



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

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

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WELCOME MASS The children and some parents and parishioners attended Mass in the school hall on Thursday last week, to mark the beginning of the academic year. Fr Martin and Deacon John led the proceedings. The children (including our youngest) were absolutely brilliant. They were respectful, calm and prayerful throughout and when we were singing they were definitely in full voice!

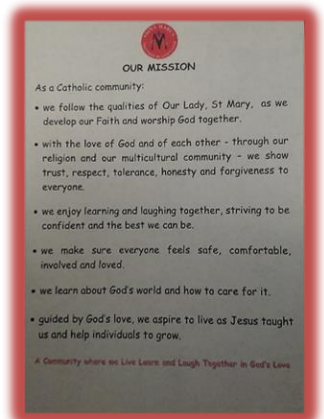
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2017-18 (and beyond) The Bishop has decided to change the way we prepare children for the sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Eucharist (Holy Communion). More details will follow for the relevant year groups affected, but we wanted to let you know that although our **current Y3 Catholic children** will be offered the opportunity to make their First Confession in the current academic year (**possibly at Easter 2018**), they will not be making their **First Communion**. Instead, they will be receiving this Sacrament in **Y4** (Summer 2019).

Also, the Bishop has asked that we move to a system where all Catholic children will be Confirmed in Y6, before they leave Primary school. There will be more detail on how this move will be achieved as soon as we have them. This will include a one-off strategy to run a programme for the **current Y5 and Y6** children to be able to be confirmed together in either **Autumn 2018 or Spring 2019**. Of course at that point the current Y6 children will have moved to their High Schools.

Students **currently in Y7 and Y8** will be offered the opportunity to be Confirmed this academic year, between the **1st of April 2018 and the 25th May 2018**.

Parishes and Catholic High schools should send you further information about this as it becomes available.

'NEW MISSION' ASSEMBLY We shared the wording of our newly reviewed Mission Statement with all parents and friends of our school on Friday last week. Every year group did something to illustrate one of the sentences and they did a super job! Well done!



RIPON PILGRIMAGE (Y6) Our Y6 pupils will be going to Ripon Cathedral on Wednesday 18th October. They will attend a Mass led by the Bishop and we expect hundreds of other Y6 pupils from across the Diocese to be there. They will then walk the three miles to Fountains Abbey, before returning to school around 4pm. A letter about this will be sent soon.

KS2 INFORMATION EVENINGS Our KS2 classes will be holding 'General Information' evenings in the second week after half-term. These evenings will focus on the ways in which parents and carers can most effectively support children through the year. In the Year 5 and Year 6 meetings there will also be vital information about the Ampleforth Retreat (Y5) and the Keswick Residential (Y6). If you want to start paying for these trips that we hope all children will attend, you will be able to do so in instalments through 'School Money' from tomorrow. **Ampleforth** will be **£90** and **Keswick** will be **£250**.

Y5.... (6pm) 13th November **Y3 & Y4....** (6pm) 14th November **Y6.....** (6pm) 16th November

PTA EVENTS The PTA have recently put together a long-term plan of all the events we currently expect to organise this coming year. This will be sent to parents very soon. Most of the events have been included in the School Calendar sent today to every family.

DATA CHECK FORM We are sending every child in school a Data Collection Form today, which we ask you to complete in full and return to us asap (Preferably by Wednesday). As you can imagine it is vital that we have all the correct details on our information management system for your child. We ask in particular that you complete the sections concerning ethnic origin, nationality, place of birth, home language etc. This can sometimes help us to attract additional funding. It is also very important for us to have the correct address, contact alternatives and telephone numbers. **THANK YOU.**



Following the recent review of our policy on absences during the school term we have unfortunately been advised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to two families already this year because of holidays/absences taken despite them being unauthorised. We hope you will understand that this is not something we want to be doing, but it is completely in line with the DfE guidance followed by all other schools.

SKIPTON CASTLE The Y1 and Y2 children had a fantastic time at Skipton Castle last Wednesday. They learnt a great deal about the nicer and not so nice side of life in a medieval castle. Particular points of interest were the 'Long Drop', Dungeon and Arrow Slits!



KS1 FILM NIGHT.....
6th October.
KS2 FILM NIGHT.....
13th October.

RECEPTION PARENTS' INFORMATION SESSION It was really nice to meet our new Reception parents last Wednesday evening. There will be more opportunities coming along this year to find out about the ways you can support your child's learning. Please come along and get involved. There is lots of academic evidence to show that the more involved parents are in their child's education, the more successful they will be in life.



MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON A very impressive number of parents and friends came along to this annual get-together last Friday. They ate lots of sugar and chocolate and cream of course, as well as enjoying a nice cuppa. Exactly **£200** was collected in total. Thank you very much for your generosity!



ALL SAINTS' CATHOLIC COLLEGE Just a few of the new building at our link Catholic High School at Bradley Bar.

ZOOLAB Our Y3 and Y4 classes will be enjoying an afternoon with a variety of exotic creatures on Thursday 12th October. Spiders, Giant Slugs, Giant Millipedes.... Perhaps even a snake, will be making an appearance! We are asking for a £3 contribution per child towards the cost. Thank you.

PARENTS' EVENING ONLINE BOOKING NOW OPEN – 17TH AND 19TH OCTOBER

A TEXT LINK WILL BE SENT TO YOU