

Reflection



Yesterday we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, a highlight of this month of October, which is also the Month of the Holy Rosary, a time when we are all encouraged to pray the rosary daily and to rediscover that love and relationship we have for God through Mary, His loving Mother and our beloved mother too.

The rosary devotion has been given to us by our own blessed mother Mary, as a way for us to draw closer to the Lord through her, as a way for us to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, by removing from us the distractions and the temptations of our daily living, and instead focusing ourselves on the Lord and His mother, through which we may grow ever deeper in spirituality and in commitment to God, and through the rosary, we may grow ever better as Christians, and also even inspire others to follow in our good examples.

Our Lady of the Rosary, our most loving mother, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Confirmation

Our Year 6 children will be confirmed this evening at St Mary's church. Please pray for them as they receive this special sacrament.

First Holy Communion for Year 5

First Holy Communion Preparation for Year 5s in our parish is beginning soon! Many families are already signed up, but if your child is eligible and you haven't already registered, please contact catechist.ourladyofkirkstall@dioceseofleeds.org.uk for further information.

Please arrange to collect a book and a backpack from Su at the Holy Name Parish Office or Amanda at the St Mary's Parish Office. For payment, please either bring £5 cash or cheque made payable to *Our Lady of Kirkstall* in an envelope with your child's name on it.

Preparation will mainly be done through home-learning with check-ins with catechists and a Saturday afternoon extended session for families. Keep an eye out for further details in the parish bulletins. Please keep all our First Holy Communion families in your prayers.

NEWSLETTER – 8 October 2021

Harvest Festival

It was wonderful to see all the children today to celebrate our Harvest Festival and the family members who were able to join us. A huge thank you to all those who donated money towards Cafod and brought in tins for the St Vincent de Paul food bank.



School Birthday Event

On **Friday 1st October** the children celebrated the school turning 125 years old. The children looked fantastic in their amazing costumes and throughout the day, they learnt so much about the school from visitors and videos sent in by previous pupils. We hope in 25 years when the school turns 150 years old, our current pupils will come back to share their memories too.

One of our aims on the school development plan this year is to ensure our curriculum links to our locality and this was a wonderful start to the development of this.

Tempest Photos

The last day to order your child's photos from Tempest with free delivery to school is Sunday 10th October. After this, there will be a £5 charge.

Policy updates

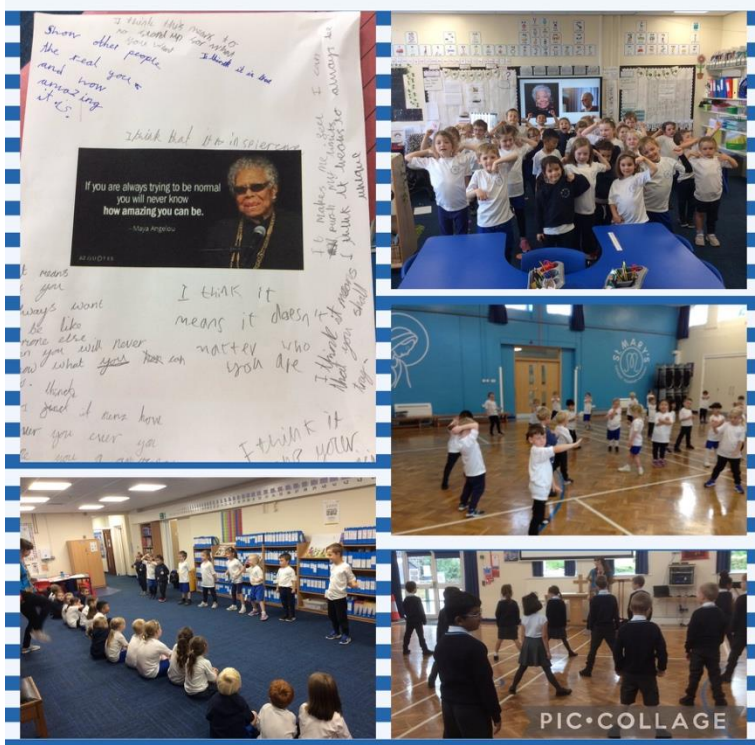
The [Safeguarding and Child Protection](#), [E safety](#) and [Behaviour Policy](#) have been updated in line with guidance from the September 2021 [Keeping Children Safe in Education document](#). These are all on our website if you wish to see them. The main difference to the behaviour policy has been the addition of information about peer on peer abuse and procedures in place for this. Our reward and sanction system and the use of Class Dojos remain the same.

