



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter September 2021

*'Forward Together In Christ; we can, we will , together*

*#Growth #Resilience #Community*

**Mission Statement:** At St Mary's we are dedicated to educating our young people in an inclusive, stimulating and challenging environment preparing them for life-long learning.

**Ethos & Values:** We will provide this in a secure, happy and welcoming environment where Christian and Catholic values are cherished and where staff, pupils and parents work in partnership to achieve common goals.



Now that routines are established and expectations shared re standards for work and behaviour , pupils are now involved in the life and work of the school. They are appointed roles within classes such as jotter monitors, resources manager etc and also votes have been cast for pupils to be members of our eco committee and pupil council to ensure pupil voice is heard across the school. It is hard to believe it is now October! How did that happen?



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**House & Vice Captains:** well done to all our P7 pupils who made videos for their 'campaigns' to be elected house captains. The classes thoroughly enjoyed watching and experiencing voting and putting their votes in the ballot boxes. Results:

|                       |                |                |                     |               |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>St Annes:</b>      | <b>Captain</b> | <b>Jess</b>    | <b>Vice Captain</b> | <b>Remy</b>   |
| <b>St Andrew's:</b>   | <b>Captain</b> | <b>Sara</b>    | <b>Vice Captain</b> | <b>Euan</b>   |
| <b>St Margaret's:</b> | <b>Captain</b> | <b>Vanessa</b> | <b>Vice Captain</b> | <b>Jan</b>    |
| <b>St Ninian's:</b>   | <b>Captain</b> | <b>Ethan M</b> | <b>Vice Captain</b> | <b>Joseph</b> |

**Well done to you all and I look forward to working with you through the session!**

**Some dates for you:**

**Sunday 3rd October:** Enrolment mass for pupils making The Sacrament of First Reconciliation. 9am mass. St Mary's Cathedral.

**Monday 18th—Friday 22nd October**—mid term holiday

**Monday 25th October** In-Service Day - staff only

**Tuesday 26th October** - pupils resume

**Parent Consultations:** these are virtual again. You will be able to book a slot between 3:30-5:30pm on 9th,11th,16th or 18th November. There are no lets after 6pm in schools and some staff are not able to conduct consultations in their homes so there needs to be equity of availability. If anyone needs an alternative slot you can get in touch and we will try to accommodate.



We have now registered as a Laudato Si' school which ties really well to our established eco activity. Laudato Si' schools is an invitation to all schools to respond to the call from the Holy Father to be stewards of the earth. There are goals to work towards and a commitment to, 'Change for Good'.



P2's loved their STEM 'build a boat that holds weight' activity this week for Maths Week Scotland.



Our pupil council met this week. We discussed our school priorities and they will ask classes about how they feel we could improve writing, outdoor learning, digital technology and pupil wellbeing. Classes are also discussing behaviour systems and what they think should happen when pupils aren't following rules. Other areas discussed were school lunches, pupils going on the pitch when others are playing and having more seating areas.



Well done Aoife! She took part in a sponsored walk, 6.5k and raised £220 in The Great British Dog Walk event to raise funds for hearing dogs for deaf people. A fantastic achievement!



P4 pupils are thoroughly enjoying their ukulele lessons with Holly funded by our parent forum council—one pupil commented, *'This is the best, my favourite day now!'*.

**'Wear Red Day'**: as this day (Fri 22nd Oct) takes place in our October holiday if any pupil wishes to pay £1 and wear red for the day to support the , 'Show Racism the Red Card' charity our proposed day is Friday 29th October. This event will be on ParentPay. Many thanks.

### **Diving Opportunity**

Following on from the fantastic summer of sport, British Diving and Edinburgh Leisure are **on the hunt for the next generation of diving superstars**. Any child aged 8-14 can sign up to participate in their **virtual talent search** using the following link:

<https://www.swimming.org/diving/diving-virtual-talent-search/>

All participants need to do is sign up, select their closest diving performance centre (Edinburgh hopefully!), video themselves doing some skills, send them in and wait for the results. Every participant gets a **free diving taster session** whether they are selected to the next phase of the talent search or not. The link below shows the details of the skills required to be videoed and sent in to the judges.

