



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

No. 156

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

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14/9/18

WELCOME BACK: It was great to see the children in school again today after the Summer. We have been especially impressed by the smart uniforms they are wearing and their enthusiasm and cheeriness over the first few days of the new academic year – let's hope it continues!

It has been especially nice to see how well our new Reception children have settled into their new classroom with their new teachers and support staff.

THANK YOU A big thank you to Mr Griffin and the cleaning staff in school, as well as Mr Coates, for all the work they have done over the holiday to get our school looking so clean, tidy and smart.

OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY Thank you very much for the flowers and posies that we decorated Mary's statues and images with, on Friday last week. They have continued to make the school smell and look beautiful all this week!



FIRST MASS OF THE YEAR We hope lots of parents and friends of St Mary's will join us on Thursday 11th October (11am) for our opening Mass of the academic year. Even if you are not a Catholic you are very welcome to come along and watch or participate at a level you feel most comfortable. Please note that only Baptised Catholics are able to receive Holy Communion, though Fr Martin is always very pleased to bless non-Catholics.

NEW SCHOOL PRAYER: The teachers, governors and support staff worked on a new school prayer during the Summer term and the end result was finalised during our Training Day on the 3rd September. We were helped enormously by the ideas suggested by our children and some parents before the holidays. We hope you like it:....



*Mary walk with us, as we grow in God's love.
Walk with our school and those who live, learn and laugh here.
Walk with our families and the people who care for us.
Walk with those who need God's love and help.
Walk with us as we care for the world and all God's creation.
Mary walk with us.
Amen*

NEW STAFF: We have welcomed Mr Parkinson (5P) and Mrs Vickers (4V) to our school this term. They have settled very quickly and we are sure when you meet them you will help them feel at home!

REMINDERS:

- **Cashless.....** Please do your best to help us with our on-going effort to be cashless in our school office. If you have any queries the office can usually sort them out with a simple phone call.

- **Footwear.....** Please ensure that all children have black indoor footwear (preferably simple black plimsols) to wear inside school. These need to have children's names written inside, so that if they get lost in school they can be easily returned to their owner.
- **Uniform.....** Please label all red school jumpers, cardigans and sweatshirts clearly so that we can return them to the right owners if lost.
- **Hang-out-Hub / Breakfast Club** Please be aware that places should be **booked in advance**. Last week we had 18 children turn up one morning, when our booking system only showed that we were expecting 10. This can of course cause us staffing problems. Thank you.
- **Debts.....** At the moment the school is carrying £150 in unpaid debts for dinners. Obviously this is not acceptable, as it means the school budget is having to pay these debts. Please do your best to pay for dinners in advance. Please do not be offended if you receive reminder texts about debts.



ASSEMBLIES There are no Friday assemblies planned for this half-term led by children. Parents are not invited to any assemblies during this period but after half-term we will of course be delighted to have as many parents as possible coming along. 😊



TWITTER We have a very popular twitter account, where we post lots of photos of the things we are getting up to each day. If you would like to sign up to this account we are at [@stmaryshalifax](https://twitter.com/stmaryshalifax)

TRAINING DAY REMINDER Although we have already sent out holiday lists we are keen to make sure parents are aware that children will not be in school on Friday 26th October as this is a Training Day for the teachers.

PARENTS' EVENINGS Our first Parent / Teacher Consultation meetings will be on Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th October. Nearer the time, we will open the online booking system for you to arrange a convenient appointment to come and speak to your child's teacher.

PTA MEETING All our parents are always very welcome to join PTA (Parent & Teacher Association) committee meetings. The first one will be on **Tuesday (18th) next week at 6pm in school**. The PTA organise lots of great fundraising events through the year, which means all the children in school can have 'the extra luxuries' that otherwise we would not be able to afford. Among the most important things they fund, are the free water bottles given to all Reception children, and the donations they make towards reducing the cost of our school trips and residential. The PTA is also a great way for new parents to get involved and to make new friends.



KS1 WILDLIFE PARK TRIP The children in Y1 & Y2 will be visiting the Yorkshire Wildlife Park on Thursday 27th September. Letters about this trip went out before the holidays so that parents had lots of notice about the cost. The children's learning this term is based around '**Dinosaurs**' and we started things off this week with a few very scary 'visitors' sitting in the playground on Monday and Tuesday!



PARENT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES Parents should have received a letter this week about the variety of events each Key Stage is organising this term to allow you alongside your child in class. There is very significant research evidence that the more involved parents are in their child's school and their learning and homework, the more likely they are to enjoy school and be successful in their educational outcomes. Please come along – You WILL enjoy it!!

CLUBS & EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES We have a variety of opportunities starting up soon. Letters will go out with children soon. Please make sure permission slips are returned asap, as places are sometimes limited.