



Reflection

This Sunday, we hear about how Jesus helped a blind man called Bartimaeus to see again. Sometimes we see things that are not fair or right, but it can be a lot harder to see how to change these things.

For those of us who are not blind or visually impaired, we might take our gift of sight for granted. We might not realise just how wonderful the trees, birds, flowers and people we see are, because we see them every day.

We might also have times when we try to ignore things that we see, or we pretend that we can't see them but we can try to make sure that our government and other world leaders see that we care about the planet. That we want them to make a change to care for our world and all the living things in it, so that the earth, the home we all live in, can be protected now and in the future.

We can tell others and help them to see that there is a problem, but also that there are ways to make our world a fairer place. If we all work together, you and me, world leaders and big businesses, and people from all around the world, we will see what difference we can really make.

What will you do if you see something this week that you know is unfair?

Prayer: God of healing power, help us to see what is not right or fair in our world. Open our eyes to see the changes we can make so that everyone can have hope for a fairer future. Amen.

SVP Harvest Can Appeal – Message from SVP Society

On behalf of St Vincent de Paul Society in Leeds, we want to send our gratitude for your generosity and for donating the canned foods and goods to our charity.

The time you took to assemble and deliver everything to our support centre took much of the strain off for us and our team. We just wanted you to know how much we appreciate your act of kindness towards those who really struggle to make ends meet.

Your contribution has helped 10 of the families that we are supporting to have access to a weekly food parcel for them and their family for a whole month! And we not only stacked, but we managed to create something awesome together.

Thank you again!

Cold weather

Now the weather has turned more autumnal please ensure your child has a winter coat with them every day as wherever possible we do go outside at playtimes and lunchtimes.

Brownies

Bay and Tiffany told the children all about Brownies in celebration assembly last week. If there are any girls in Year 3 or Year 4 who are interested, they can contact the leader, Anne Culverwell on 07866386423.



NEWSLETTER – 21 October 2021

PE – change of days for Y1, 2 and 3

Some classes have changed their PE days for next half term.

Y1 will now have PE on Wednesday and Thursday.

Y2 will now have PE on Monday and Tuesday due to their tennis sessions on a Tuesday.

Y3 will now have PE on Tuesdays due to their tennis sessions on a Tuesday.

All other classes will continue to have PE on the same day as this half term.

Congratulations and Good luck

This half term holiday Miss Pearson is getting married and will return to school as Mrs Polzin. We wish her and her husband to be, every happiness and hope they have a wonderful day on Saturday.

Mrs Harrison leaves us this half term, to start her maternity leave and we wish her all the best for the imminent arrival of her new baby. We hope Mrs Harrison and her family enjoy every minute of this special time.

Mrs Robertshaw also has some exciting news! Mr and Mrs Robertshaw will welcome their first baby in March. Miss Hughes will be covering Mrs Robertshaw's maternity leave which is great for Year 3 as she taught the class in Year 2 so already knows them. We wish Mr and Mrs Robertshaw all the best for their new arrival too.

Esafety

A number of children have been talking about Squid Game on Netflix, at school. This program has a PEGI rating of 15 and over and is not appropriate for the children to be watching or discussing in school. Please see [here](#) for information about Squid Game.

Punctuality

We have a number of parents who are regularly arriving at school late. Your child should be in the line at 8.55am. We will be referring parents who are persistently late to Horsforth Children Services to be monitored by the attendance officer from November. When your child misses the first 10 minutes of every day, they miss interventions, lessons and the start of the school day where the teachers discuss what will happen throughout the day. Over a half term, those children who are routinely 10 minutes late to school, miss the equivalent of an entire school day. This also has an impact on the office staff who routinely spend the first half an hour of the school day, taking children to their classes due to lateness. Please ensure you are on time, every day, to help your child have the best day they possibly can.

What a half term!

What an amazing start to the school year we have had with the school birthday, black history month, class masses, Harvest, Macmillan coffee morning, Good Shepherd bun sale, Year 6 residential, parents evening and English parent meetings. It has been an incredibly busy half term but the children have settled back into normal school life so well and have all made wonderful progress already.

We are so grateful for all the support from parents especially with a high number of fundraisers and all the positive comments we have had at parents evening. Next half term, is always a busy one as we enter the season of Advent but we look forward to it after a very big rest over half term.

NEWSLETTER – 21 October 2021

Parents Evening

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the Parents Evening this week. It was wonderful to be able to welcome you into the school to see your children's books and feedback how well the children have settled into their new year groups and the progress they have already made. The feedback from parents was very positive and welcomed by the staff. 88% of parents felt knowing about their child's wellbeing and engagement was extremely important to know about in parents evening.

	Yes	No
Following your parents evening appointment, do you have information about how your child has settled into their new year group?	98%	2%
Following your parents evening appointment, do you know how well your child is doing in relation to the age-related expectations for their year group?	98%	2%
Following your parents evening appointment, were you given guidance and support on how to help your child to improve?	96%	4%
Do you find the parent information evening such as English parent meetings useful to help you support your child?	88%	12%
Did you attend the English parent meeting for your child?	40%	60%
Would you prefer the maths parent meeting in spring term to be via Zoom to allow easier access and the ability to have the meeting recorded?	80%	20%
Do you know more about what your child is learning this half term from the printed out knowledge organisers sent home in September?	94%	6%

The overall comments were very positive and gratefully received by the teachers and we are so pleased that the additional things we do, such as English meetings are useful to parents.

A small number of parents said they would like to know more about what their child is doing in school. We would suggest following the school on Twitter as all classes regularly update this, check the school website for your child's class page and see the knowledge organisers that are on the website and we will send home again in Autumn 2 as this was well received this half term with 94% of parents knowing more about what their children are learning. In December, there are our Advent workshops too where parents or family members can come and do some Advent crafts with the children.

