



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

No. 160

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

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ADVENT

ADVENT MASS (4th December) It is the first Sunday of Advent next weekend. To celebrate the start of this important liturgical season we invite you to attend our Whole School Advent Mass on **Tuesday 4th December at 2.15pm.**



CALENDARS Raffle tickets for Advent Calendars, which have been kindly donated by staff in school, are still on sale this week 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 will start this preparation programme to make their Confirmation in February 2019. The first meeting for candidates in Y6 and Y7 is on **Wednesday 28th November (7pm).**

CHRISTMAS FAYRE – FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER (3.30pm – 5.30pm) Please come along and support the PTFA by enjoying all the stalls, visiting Santa, eating a few snacks and Christmas treats and playing a few games – all in a good cause of course.... Your children! 😊

NATIVITY PERFORMANCE (2pm – 13th December) Parents and friends of children in KS1 and FS are warmly invited to attend this presentation of the story of Jesus' birth.



FIRST CONFESSION AND FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2019 Just to confirm that Y3 Catholic children will be eligible to start the preparation programme this year. The first meeting for parents will be on **9th January at 6.30pm** (NB: Time changed since the letter was sent out in October). Children **MUST** attend with their parent or relative. The First Confessions will be made with all the other children across the Deanery on the **Saturday 9th March at 2pm.**

The First Communion Programme this year will be running for Y4 Catholic children **starting 13th March at 6.30pm.** Parents must attend with children. The First Communion Mass at St Mary's Church will be on the morning of **Sunday 19th May (Time to be confirmed)**

PTFA MEETING The next meeting of the PTFA Committee will be on Tuesday 4th December at 6pm.

NON-UNIFORM DAY Thank you for all the donations of items for our Christmas Hampers. Each class will put hampers together and these will be on display at the Christmas Fayre on Friday 7th December (after school).

ROOFING PROJECT (PHASE 2) Our roofing project is progressing very well. We hope the work will be completed by the end of this week. We hope to complete the final phase next year as long as we can afford to find the 10% contribution required of Voluntary Aided schools.

DINOSAUR VISITOR What a great day for our Y1 and Y2 children on Friday last week! They spent the morning as paleontologists, searching for fossils and then in the afternoon they met a baby Allosaurus and a 7 year old Tyrannosaurus called Sophie who was already so tall she was scraping her back on the top frame of the hall doorway. The children were very excited of course and we hope to get some brilliant writing from them this week and next!



ST ANDREW'S DAY (Patron Saint of Scotland) Children with Scottish family backgrounds may want to wear something blue and white on Friday, or even a kilt perhaps!!!?



GUITAR CLUB Mr Brennan is unfortunately unable to do Guitar Club on Wednesday this week. Apologies.



BAG PACKING – TESCO (11th December) Our children will be helping shoppers with the packing of their bags and our choir will hopefully be singing a few carols as well. If you get the chance please come along and support us.



CHRISTMAS DINNER (12th December) We will be serving a traditional Christmas Dinner on this day. If you want your child to have this meal, please book via the School Money App. Children who will be having a packed lunch on this day may want to bring some 'appropriately festive' snacks on that day. If children have a Christmas Hat they can also wear this.

PTFA SANTA FILM NIGHT (KS1) The children in KS1 are invited to this special evening on **Friday 14th December** 3.30pm to 5pm. There will be a 'special visitor' coming along to read a story to the children and to give them some presents! Bookings via the School Money App please.

PTFA FILM NIGHT (KS2) Children in KS2 can come along and watch a Christmas themed film with their friends on Friday this week 3.30pm – 5.15pm. Booking via the School Money App please.

APPLICATIONS SEPTEMBER 2019 We remind parents of potential new entrants for September 2019 that applications have to be made online through the Calderdale Admissions Team and must be completed by the 15th January 2019. This applies to children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015.



REMINDER – INDOOR SHOES Children should have black plimsols in school which they should change into when they are inside the school building. This helps Mr Griffin and the cleaners to keep the school clean and dry. Please make sure these have names inside, as they can easily get lost!

LABELLING We would like to remind parents that we can only return items such as cardigans, jumpers, trousers, skirts etc. if they are clearly labelled with a child's name. Thank you.

PE KIT Please make sure that your child has a white T-shirt and black shorts (preferably in a bag) in school at all times. These need to be labelled and should be cleaned at least once per half-term.

POET VISIT We have a poet, Paul Cookson, visiting us on **Monday** next week. He will have workshop sessions with all the classes and read them some of his own poetry. Paul will be selling some of his work after school and is happy to sign copies for anyone interested. He will be in the Main Hall from 3.30pm to 4pm. A contribution towards the cost of his visit would be very much appreciated - **£1 per child**.

PARENT WORKSHOPS The art / craft sessions we held last week for KS2 children and their parents was a great success. KS1 and FS parents are invited to attend a Christmas Art and Craft Workshop on the 18th December (9 -11am). Come along have lots of fun sticking, pasting, cutting and painting!! Toddlers (siblings) are welcome to attend.

FORTNITE WARNING The LA Safeguarding Team have informed us of a new potential risk to children playing this game online. We are not able to go into details in this Newsletter because children may read it, but please be very sure that you are monitoring your child's engagement with this game.