



FEAST OF ST PETER AND PAUL (29th June) Fr Martin will be celebrating Mass in school on this feast day for the Church. All our friends, parishioners and parents are very welcome to join us at **2.15pm**. We are keen to stress to everyone, even non-Catholics within the school community, that anyone may attend. There is no expectation for you to take an active part in the liturgy. You can simply sit at the back and watch if you feel more comfortable doing that.

END OF YEAR MASS We hope as many members of our community will be able to join us for the last Mass of the school year on Tuesday 18th July at 2.15pm.

S48 INSPECTION We are very pleased to have been judged 'Outstanding' in our recent S48 Inspection by the Diocesan Board for Education. The full report has been published and a copy sent to each family.



CCRS COURSE The Diocese of Leeds is starting a new 2 year course for those interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith. The lessons, leading to a nationally recognised Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies will commence in the September. There are some essays / assignments to complete for each of the 8 modules but if you just want to attend the lessons and don't want to do these, you can still come along and be awarded a Diocesan Attendance Certificate at the end. The cost is £480 for the whole course, which includes two separate Day Retreats in Ilkley. Contact the Diocese for further information on: 0113 261 8040 or email on: evangelisation.admin@dioceseofleeds.org.uk



CHARITY WALK FOR ALDER HEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL – (Thursday 15th June) Around 64 of our Y6 and Y5 children completed this 6.5 mile Sponsored Walk from All Saints' Catholic College at Bradley Bar to St Mary's. They were raising funds for Alder Hey Children's Hospital and were accompanied by students from All Saints'. If your child took part in this walk we would be grateful if you could make sure all promised sponsor money is collected as soon as possible and either brought into school or put on the website below by debit card. The total raised so far is £287. We believe there should be far more than that still to come. Thank you

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Stmaryshx>

SPORTS WEEK NEXT WEEK Children do not have to wear our school uniform this week. They should come in sports clothing such as shorts, T-shirts, tracksuits, trainers etc. so that they can easily participate in the events we have planned for them. **Our SPORTS DAY is on Monday 10th July.** KS2 will have their events in the morning and KS1 will be in the afternoon. There is no alternative date possible unfortunately, so if we have to cancel it because of bad weather there will be no Sports Day at all this year.

PTA SUMMER FAIR (Saturday 8th July 11am – 2pm) Please do all you can to support this annual event. All money raised will be used by the PTA to help provide our school with lots of 'extras' across all year groups, that we would not otherwise be able to fund.

THINGS YOU CAN DO>>>>>

- Fill the plastic pots we will be sending home soon with sweets and small toys or pens etc and return them to us before the Fayre.

- Remember our Non-Uniform Day on Friday 7th July. Children should bring a bottle of some kind of drink (alcoholic or not) in payment for this privilege. Please do not send in other types of bottles such as shampoos, creams, foods etc.

5 A-SIDE FINAL 2017 The final of our annual tournament will take place at approximately 1.30pm at our Summer Fayre on Saturday 8th July. The final is between 'The Sweepers' and 'Doggy Force'.



ST MARY'S APP HAS ARRIVED!! We now have our own App, which can be downloaded from any app store (apple and android) onto your smart phone. It is early days at the moment in terms of content but we recommend you put it on your home page on your phone and start looking at it occasionally. It will increasingly give you the most important and relevant information you could ever want about school without the extra effort of having to log on to our website.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED!!! Our new-look website has gone live after a lot of background work from Mrs Hinsley. We hope you like exploring it! We know there have been a few glitches in the first few days and if you spot anything that is not corrected within a few days please let us know.

<http://www.stmaryshalifax.co.uk/>



SUMMER CAMP (First week of the Summer Holidays) Mr David Hymas (one of our Governors) has volunteered to organise a Multi-Sport Summer Camp during the first week of the Summer holidays. There are limited places available and these will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis. The flyers for this provision have already been sent out. Bookings MUST be made directly with the School Office. The charge is a very reasonable £12 per day (or £50 for the full 5 days) and will be supervised by DBS checked adults.

CLASS	Attendance 12.6.17 – 23.6.17
REC	95.6
1/2M	95.6
1/2D	95.1
2H	96.1
3/4L	96.3
3/4R	95.7
4TG	97.3
5AB	96.9
5B	97.3
6C	96.9
6F	97.3
School Average	96.2%

MAIN GATE – BARRIER We are grateful for all the positive comments we have received from many parents about the new barrier. We are finding that there have been some significant reductions in the level of potential safety risks. **We politely ask parents to make sure that children waiting around the Main Gate area are not tempted to press the call button on the post. This causes a lot of confusion and distraction for the office staff.**



ATTENDANCE Winners this time are jointly **5B & 6F** with a few classes coming up very close behind. Well done to everyone who is above our school target of **97%**.

INTER-HOUSE TIMES TABLE COMPETITION This school-wide competition will be held soon – please help your child to learn the times tables designated for their year group.

Y2 & Y3 RECORDERS The children performed for their parents last week. They did a fantastic job! Miss Harrington has asked us to remind parents that the lessons have ended for this year and will hopefully resume in the Autumn.

RECENT SPORTS RESULTS

- SWIMMING TOURNAMENT** – (Friday 16th June) Our Y6 and Y5 children came first in the Church Schools Tournament on Friday last week!! We are obviously very proud of them!!