Some parents asked for a homework book for spellings to be stuck in and mental maths sheets rather than bits of paper so we will look into this with each class. A small number of parents asked for more homework too. Two years ago, we did a parent survey regarding homework and the feedback from parents was that access to Times Table Rock Stars/Numbots, reading and spellings were enough for their child, so we stopped additional homework. However, on the school website under remote learning there is a huge list of websites you can use to support your child's learning and on the knowledge organisers there are links to books you can read too.

A small number of parents also requested a longer parents evening session. We are in the minority as a school to give 10 minutes in the first parents evening as many schools only allocate 5 minutes per child in the initial parent's evening. Although we appreciate that for parents they would like additional time, if each child had 15 minutes, the teachers would only meet 4 parents in 1 hour so would need to do 4 parents evening, twice a year which is unmanageable especially in addition to the parents meetings they do for English and maths and the time it takes to prepare. If there are any concerns, the class teacher will contact you and if you have any concerns, please contact the school office.

80% of parents would prefer the parent meetings via Zoom which allows parents to access it from work or home and for it to be recorded which allows parents to access it at a time that suits them. We have kept the Reception meeting on 2 November for maths as a meeting in school, to allow Miss Roberts to demonstrate to parents but the Key Stage 1 and 2 assessment meetings will be via Zoom at the updated time of 4pm to allow you to get home. We hope that helps parents to attend or watch the meeting to support their children.

NEWSLETTER – 21 October 2021

Awards

Headteacher Awards

Year 1 – Hannah B & Grace C
Year 2 – George J-G & Ben W
Year 3 – Jacob P & Freya W
Year 4 – Millie C & Thomas O'R
Year 5 – Florence H & Allegra S
Year 6 – Enzo M & Siofra W

Virtue Awards – Courtesy and respect

Year 1 – Noah C
Year 2 – Nina A
Year 3 – Cliodhna K-E
Year 4 – Seth H
Year 5 – Abigail R
Year 6 – Emily Mc

Diary Dates

Please note new additions and changes below.

November

Monday	1		School reopens for autumn 2
Tuesday	2		Tennis starts for Y2 and Y3 until Christmas
Tuesday	2	3.30pm	Reception maths parent meeting*
Wednesday	3		Year 5 to church
Thursday	4	9.15am	Year 6 class assembly in school hall*
Tuesday	9	9.30am	Open day for new parents*
Tuesday	9	4.00pm	Year 2 KS1 SATs information evening via Zoom
Thursday	11		Open day for new parents*
Friday	12	9.30am	Whole school Mass led by Year 5 in church*
W/b	15		Antibullying week
Monday	15		Odd Socks Day £1 suggested donation – wear odd socks with school uniform
Wednesday	17		Year 6 to church
Wednesday	17		Northern Ballet for Y3,4,5
Friday	19		Non uniform for Children in Need suggested donation £1
Monday	22	4.00pm	Year 6 - KS2 SATs information evening via Zoom
Wednesday	24	9.15am	Mini Vinnie enrolment
Thursday	25	9.15am	Year 4 class assembly in school hall*
Friday	26	11.00am	Year 5 and Year 2 Class Mass in school hall*
Friday	26		Advent charity appeals launch
Sunday	28	11.00am	Family Mass 1 st Sunday of Advent in church*
Monday	29		Woolly Hat campaign starts
W/b	29		Year 6 sacrament of Reconciliation for Advent
Monday	29		Jesse Tree assemblies begin led by Mini Vinnies

December

Wednesday	1		Year 4 to church
Wednesday	1	2.00pm	Reception Advent Workshop*
Thursday	2		CAFOD Advent national assembly
Thursday	2	2.00pm	Year 1 and Year 2 Advent Workshop in school*



NEWSLETTER – 21 October 2021

Friday	3	9.15am	Year 6 lead Jesse Tree Assembly in school hall*
Friday	3	2.00pm	Year 3 and Year 4 Advent Workshop in school*
Monday	6		Year 1 class Saint – Feast Day of St Nicholas
Tuesday	7	2.00pm	Year 5 and Year 6 Advent Workshop in school*
Tuesday	7	2.15pm	Year 1 and Year 2 nativity in school hall* nativity (a recording will also be made to be shared with parents)
Wednesday	8		Pantomime in school
Thursday	9	9.15am	Year 4 lead Jesse Tree Assembly in school hall*
Thursday	9	2.30pm	Reception nativity (a recording will also be made to be shared with parents)
Friday	10		Christmas Jumper Day
Friday	10		Christmas Dinner Day
Monday	13	5.00pm	KS2 Carol Service led by Year 5 in church*
Tuesday	14		End of Woolly Hat campaign
Wednesday	15		Christmas party day – come in party clothes
Wednesday	15	9.15am	Year 3 lead Jesse Tree Assembly in school hall*
Thursday	16	9.30am	Whole school Mass led by Year 4 in church*
Friday	17	2.30pm	Carols in the hall
Friday	17		Finish for Christmas holidays

Parish news

A BIT MORE NORMALITY

We have now been told that we are allowed Mass books & hymn books, so these will be available from next weekend. We are also going to remove the social distancing signs from the benches at the front of each church. For those who are still not ready to sit too close to others, we will leave them in place at the back of the churches

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

We have various roles within the parish that we need help with. Please take the list of roles and consider what you can do for your Parish. See here for the list [Our Lady of Kirkstall](#)

SUNDAY MASSES (Saturday Vigil)

Holy Name	6.30pm
St. Mary's	8.15am
Holy Name	9.00am
Assumption	9.45am
St Mary's	11.00am
Holy Name	11.15am