



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 151

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

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FIRST CONFESSIONS It was really lovely to come to the culmination of our 2018 Confessions Programme last Saturday, with 13 children joining another 57 others from across the Halifax Deanery at St Bernard's Church to make their first Confession. There was a party afterwards and everyone seemed to have had a very fruitful and even enjoyable experience together. The 1st Communion Programme will commence for these children in the Autumn.

PALM SUNDAY (PASSION) MASS On Tuesday this week the whole school went to St Mary's Church to see Fr Martin bless some of the Palms left over from Sunday. We then walked back to school in procession where we celebrated Mass before lunch – A busy morning indeed!



PASSION PLAY Our Y5 children will be presenting this traditional re-telling of the events of Holy Week tomorrow afternoon at 2pm. All parents and parishioners are very welcome to attend. Any children whose parents come along may leave school (early) at the end.

CHURCH HEATING FUND Fr Martin has asked us to thank everyone who contributed to the Smartie Challenge this half-term, and also Y6, who organised the Lent Fayre in aid of the same cause. Donations are still coming in but we think we will be able to give the Parish Committee a cheque for around **£700**. There is a long way still to go in the parish effort to raise around £100,000, but we understand the Diocese have agreed that the work can proceed on the understanding that the costs be paid back over the next few years.



SOUP & BREAD LUNCH Year 5 & 6 gave up their normal meals last week (Wednesday) and replaced them with a few bowls of soup and some bread instead. They also contributed towards our Lent Charities. As you can see they didn't really suffer too much!



OFSTED NEWS We had an Inspector in school last Wednesday (21st March) from the Office for Standards in Education. The judgement will be published after Easter but we can say that the Governors and Mr Brennan are very pleased that the strengths of our wonderful school were recognised. Many parents made a special effort to contribute towards the online Parent View Survey the night before the visit and also agreed to speak to the inspector in the morning. We are very grateful to you for giving your time to support us in both these ways. We are always keen to increase the proportion of parents who have contributed to Parents View.... Even though Ofsted won't look at it for a while now, we WILL!

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

CHICKEN RUN Appropriately for the season, we were all in awe last Wednesday when nine fragile and very cute Chicks tentatively broke out of



their shells in their incubator in Mr Morley's classroom. What a special moment!

AMPLEFORTH (Y5) The children were away from school from the 14th March enjoying their two night stay at this amazingly beautiful Benedictine Abbey in North Yorkshire. They met several Monks during their Retreat and did some nice walks and team-building activities in preparation for Y6.

PAUL FLANAGAN Mr Flanagan (Governor) did an amazing bike ride on the 16th March to Ampleforth and back, in just over 6hrs 40mins (ish).

PTA FILM NIGHTS The PTA Committee would like to thank all the children and parents who supported the last two events. A total of **£337** was raised towards subsidies for school trips, some new Sports Tops and a sculpture of Our Lady, which we have recently commissioned to go outside the Main Entrance.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

VEHICLES REPORTED TO US FOR SELFISH PARKING OR DRIVING BEHAVIOUR:

DS60 PLV

PX05 YBH

PG03 DLK

PARISH LADIES EVENT All (female) parishioners, parents and friends of St Mary's are invited to the meeting of the Ladies Guild on the 12th April at 7pm in the Parish Rooms at St Alban's Church. The meeting is a regular event and you are encouraged to attend Benediction and Prayers beforehand at 6.45pm. The Guild is a great way to make friends and to support the parish at the same time with various social and fundraising activities.

EASTER EGG HUNT Families are warmly invited to an Easter Egg Hunt in Mr and Mrs Melia's garden on 2nd April. Tickets available from school office tomorrow until 3.40pm at **£10** per family. More details are available at Church. All funds raised will go to the Heating Fund at St Mary's Church.



Y6 KESWICK (21st – 25th May) Children in Y6 will be setting off to the Lake District for their adventure residential just before the May half-term. We have noticed that there are still a number of parents that have not paid anything towards this visit. The debt currently runs to over £3000 and obviously this would be a massive burden on the school's budget if we end up having to pay it. Some families have spoken to us about their situation, but we ask everyone to make sure payments remaining are made before the trip. Thank you.

NEW TEACHER We have welcomed Mrs Helen Jannetta to the school recently. She is teaching in Reception in a job share with Mrs Elizabeth Smith, who has returned after her maternity leave.

VACANCY We have a vacancy in KS2 for a teacher commencing September 2018. All the information required by prospective candidates is on our website. The post is permanent and full time.



YEAR 6 TALK - MR NOBLET (23rd March) Mr Mark Noblet (Former Deputy Headteacher) came to talk to the Y6 children about his experience of facing challenges and focussing on goals to achieve your desires in life. Mark successfully beat Hodgkins Lymphoma a few years ago and his story was a true inspiration and privilege to hear. The children were enthralled and asked some very focussed and interesting questions, which Mark answered extremely well. The message he gave the children was very positive "We can all be heroes!"

HOH & DEBT POLICIES We just wanted to give you notice that these recently changed policies are being sent to all parents for information. As always, thank you for your cooperation.

HOLIDAYS We close for a two week holiday tomorrow. The children return on Monday 16th April



WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL EASTER SEASON!!