



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

No. 158

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

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15/10/18



HARVEST CELEBRATION (24th October 2.15pm) We will be celebrating the harvest that God has given us in a liturgy led by Y3 & 4. We use this annual event to support two very worthy charities – SMARTMOVE Halifax and St Patrick's Mission in Bradford. We ask you to donate tins of either Chicken or Tomato Soup and household hygiene products such as cloths, washing-up liquid, dishwasher tablets, toilet cleaner, air fresheners, washing powder, scouring pads, shampoo, shower gel, toilet roll etc.

FIRST MASS OF THE YEAR We enjoyed a very prayerful and joyful Mass last Thursday with all children and a pleasing number of parents and parishioners attending, including some non-Catholics. Special thanks to Fr Martin and Deacon John, and Mr Chapman, who made sure the music and singing went so well in the absence of Mrs McCambridge.



WORLD FAITHS WEEK (15th – 19th October) During this week we will be focussing our RE lessons on Islam (KS1) and Judaism & Hinduism (KS2). A small number of parents have offered to come and talk to children about their Faith and share some artefacts and traditions with us, but if anyone else is able to help we would be very pleased to receive support in any way.



Y4 RETREAT (19th October) Our Y4 retreat in the Autumn term has been postponed and will now take place during Advent instead. Details nearer the time.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME (CURRENT Y6 & Y7 PUPILS) A letter from Calderdale Parish Priests will be sent to all prospective candidates before half-term explaining how eligible Catholic children / young people can join the programme to make their Confirmation this year, which will be on Wednesday 27th February 2019 (7pm). **The first meeting for parents and candidates will be on Wednesday 21st November 2018 (7pm).** This will purely be an opportunity to explain the programme.



TWITTER We have a very popular twitter account, with 241 followers, 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)

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT (DEPENDING ON YOUR SETTINGS) OTHER USERS MAY BE ABLE TO VIEW YOUR ACCOUNT POSTINGS.

PARENTS' EVENINGS Our Autumn Parent / Teacher Consultation meetings are tonight and Wednesday this week.



PTFA MEETING It was great to have so many people come along to offer support for our newly re-formed Parents, Teachers and Friends Association meeting on the 2nd and 9th October. The new committee will be Chaired by Claire Farrell. Secretaries will be Katie Lumb and Tracey Maseela with Adrian Butterworth continuing in the role of Treasurer. A big thank you to them especially. The first event they are organising will be a **Film Night** for KS2 on Friday 19th October this week

Y5 TRIP – SCIENCE & MEDIA MUSEUM The children had a very exciting day together last Monday, as you can see:



Y6 TRIP – HALIFAX TOWN HALL The children will now be visiting our Town Hall on 18th October. They are especially excited about taking part in a debate on Brexit in the Council Chamber!! Who knows what will come out of that!!!?? (Please note this date was changed because of an event taking place in the Council Chamber on the original date).

ROOFING PROJECT (PHASE 2) We will be having another section of our roof resurfaced very soon. The scaffolding will hopefully be installed before the half-term holiday and the project, which will cover most of the Staffroom Area and Infant Hall will take approximately 5 weeks. The total cost will be around £60,000. 10% of the cost will be found from the School Building Fund which many parents have contributed towards. There should not be any disruption to normal school activities but occasionally there could be some slight inconvenience. We apologise in advance!!

CASHLESS The Office would like to thank all parents for the way in which you have worked with us on this effort. It has caused some inconveniences of course, but overall it has gone very well so far and we are very grateful for the patience you have shown.



POPPIES We will be selling poppies and badges and other stationery items (pencils, rubbers, rulers) from next Monday and throughout the run-up to Armistice weekend (10th /11th November). Donations for poppies are of course entirely discretionary, but other items range from 50p to £2.

READING FOCUS Although outcomes across the school were good last Summer, one of the areas that was weakest was Reading! Because of this we have decided to focus a great deal of extra effort on boosting Reading for all classes. A massive help to us and to your child (no matter how good their reading is) would be if you make 2018-19 a 'Big Reading Year' as well. Please do lots of extra reading with your child whenever you can..... It doesn't have to be a School Reading Book of course – anything, even comics are great!!! **Thank you.**



TRAINING DAY REMINDER

We close this term on **Thursday 25th October**. Children will not be in school on Friday 26th October as this is a Training Day for the teachers. All other Holiday dates this year are on the school website. Dates for 2019-20 are in draft at the moment but should be confirmed by Governors by the end of December.