



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A Community Where we Live, Learn and Laugh Together in God's Love
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14/5/18

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION The whole school went to Mass at St Mary's Church on Thursday to celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. The children were as always absolutely wonderful and the choir were especially on form, singing Ave Maria at Communion.

SATs WEEK Children across school are now in the midst of formal assessments (FS, Y1 Phonics, KS1 Assessments Y6 SATs. Please do your very best to support them emotionally and practically – we especially ask for your support with Y6 this week.



KESWICK 2018 The children in Y6 will be off on their adventure to the Lake District in the week commencing 21st May. They will be staying at Castlerigg Manor (Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) and will be doing all sorts of exciting activities: Walking up hills, climbing and abseiling, rubber tubing (whatever that is?) on the lake, ghyll scrambling and plenty of 'chilling' in the extensive grounds of the Manor. Mr Brennan, Mrs Foster, Miss Harrington & Mrs Greenwood will

be accompanying them all week, with one or two other visitors possibly popping in along the way, including Fr Martin and his dog! We would appreciate all final payments for this trip to be completed before the end of this week.

GOOD ATTENDANCE + PUNCTUALITY = SUCCESS!!

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Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.
at:

PANTASAURUS A letter was sent to all KS1 parents last Wednesday explaining that teachers will be using these NSPCC resources with their classes before the end of this half-term. The resource identifies in a child appropriate manner the key 'rules' for children to learn around keeping themselves safe from inappropriate contact. The rules are shared with the children through activities and a cartoon which can be viewed on line at:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

Privates are private.... Always remember your body belongs to you.... No means no.....

Talk about secrets that upset you..... Speak up, someone can help.

Children in KS2 (Y3,4,5) will also be using the NSPCC resources appropriate to their age. Their lessons and activities will take place before the end of June. Y6 will have Puberty lessons in the final half-term, and some of the content will include the use of NSPCC resources.

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PTA REQUESTS The PTA Summer Fayre is fast approaching (Saturday 7th July) and we need some support and help from anyone who can give it!! One particular request is for Raffle Prizes that will encourage people to buy tickets on the day of the Fayre. If you own a business and you can offer a Voucher of some kind, or you know someone who can offer a

good prize we would be very grateful. If you can help to run a stall on the day that would be even better – please speak to Mrs Gatehouse, Mrs Casson, Mr Butterworth or anyone else on the PTA Committee or in the School Office. The next meeting of the committee is on Tuesday

SMRADIO ACTIVE Mr Chapman, Mr Brennan and lots of children have been very busy recently with our School Radio. In the last two weeks we have produced a programme in collaboration with other Catholic schools in Calderdale, as well as a special on our First Aid Week and we have recently recorded an interview with the Mayor of Halifax, which we highly recommend.



CLASS	Attendance 30.4.18 – 11.5.18
REC	95.9
1/2H	99.8
1/2D	97.6
2M	99.6
3/4C	96.9
3/4R	99.1
4R	99.6
5BT	97.8
5G	97.8
6F	96.7
6L	97.2
School Average	98%

ATTENDANCE CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Harrington’s class!! Well done everyone actually! 98% overall for the first time this year!! One of our action areas from the Ofsted Inspection is around improving the attendance of children whose absence rates are consistently poor. Please **DO NOT** expect Mr Brennan to authorise holidays in school term time. All unauthorised absences lasting longer than 5 days will be subject to a referral to the Attendance Officer for a Fixed Penalty Fine. We have issued 4 FPNs of £60 per parent per child to families since September 2017.

GOING CASHLESS!!! We would like to remind parents that it is our ambition to remove the use of cash payments within school as soon as possible. Please do try to use the online Eduspot School Money facility to pay for dinners, trips, Hang-out-Hub, Blast-off Breakfast Club etc. It is very easy to use and very secure. It will allow you to keep track of your

payments to school very accurately and it can be accessed from a Smart phone, ipad, tablet or PC – just in the same way as your online banking. Ask in the office if you are not already making use of this facility.



GDPR You will probably be aware (from all the ‘Data Review’ emails and texts you will have been receiving from all sorts of sources recently) that there is new legislation in place from the 25th May which has some significant implications for the way organisations and companies collect, store, manage and use the data they collect. This legislation applies to schools as well. The vast majority of the data we collect is necessary for the running of the school and for the safeguarding of children and employees. We have never knowingly shared data with any other organisations unless it has been a legal or operational or safeguarding necessity to do so, but in future we will be subject to greater scrutiny and additional data security procedures to comply with the new law. In some instances this may be a little more inconvenient for both us and you, but we hope you will understand. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

TROPHY RETURN APPEAL We would like to ask families of children who left us from Y6 in July 2017 and who received a trophy or shield in our Y6 Awards Assembly to return their award as soon as possible to the school office, so that we can have them cleaned and engraved for our next Awards Ceremony on 20th July 2018. Thank you.



‘ANDY’S MAN CLUB’ CHALLENGE Mr McConnell (Kyle and Sophie’s Dad) is trying to raise awareness of this very worthwhile charity, which enables men to access situations where they can talk about their feelings, health and well-being generally, by joining a team who will be climbing Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. If you want to help him raise the **£1,700** he needs, contact: eddiekilimanjoro2018@outlook.com



HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

We break for a week on Friday 25th May (normal time). Children will return to school on Monday 4th June