- **BRIGHOUSE TOURNAMENT** – The Y6 Boys Football Team came a very close 2nd in their league last Saturday and St Mary's won the Fair Play Award overall.
- **CALDERDALE FOOTBALL LEAGUE** - The Y6 Girls Football Team came 3rd in the 2016-17 Calderdale League and the Boys came 2nd.
- **CALDERDALE RUGBY LEAGUE** - The Rugby team came 2nd in the league this year.
- **Y2 GYMNASTS** – The Northbridge Tournament went really well for our novice team. Well done!

DRAGONS DEN Y5 presented a Walking Bus pitch to Dragons as part of the SAFE TRAVEL CUP at the The Square Chapel last week. They did a very thorough job at presenting their idea – Well Done!

YEAR 6 PLAY – ‘PORRIDGE’ (13th July 6.30pm) Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy the fun at the 'End of Year Performance'. There promises to be a few laughs and maybe some tears along the way!

FRENCH DAY On the 14th of July (Bastille Day – A National Holiday in France) all the children in school will be speaking French as much as possible and enjoying lots of French(ish) culture. You never know – by the end of it all they might be willing to eat snails for tea!! “Sacre Blu!”



YEAR 6 DISCO The children in Y6 will be having a great evening together at their Leavers' Disco on 18th July (6pm). There is no charge for this event, but there will be a photo booth hopefully, and some snacks and drinks to buy. Thank you to the PTA for offering to help run this.

NEW APPOINTMENT We are very pleased to announce that the Governors have appointed Mrs Siobhan Roe as a teacher in KS2 from September. Mrs Roe actually comes from a High School background but is looking to move into the frightening world of Primary Education!! She will join Miss Hannah Goulden who we also appointed as a KS2 teacher just after Easter.

CLASSES AND TEACHERS We have not yet been able to finalise the classes that teachers or children will be in next year, but we are very close to that point and we expect to tell you the details of your child's class and teacher in the Annual Reports, which will go out to you on either the 7th or 10th of July.



EID MUBARAK We hope all the children who have been celebrating the Muslim festival of Eid this weekend had a lovely time with their families. This feast marks the end of a month of fasting and prayer (Ramadan) when food is only allowed to be eaten during the hours of darkness. Some of our children in Y5 and Y6 took part in the fasting to a small extent, even though there is no expectation for them to do so until they are older.

AWARDS ASSEMBLIES Our annual awards will be presented to children who have achieved beyond the norm in the following assemblies, to which parents are invited. We will try to let you know specifically if your child will definitely be awarded something.

- **Thursday 20th July (2pm)..... Year R – Y5 Awards and Certificates**
- **Friday 21st July (1.45pm)..... Year 6 Awards and Certificates (Followed by an informal drinks and biscuits opportunity for Y6 parents to say 'goodbye' etc. to teachers)**

NEW DADS ON THE HORIZON!! Mr Tomkinson and Mr Chapman are expecting to become Dads very soon, each for the second time. We wish them both lots of strength and energy for the challenge ahead – and of course we send their wives our best wishes as well!!! 😊



TWITTER We have 180 people following us on Twitter. We don't interact with these 'fans' but it is a great opportunity for you to get a flavour of what we are getting up to each day. We post frequent photos of our events and key messages – often before we send a general text out. To follow us you need to set up a Twitter Account of your own (which is quick and easy) and then send us a follower request to [@stmaryshalifax](https://twitter.com/stmaryshalifax)



PARENT VIEW This is an online survey that all parents are entitled to complete once every year. The survey results are helpful to Ofsted in judging the school's performance. We would be very grateful if people who have not completed this recently could do so in the next few weeks as we approach the end of the school year. It would be great if parents of Y6 in particular could do this as they have the benefit of many years' experience of the St Mary's way of doing things. Thank you

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

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ON THIS DAY The following extracts come from our collection of Log Books dating back to the beginning of the school in 1846.....

1st July 1969..... "Gymnastics Match held at St Mary's between a team representing Halifax Primary Schools and a team from Temple Newsam, Leeds. Children were given the choice to either watch or watch television broadcast of the Investiture of the Prince of Wales".

30th October 1976..... "A group of 9 children whose parents have opted to send them to schools other than the Catholic High School sat their first Verbal Reasoning Test today."

16th January 1945..... "Four Dutch children began coming here today.... These are part of a group of 39 Dutch children recently arrived in Halifax to spend about 3 months in private houses in order to have some rest and recuperation"

29th June 1973..... (Feast of St Peter and St Paul) "School was closed"

20th November 1914..... "A class for Belgian refugee children commenced on Monday last. They were taught by a lady of their own race, Miss Maria Declerk - only 8 so far have presented themselves. They came by Car reaching Waterhouse Street at 9.10am. At noon a teacher takes them to the dining centre for dinner at the Parkinson Lane Council School. They leave school at 3.55pm in order to catch the 4.10 tram to Ogden".

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HOLIDAYS

We hope to publish another brief Newsletter before the end of term, but just to confirm that the children finish for the Summer on Friday 21st July at the normal time of 3.30pm. All children (except Reception) will return to school on Wednesday 6th September.

OFFICE OPENING HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAYS: The staff will be in school on the 24th & 25th July (10am 'til 3pm) and the 4th and 5th of September (10am 'til 3pm)