Unfortunately we have recently encountered some problems with taking this project forwards. We were hoping to have the top end of Swires Road closed permanently, but there has been some opposition from a local business and things have had to be suspended while other options can be explored by the Council. Holy Trinity school and ourselves have informed the Council that for the moment we can't continue to supervise the road closures at the beginning and end of the day. This is a great disappointment to us and we hope at some point we may be able to get this provision - which we know is highly valued by parents - back. **THE 'SCHOOL STREETS' WILL NOT OPERATE FROM MONDAY**

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 plimsols 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.***

If in doubt, please check our [School Uniform Policy](#) on the school website. Thank you.

PARENTS' EVENINGS We held Zoom meetings this Wednesday and Thursday to give parents an opportunity to catch-up with teachers. Obviously this type of provision is never as good as a real physical meeting, but we hope most parents found it reasonably useful. If you were not able to meet with your child's teacher via. Zoom you can ring school and make an appointment to chat over the telephone.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION WEEK (21st June to 25th June) We have sent all parents a letter this week asking for support for an idea Mrs Borges Vaz is hoping to organise if Covid restrictions allow at the end of June. Basically we want to spend the week 'off-timetable' giving the children a chance to learn about each other's cultural and national traditions. Each class will focus on a different country that is represented within our school community (language, art, food, geography, music, dance, history, traditions etc) and we also hope we can persuade some parents to join us and perhaps offer some kind of help to really bring things to life. Please complete the reply slip and return it to us, if you feel you can help.

MRS GRIFFIN We are very sad to be saying goodbye at the end of the summer term to Mrs Ann Griffin, who has worked as a Teaching Assistant at St Mary's since 1995. She will be greatly missed by colleagues, children and parents, but we will also be very pleased for her and wish her lots of good health and happiness for many years to come. Thank you for your dedication and commitment.

MRS ROE Mrs Roe, who has been a teacher at St Mary's since 2017 has recently been offered a post at William Henry Smith School for September 2021 and she has accepted the post. We are obviously very sad to see her go, but we are also pleased for her, as she moves on in her career. We hope she settles at her new school very easily and quickly in September and thank her for her dedication and service to St Mary's.

THANK YOU We have been asked by the Office staff to thank all parents for the fantastic efforts being made to always pay for things in school on School Money. This 'cashless' solution is much safer for the staff in terms of Covid and so much easier in terms of auditing and control of the school's accounts. We will definitely stick with this system moving into the future.