English parent meetings

This year, the whole school is focusing on improving writing as we feel that this is the area of the curriculum that was hardest hit due to lockdowns, bubble closures and Covid. Each year group is having an English parent meeting which will focus on writing expectations for your child and how you can support your child at home. We hope you will be able to attend and find these useful. The meetings will start at 3.30pm and children can stay in a classroom. If you cannot attend, you will be able to access the PowerPoint when it is added to the school website.

Tuesday 12 October @ 3.30pm Y1 English parent meeting

Thursday 14 October @ 3.30pm Y2 English parent meeting



Black History Week

This week the children have enjoyed learning about Maya Angelou as part of their work for Black History week and they took part in an amazing African dance workshop too on Thursday. Although we have focused on Black history this week, a focus of our curriculum this year is to ensure diversity through all our subjects.

Some parents did not receive the message via ParentPay regarding payment for the dance workshop due to an issue with ParentPay. If you have not been able to pay the £2 contribution towards the dance workshop yet, please do so, so we can continue to offer the children these wonderful experiences.

Parents Evening

We are looking forward to seeing our families in real life this year following last year's online Parents Evenings and sharing how your child has settled into their new year group. This also means you will be able to see your child's books and what they have been working on so far this year. Parents Evening is on Monday 18 October and Wednesday 20 October 4pm – 6.30pm in the school hall. To reduce the risk to staff and other parents we ask you to wear a face mask when you are inside the school and not to attend the parents evening if you have any symptoms of Covid. The booking system will go live at **8.00am on Monday morning**. If you have any problems with booking an appointment, please contact the school office. To book your parent evening slot, please use this link. <https://stmaryshorsforth.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Reception stay and play session

On Thursday 21 October at 2pm – 3pm, Reception parents or family members are invited to come to the Reception classroom for a stay and play session. This allows you to interact with your child and their new friends in their classroom. We hope you are able to join us.

Reminder

Friday 22 October is a training day so the school will be closed to all children. We reopen on Monday 1st November.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu Vaccinations will take place in school on Tuesday 12 October. If your child is a little worried, you could use this video to help them to understand what will happen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jHWwm8NQUw>



Headteacher Awards

Year 1 – Harry E & Alfred C
 Year 2 – Alfie T & Giovanni C
 Year 3 – Lois Q & Isobel S
 Year 4 – Sam D & Charlotte C
 Year 5 – Amos F & Olivia M
 Year 6 – Alice O'D & Theo L

Virtue Awards – Thankfulness

Year 1 – Hannah B
 Year 2 – Ramona C
 Year 3 – Isla S
 Year 4 – Bay W
 Year 5 – Jessica Mc
 Year 6 – Enzo G

Diary Dates

October

Monday	11		Year 6 residential
Tuesday	12		Flu vaccinations
Tuesday	12	3.30pm	Year 1 English parent meeting*
Wednesday	13		Year 2 to church
Thursday	14		Water safety for KS1 and KS2
Thursday	14	3.30pm	Year 2 English parent meeting*
Friday	15		Year 6 return from residential
Monday	18	4.00-6.30pm	Parents Evening*
Wednesday	20	4.00-6.30pm	Parents Evening*
Thursday	21		Y6 flu vaccinations and catch up session
Thursday	21	2.00 – 3.00pm	Reception stay and play*
Friday	22		Training Day

Parish news

CONFESSIONS Priests are available any time for the sacrament but specifically: Saturday mornings, at both SM and HN 10.30-11am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and simple Benediction takes place before each weekday Mass at Holy Name and Assumption and then on Saturdays before the 10.00am Mass at St. Mary's.

ROSARY In the Lady Chapel at St Mary's from 9am prior to the 9.30am Mass. All welcome.

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