



St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

Head teacher: Mrs. C.M. O'Hara B.Ed DPSE(Mus)



Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents,

Following on from a discussion with Fr Craig, in conjunction with the Bishop, he has kindly agreed to host the Confirmation Celebration for Y6 children, on Thursday 18th March (in church). **This date is open to change, in light of the Government's right to impose local restrictions and lockdowns as needed.**

On the school website there is a tab on the Home Page, which we require all parents presenting the children for Confirmation to engage with. We also invite sponsors and children to listen as active members in the decision making. We are aware that it is not easy to listen to, in this format but we trust that we have your understanding at this time.

The children, over the next few weeks, and after the masses and service, ably led by Mrs Heenan, Mrs Polito, Miss Marsh and Mrs Evans, will be prioritising a catch up programme to address the gaps from the Spring term in Y6, in order to ensure that they are ready for the sacrament in all senses of the word.

Safety of the children and their families is paramount; there is also a need to ensure that the serving priests, the bishop and support servers and staff are also kept safe. Similarly, the religious aspect of the ceremony, as a sacramental milestone in the children's spiritual journey, needs to be firmly put in the centre of all decision making.

For that reason, I now need to ask for your further assistance, patience and full co-operation in order to follow rules explicitly for the event detailed below.

Y6 Confirmation Mass with take place on Thursday 18th March at 7pm, as detailed below.

- 1) Parents will need to complete a track and trace form (attached), by Friday 12th March and return to school, via email, marked *Y6 track and trace details for (Name of child)* to pupilpostbox@st-maryangel.walsall.sch.uk. Names not on the list will, unfortunately, not be able to attend.
- 2) Children will need to wear their full school uniform and look smart. Please be mindful of the weather: if it is raining, we will still need to enter and leave the church calmly, and in line with details below
- 3) Between 6.30pm and 6.45pm **children and their family bubbles and sponsors- up to 6 maximum**- will need to gather together in the car park as a bubble, as directed by Senior staff.
- 4) Once they are all present, the family bubble will need to approach the socially distanced assembly points, which will be manned by staff, who will then direct family bubbles to their allocated bench in the church. **Please be aware that staff will need to manage and maintain high levels of social distancing between bubbles. We ask that you are sensitive to the needs of others and their families on the evening .**
- 5) Hand sanitiser will be available for all as they enter the church
- 6) In line with current practice, social distance between church benches will be maintained appropriately.
- 7) No adult of 12+ will be allowed in without a mask, unless they have medical exemption with them.
- 8) Confirmandiis will all be seated together, as a class bubble, on the sanctuary steps. They will also receive communion from the sanctuary.

- 9) All other guests will be directed by Fr Craig , on the day, to receive Holy Communion if they would like to, following the rules of the church already in place.
- 10) After the Mass, all guests and their children will need to remain in their benches until they are escorted out of the church, by school staff.
- 11) Once they are outside of the church, they will need to leave the premises quickly, in order to maintain appropriate social distancing.
- 12) Photographs will not be permitted on the church car park or in the church
- 13) A celebration in school will be held on Friday afternoon, with a cake and a drink and some party music etc. Children will need to be in school uniform on this day, as normal.

In the event of not being able to attend on this date/time, parents will need to make private arrangements with Fr Craig for their child to receive the sacrament at another time.

I know that as a community we will fully respect the church as a place of worship. I also know that as a community we will work together to make the day a memorable one for all of Y6, whilst still respecting the safety needs that Co-Vid presents.

Have a great weekend and thanks for your time in reading through what appears to be a very prescriptive, but necessary letter. We look forward to receiving your track and trace attachments from Monday and by Friday 12th March at the latest.

Yours sincerely

C.M.O'Hara

Head teacher

E. Hayes

Asst Head teacher and R.E Lead