



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 159

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

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9/11/18



**HARVEST CELEBRATION** (23<sup>rd</sup> October) We enjoyed a fabulous Harvest Celebration in school at the end of the last half-term. Thank you very much to all those who came along to share the liturgy with us and especially to Y3 and

Y4 for presenting it so well. The donations that were sent in made a great display and have been given to Smart Move Halifax and St Patrick's Soup Kitchen in Bradford.

## ADVENT

**ADVENT MASS (4<sup>th</sup> December)** It may still be November but we will soon be into Advent. To celebrate the start of this important Church season we invite you to attend our Whole School Advent Mass on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm.**



**CALENDARS** We have begun selling raffle tickets for Advent Calendars, which have been kindly donated by staff in school. These are on sale from your child's teacher at **20p each**. We will draw the winning **tickets** just before Advent starts so that children can begin opening the windows on the first day of December. Some of the Calendars are from the 'Real Advent Calendar' company, which focuses on ethical sourcing of the chocolate and cardboard used and includes a child's book about Christmas.

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME (CURRENT Y6 & Y7 PUPILS)** Catholic children / young people can join this preparation programme to make their Confirmation this year, which will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (7pm). **The first meeting for parents and candidates will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018 (7pm).** This will be an opportunity to explain the programme. The first session for candidates (without parents) will be on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at St Mary's School.

**PTFA MEETING** The next meeting of the PTFA Committee will be on Tuesday next week (13<sup>th</sup>) at 6pm.

### Healthy School Lunchbox

A healthy lunchbox should include:



Cheese, meat, or fish sandwich.

Water, milk or fresh fruit juice.

Yoghurt

Fruit

**PACKED LUNCHES** We have noticed that the vast majority of children bring very healthy and sensible things to eat at lunch in their sandwich boxes, but there are also a small number of children bringing items such as chocolate, doughnuts, fizzy drinks high in sugar, or items high in salt or e-numbers on a regular (sometimes daily) basis. We would like to ask parents to support our effort to achieve the Bronze 'Food For Life' Standard by trying to reduce the numbers of foods of this type in children's packed lunches. Apart from anything else we would like to reduce the amount of plastic bottles and cartons we are using in school, and to this end, we remind parents that water is available to all children at lunchtime and that sending fruit drinks, fizzy cans etc. is not necessary. Thank you.

**ROOFING PROJECT (PHASE 2)** Our roofing project is

progressing very well. We hope the work will be completed by the end of November. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience.

**OPEN DAY** – All prospective Reception pupils for September 2019 and their parents are invited to visit us at any point in the day on THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER to see us in action. This applies mainly to children

born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. *The deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.*

**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!!! Also – we would love to make a display in the Library of photos of children (and adults) reading in unusual places. The best photos will be winning a prize! Please send these in by the end of next week. **Thank you.**



↓ **IMPORTANT UNIFORM CHANGES: (Monday, Wednesday and Friday next week)** ↓

**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** During next week every class will do some work on Bullying. The theme this year is '**Choose Respect**'. We would like to have as many children as possible wearing **ODD SOCKS** on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November to start the week with a bit of fun. There is no donation expected.



<https://www.bullying.co.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2018/>



**'SUPER HERO DAY' (DIABETES AWARENESS DAY)** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November..... On this day all children are allowed to come to school dressed as a **SUPER HERO** of their choice! If children don't want to do this, they can come in non-uniform instead. This is to celebrate **National Diabetes Day**. Our school nurses and one of our Y5 pupils will be presenting a short assembly to all the KS2 children on this subject in the afternoon. There is no specific charge for the day, but you may like to make a donation to a charity **JDRF**: (<https://jdrf.org.uk/>) that specifically supports children with Diabetes.



**CHILDREN IN NEED** Yet another opportunity to dress up in something other than school uniform!!! We are encouraging children to wear **PYJAMAS** on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November and to bring a donation towards Children in Need on that day.

**PARKING – ACTION TAKEN** Calderdale Parking Enforcement Services have informed us recently that during the period 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> October they conducted a focused targeting exercise on Swires Road and Arden Road and the following action was taken:

Date Visited	Time Visited	Status
02.10.2018	15.00-15.40	21 vehicles moved on <b>2 x PCN's issued</b>
03.10.2018	08.37-09.05	5 x vehicles moved on
04.10.2018	15.00-15.45	16 x vehicles moved on
08.10.2018	08.45-09.05	7 x vehicles moved on



This area is on the core beat and will continue to be patrolled on a regular basis.  
**YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!**

**PHONICS WORKSHOPS** KS1 parents are invited to attend a fun-based Phonic Workshop in school on Thursday next week (15<sup>th</sup>) 9 – 10.30am. There will be a short presentation from Mrs Harrington-Bromwich and then parents will go into classrooms to join the children's lessons. We will be aiming to help you understand the way we teach children to read and showing you how we try to make this fun for the children. We hope you will support us in making sure this opportunity is a quality experience by not bringing sibling toddlers or babies with you. We appreciate that this makes it harder to attend, but the hope is that the focus of all your attention can be directed at your child in school during the session. Thank you for your understanding.

**CASHLESS OFFICE** This initiative is working extremely well and we want to thank you again for moving to online payments for trips, Hang-out Hub, PTFA events etc. If you have still not managed to try this system or don't understand how easy it is to set up and use, please don't hesitate to ask for support from the School Office.