<https://www.swimming.org/diving/diving-virtual-talent-search-level-1/>

**Please find below a reminder of the procedures in place in schools:**

**Contact Tracing & Self-Isolation**

Schools no longer identify close contacts or ask whole classes to self-isolate. Contact tracing is done by Test and Protect (TAP). Only those at the highest risk of being exposed to infection will be asked to self-isolate until they have received a negative PCR test. This will include young people with a specific health-related vulnerability.

**What to do if your child is COVID-19 positive**

If your child is COVID-19 positive, please contact the school with their name, date of birth and date of Positive PCR test. This will allow the school to issue, 'Warn and Inform' letters to staff and other parents/carers, letting them know that there has been a case(s) in school.

The advice for people with symptoms of Covid-19 is unchanged. Any adult or child who develops a high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste must self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Guidance. ***Those aged 5 and over who are living in the same household must also isolate while awaiting the outcome of the PCR test result for the unwell household member. If the result comes back positive everyone should get tested. If those tests are then negative those members can return to work/school and if positive they must of course also self-isolate.***

As you will know, we have had to issue, 'Warn & Inform' letters which is a reminder of the situation that we are all still living in and the need to be as safe as we can be. If there is an 'outbreak' in school where there are 2 or more cases in a class additional mitigation measures are put in place to stop any spread. We hope to review current measures in place, particularly staggered starts and ends, after the October holiday.

I am extremely grateful to all the staff here in St Mary's who are continuing to work hard, cover duties for those who can't be in etc to ensure we can run as close to 'normal' as we can. This may mean we don't get back to you as quickly as we'd like and that some events/groups may not be able to take place. Thank you as always for your understanding in this.

**Message from Catering Dept.**

"Due to current national supply chain issues, we may need to change our menus at short notice as we adapt to the changing situation. As you may be aware from the national media there is currently a shortage of HGV drivers, this in some cases may result in product substitutions. We are working closely with our catering suppliers to mitigate disruption and our catering teams are working to adapt menus at a local level based on product availability. Pupils with special diets will continue to be catered for, however menus may differ from that on ParentPay. In addition, COVID is having an impact within our catering team resources, in some isolated cases we are having to deliver a packed lunch service offering, our teams are working incredibly hard to provide the best service possible during unprecedented times, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause".

**Flu Vaccine**

This went really smoothly and the children have to be commended for how well they accepted the health team in their classes to administer the vaccines. The team said they may be able to do a 'mop up' for pupils who were unable to receive the vaccine and we shall let you know as soon as we hear back.

**Fire Drill**

Another 'well done' to our pupils for how quickly and calmly they evacuated the building yesterday for our first fire drill this session.



Many of you have been asking about Ricky, our road crossing patrol officer. Ricky has been unwell and we are going to send him something from us as a community. I will pass on your well wishes for a speedy recovery.

### **New Staff:**

Delays in our HR Dept. have meant new staff have been unable to start as quickly as we would have liked. However this week we welcomed our pupil support officer, Mr James Diffley ,whose role is to support pupils & families and we look forward to working with him this session. Next week we welcome Mr Danny Lamb, a new pupil support assistant and we are waiting to hear when our other pupil support assistant, Mrs Tanya Hindle, can start too. Recruitment for our principal teacher post is also underway and we hope to hold interviews soon.

### **Playground Tidy Up**

Huge thanks to those parents who had volunteered to come in and have a playground tidy up. You will have noticed (hopefully!) the council have now been in to cut back tress and remove weeds however it would be great to still have an event at some point this session to maintain our tidy grounds and 'spruce' things up.

Please join us to honour and pay tribute to the life of  
**HARRY BROADBENT**, who passed away peacefully on  
Saturday, 28th August 2021



A service to celebrate the life of  
**HARRY BROADBENT**  
21 December 1983 - 28 August 2021  
Wednesday, 29th September 2021 - 11.15 a.m.  
St Mary's Parish Church, Church Lane, Mirfield

Donations - Richmond's Hope  
Online - [www.memorygiving.com/harrybroadbent](http://www.memorygiving.com/harrybroadbent)

Finally, we would like to express our sincerest condolences to the Broadbent family on the passing of Harry. The family are extremely grateful for all the support they receive from the community and if anyone would like to contribute to Richmond's Hope charity they really do help families in times like these.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Michaelagh, Harry & Alex and their family at this time.

**As always thank you for your continued support.**

**N. Kehoe**

