



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*A Community Where we Live, Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love*  
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**CLOSURE** We were very reluctant to have to take the decision to close on Thursday and Friday last week. In more than 10 years (as far back as we can reliably remember) we have only closed once before, when Swires Road was literally an ice ring! We always take the decision very seriously and only after consultation with the Chair of Governors (Mr Hymas), our Site Manager (Mr Griffin) and several members of staff who live both nearby and far away. Friday was particularly hard to decide on, but we did have a recommendation from the LA that we remain closed to avoid putting children, parents and staff at any risk. Most schools in Calderdale followed this advice. Hopefully the weather will improve from now on and it will be many years before we have another extreme weather event like this one to cope with. Thank you very much for your patience, understanding and support.



**MASS (Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March)** This year will be quite unusual for us, as we are going into Holy Week, before having our Easter holiday. On the Tuesday of that week we will start by walking to St Mary's Church for 10am, where Fr Martin will be blessing palm leaves for us. Then we will walk back to school with the palm leaves for Mass at about 11am. Parents and parishioners are welcome to join us at any point in the morning.

**FIRST CONFESSIONS PROGRAMME** Unfortunately, we were not able to run the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop Session for children and parents on Wednesday last week. We will make sure that the children cover the missed pages from the workbooks in school, so that we are ready for the **4<sup>th</sup> and final session on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March (6.30pm)**



**REMINDER:** The actual First Confession Liturgy will take place at St Bernard's Catholic Church on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm**. This will last about 1½ hrs and there will be an informal gathering afterwards.

**LENT PRAYERS** We invite parents and children to join us for 10 minute prayer sessions at 8.45am each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning until the end of term.



**SOUP & BREAD LUNCH** The children in Y5 and Y6 will be invited to have just bread and tomato soup for their lunch on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** and we will ask them to make a donation instead to our 'Good Shepherd' Lent charity. If your child normally pays for a school dinner or brings a packed lunch please consider allowing him/her have the soup and bread instead, and donate towards this very good cause. The amount you donate is up to you. Tesco's usually donate the bread and Mr Brennan buys the soup. Thank you.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Children in KS2 will be learning about the journey Jesus took to the Cross through this short liturgy in school on Wednesday this week.



## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

Obviously, we were not able to celebrate this event last week, so we gave the children the chance to dress up in their fantastic costumes today. Thank you to all parents for making such a great effort!

**Y2 & Y1 THACKRAY MUSEUM** The children are going to this fantastic Medical Museum in Leeds on Monday and Tuesday next week.

**BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK** Children will be enjoying a few extra science lessons during the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> March, to mark British Science Week.

**PARENTS EVENINGS** We have our Spring term Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings coming up on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. The booking slots are available online from today. If you are not able to access this system please contact the school office and we will try to help.

Don't forget  
Parents'  
Evening!



**Y5 AMPLEFORTH RETREAT** (14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March) Most of our Y5 children will be enjoying a lovely break in the fresh air and the beautiful North Yorkshire countryside. Please note that the few children not able to go are still expected to attend school and will be unauthorised absences if not.

Payments towards the cost of **£90** should be completed before the trip please.



**Y6 KESWICK** (21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May) Children in Y6 will be setting off to the Lake District for their adventure residential just before the May half-term. We have noticed that some parents have not used the instalment facility at all so far and we would like to remind people to think about paying in this way so that they don't have a shock at the end by having to find **£250** in one go. Thank you.

**GIRLS' FOOTBALL** Our team will be playing at Whitehill Primary on Thursday this week after school. We wish them lots of good luck in their first game of the season.

**NEW TEACHER & RETURN OF ANOTHER!** Mrs Helen Jannetta started working in Foundation Stage last week. She will be full time all this week, and will then start in a 50/50 job share role with Mrs Smith, who is returning from her maternity leave.



**COOKING LESSONS** We are very grateful to our friends at Holy Trinity school, who have invited us to use their Food Room for Cooking lessons. Every class will take it in turns to have a session of cooking every Friday pm until the end of June. 6L will be first, next Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, followed by 6F on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**LIBRARY SESSIONS** All classes are arranging to make a special visit to our local library over the next few weeks. Each class will walk up to King Cross Library on a date we will notify to parents in advance. A letter and Library Registration form has been sent to all parents about this already.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY** (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March) All parents are invited to join KS2 children in their classrooms and during their lessons at any point during the day. Be prepared to work alongside your child!

**PARENT INFORMATION SESSION (19<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm): 'Helping your child to develop good language and communication skills for High School'** All parents of children in KS2 are invited to this session presented by a professional Speech Therapist (Jenny Berry) who regularly works with children in our school. She will be sharing lots of good advice and strategies for parents to use to encourage older children to be more confident in their speech and communication as they approach the prospect of moving to High school and having to be more self-reliant.



**YEAR 6 TALK - MR NOBLET** (23<sup>rd</sup> March) We have invited Mr Mark Noblet (Former Deputy Headteacher) to talk to the Y6 children about his experience of facing challenges and focussing on goals to achieve your desires in life. Mark successfully beat Hodgkins Lymphoma a few years ago and although his talk will not include too much about this battle, it is obviously where his inspiration comes from.