

Newsletter

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Ysgol Catholig Santes Fair

This weekend we celebrate the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Dear Parent,

Friday 5th February 2021

The Welsh Government have announced today that Foundation Phase pupils (all pupils from Nursery to Year 2) will be returning to school during the week beginning Monday 22nd February, after the Half Term holiday. This means that our Hub provision will continue for children in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 – Year 6). We are very much looking forward to welcoming our children back to their full time education. I will write to our parents next week about the details of the return, with a reminder about the various routines that will have to be followed. Our system in relation to booking Hub places will continue as normal and we will be in touch with parents on Wednesday next week in order to book Hub places for the week after Half Term by noon on Thursday. You should have received a letter and survey from the Director of Education asking for some of your thoughts with regard to the current Critical Worker situation. Please do respond to the survey if at all possible. Feedback from that will be with us shortly after the Half Term break.

Another reminder that next Friday 12th February is an INSET day and therefore school will be closed to all pupils to allow for staff training. The Half Term holiday for pupils therefore begins after the end of next Thursday's day in school.

This year Ash Wednesday falls during the Half Term holiday on the 17th of February. Fr. Tim will be celebrating Mass at 10am and we will be encouraging as many of our families to join the live streaming of this as possible. Fr. Tim will direct many of the messages from this Mass to our children and therefore I highly recommend that you join it if at all possible in order to begin the Lenten Season well.

Many thanks to the large number of families who responded to our survey last week about our online learning provision during this closure period. Your comments have been most helpful and have been fed back to staff where necessary. Your comments are much appreciated. Major debates are taking place across the country about the amount of learning that children are expected to do at home and the amount of time that parents need to spend supporting this. Our survey showed that 73% of parents thought that the amount of learning was about right, that 23% of people thought that it was too much and 5% thought that we were not providing enough learning. We've done our very best to try to achieve a good balance in this area whilst appreciating that we will never be able to get this right for all people all of the time! In relation to progress that our children are making, 89% of our respondents reported that their child is making either good or excellent progress during the lockdown period. These findings are very positive, so many thanks again for your feedback.

A note now for parents of children who are currently in our Nursery with regard to Reception places for this September. Governors have to complete another round of Admissions for places in Reception. They will be doing this after the Half Term break. Those parents who have children with us have already indicated that they want their child to be considered for a place in September and therefore you do not need to take any further action at the moment. The Local Authority operate a system in which all schools send letters to parents about Reception places in April. We will follow this system so that everybody involved should have confirmation of Reception places at that time.

Have a great weekend!

