



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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

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CONFIRMATION It was wonderful to see 56 young people (11 to 13 year olds) from our Halifax parishes receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Marcus at St Malachy's Church on Wednesday evening last week. Congratulations to them all! Certificates were presented to them during Mass over the weekend and anyone who missed this chance can attend Mass next weekend to receive their certificate.... Please let Fr Martin know you are there.

CONFESSIONS The children in Y3 who have been following our First Confession Programme since January come to the climax of their preparation next Saturday as they make their first Confessions at **St Bernard's Church (2pm)**. We ask you to pray for them and their families as they take the next step in their sacramental journey.



FIRST COMMUNION The Catholic children in Y4 will start their preparation to receive this sacrament next week. The first session for parents and children at **St Mary's school is on Wednesday 13th March (6.30pm)**.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS The children will be walking to St Mary's Church this Wednesday for Mass at 10am. Parents are welcome to join us and the parishioners. Catholic children will receive the traditional mark of an ash cross on their forehead.

CAFOD COLLECTION BOXES We are sending a CAFOD collection box home with every child this Lent. We would be very grateful if these could be filled with spare change and returned to school before we finish for the Easter break on 12th April. If you want to find out more about the 'Give It Up' Challenge this year there is lots of information on the CAFOD website.

VIRTUES EDUCATION We have slightly changed our weekly assemblies on a Monday morning (which are led by Mr Brennan) to reflect a new approach recommended by the Diocese called 'Virtues Education'. Every assembly will focus on a specific Gospel Virtue, as exemplified in scripture, and the children will be asked to find ways to demonstrate these virtues (traits, qualities) during the week. The virtues we are focussing on for the rest of the year and beyond are: Charity (Love), Faith, Hope, Justice, Solidarity, Temperance (Simplicity), Fortitude (Courage), Wisdom (Prudence). More will be added as we learn what works best for our children and what we feel they would most benefit from.

APPOINTMENT NEWS We held interviews for our new Deputy Headteacher from September on Friday last week, and the Governors have appointed Mr James Brown to this post. We hope that as the end of the academic year approaches we will see more and more of him as he gets to know us better. In the meantime, Mrs Foster remains as our very capable Acting Deputy and Mr Chapman is our Acting Assistant Head. We have also appointed Mr David Dyson to the post of part-time ICT Technician. He will be working every Friday until the end of the Summer term. His role will grow in September when Mrs Hinsley will have retired.

Y5 AMPLEFORTH (13th to 15th March) The children in Y5 will be going on a two night residential retreat. We have confirmed numbers to the Abbey and we would be grateful



to parents for ensuring they have made all the due instalments by the time we go. Children not attending this year are of course still expected to attend school.

ALL SAINTS' CATHOLIC COLLEGE – LADIES FASHION SHOW Our Catholic High School in Huddersfield are holding a fundraising event on the 22nd of March which we have been asked to publicise. The event starts at 7.30pm and tickets can be purchased from the school for £4. There will be lots of ex-high street stock (M&S, Oasis, Debenhams, Miss Selfidge, CC, River Island, Wallis, New Look, Top Shop and more!)



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY This event is a long way off (**15th June. 7pm**) but we wanted to let you know, so that you can keep it free!!! The children in our Choir will be singing a couple of special songs during a performance by a Bradford-based choir, **CHORDIALITY** at St Mary's Church. Mr Brennan is one of the members of this Choir so he will also be singing!! The event will be in aid of the Church Heating Fund and will be a celebration of the music of America. Details to follow.

'MOMO' E-SAFETY WARNING

The LA Safeguarding Team have contacted all schools in the last few days to ask that we ensure parents are aware of an internet programme called MOMO. It is quite a sinister pop-up programme that has been around for some time but has recently resurfaced across the country. MOMO has been linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)... YouTube Kids. The doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic inappropriate images to the screen, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges, whilst continuing to allow the music from the App the child is using (ie: Pepper Pig & Paw Patrol) to play in the background. This means that parents not watching the screen with their child may not be aware that the MOMO software has appeared.



We have published a more detailed guide to this issue on the 'Parents' page (Useful Links) of the school website.

ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

CLASS	Attendance 25.2.19 – 1.3.19
REC	96.9
1/2D	99.0
1/2HB	99.3
2M	99.3
3/4R	99.1
3/4B	97.5
4V	98.6
5G	100.0
5P	94.7
6L	93.3
6C	99.0
School Average	98%

We are very pleased with the first week's attendance figures following the half-term break. Well done to all those classes above our School Target of 97% and especially **Miss Goulden's class, who achieved 100% attendance last week!!!**

We will be monitoring attendance even more closely over this half-term, with a prize planned for the class that does the best just before Easter.



FIRST AID TRAINING FOR Y5 The children in 5G have been learning about basic first aid today, with a professional from St John's Ambulance. They will hopefully now be prepared for most basic emergency medical situations. A very important skill to have! 5P will be doing their training on another day soon.

SCIENCE WEEK Next week is National Science Week and we hope to be doing a bit of extra experimentation and testing and discovering in all classes. Mr Morley (Science Leader) has put a great programme of events together, and the teachers will be doing extra things in their individual classes.



RED NOSE DAY Friday 15th March The children can bring a donation to Comic Relief on this day, and may dress up in any way they want..... Just make it bright and colourful!!