



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A Community Where we Live, Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love
admin@st-marys-halifax.calderdale.sch.uk *Tel: 01422 362365*

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CHRISTMAS FAYRE (Friday 15th December) 3.30pm – 5pm. We have started making the preparations for this event which this year will be organised by school directly (led by Mrs Maseela and Mrs Lumb). There will be a Non-Uniform Day on **Friday 1st December** to help us collect 'Luxury Christmas Hamper' goods so that we can make up some raffle prizes. **We would be very grateful for donations of wine, liquers, jams and pickles, luxury tinned meats, chocolates, biscuits, shortbread, crackers, mince pies, Christmas cakes and puddings, cheese, nuts, etc.**

Lots of people have offered to help with the organisation of the Fayre (when we sent an appeal out before half term) and there will be a meeting on **Thursday (16th) next week at **3.45pm** to sort out details. Please come along to this meeting if you volunteered to help!**

FIRST CONFESSIONS Children in Year 3 are eligible to make this Sacrament in March 2018, just before Easter. We will be holding an Information Session for parents about the revised programme on **MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER (7pm)**. It is very important that at least one adult attends this session on behalf of each child, so that they can understand how the programme of lessons and workshops will operate.

ADVENT CALENDAR (Raffle) The staff have recently donated lots of Advent Calendars to be raffled over the next three weeks. We also have some 'Real Advent' Calendars that are illustrated with the story of Christ's birth. Tickets for these calendars will go on sale from Monday next week. They will be **20p** each. All funds raised will go towards CAFOD.

THANK YOU A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Collection just before the holiday. The soup went to the St Francis' Soup Kitchen in Bradford, the household hygiene products went to SMARTMOVE Halifax and the fresh vegetables and fruit went to the St Anne Shelter in Luddenden Foot



DEFIBRILLATOR LAUNCH (22nd November 6pm – 7.30pm) You may have noticed that our new (and potentially life-saving) defibrillator, which has been partly funded by the Danny Jones Charity and a very generous donation from one of our Year 6 families last year, will be officially 'opened' during this evening event. Before the ribbon is cut we will be providing a community training session on how to save a person's life, led by a member of the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. We are very happy for as many as 150 people to come along to this event and all local businesses and residents will receive invitations – after all, they might be needing to use it in the future!! If you are interested – please come along!



INFORMATION EVENINGS All parents of KS2 children are invited to the following Information Sessions to find out about the curriculum and the various activities and expectations of the academic year:

Year 5..... 13th November (6pm) Years 3&4..... 14th November (6pm) Year 6..... 16th November (6pm)

NOTE: We will be introducing the Ampleforth Retreat and Keswick Residential details at the Y5 and Y6 meetings.

YEAR 6 TRIP Our Y6 children will be visiting the National Holocaust Centre near Nottingham on **Friday next week**. They will be encountering an exhibition that is specifically designed for 10/11yr olds and follows a young German Jewish boy called Leo, as he and his family cope with life in Nazi Germany between 1935 and 1939 as WWII approaches (though of course they didn't know that at the time!). The children will learn about prejudice, discrimination, refugees, immigration and stereotyping. <https://www.nationalholocaustcentre.net/journey-exhibition>

TEXT MESSAGES We have recently had a query about why our texting service sometimes uses incorrect spellings and why messages have to be so brief. We have explained this before, but would like to do so again. Our texting service is paid for through an annual charge and allows us to send an unlimited number of messages without an additional cost. However, we can only use a maximum of 160 characters for each message. This inevitably means that occasionally it is necessary to use abbreviations like 'u' for you, 'grt' for great, 'schl' for school etc., so that we can get the full meaning of the message across in one go. We hope you understand.

SELFISH PARKING These vehicles were photographed yesterday morning. All the drivers in these photographs were acting in a way that potentially could put our children in danger and was contrary to road traffic law.



REMINDER – 5G will be leading our Friday Assembly at 3pm next week (17th)



OTHER FAITHS WEEK During the week commencing 27th November we will be spending some time in RE lessons learning about two other World Faiths – Islam (KS2) and Judaism (KS1). Any parents who feel they would be able to help are welcome. Please speak to your child's teacher.

ATTENDANCE Overall attendance at the moment is well below the school average for last year and although we completely understand that we have had several bugs, coughs and sneezes flying around, we ask that a really big effort is made to improve every child's attendance – except those on 100% of course!! 😊

LATES The number of 'Lates' this year is also high for some reason we don't quite understand! There were 43 recorded 'Late' marks in the last two weeks of last half-term. Please be aware that our LA Attendance Officer has been conducting spot checks on children coming late to school recently and is making contact with some families where attendance or punctuality is not good. Two families have been fined since September - **£60 per unauthorised absence per child per adult!!!**

Some of the excuses for 'Lates' given: "Don't know" "Traffic" "Forgot it was Non-uniform" "Dad took the keys" "Mum slept in" "Missed bus" "Didn't get moving" "Mum had a headache" "Dropping other child off" "Dog" "Allergy" "Daddy's fault" "Went out late last night" "Baby brother" "Parking problems" "Slept in"



NEW HENS We have some new hens in school. The previous guests have gone on to a better place! Children in each class will be helping to look after them and new names will soon be given to them.

LEARNING LOGS Thank you to all the families and children who have completed such creative and inventive Learning Logs this time round!

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCY We have a vacancy for a person to work with our children during lunchtimes from 11.55am to 1.10pm Mon – Fri. during term times. If you are interested please ask in the school office.