

# HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As a Catholic school religious education is at the heart of everything that we do here at Holy Rosary and is not merely taught as a discrete subject. Our mission statement is lived out by all members of the school community each and every day. We aim to have Jesus and his teachings at the centre of our entire school community. The whole aim of our school is the Christian growth of the children, not simply their growth in Faith but their growing awareness of the world as a maturing Christian. Holy Rosary fosters in all our children respect for the value of their own culture and the culture of others and aims to help them to live harmoniously in society.

Here at Holy Rosary we follow the Liverpool Archdiocese '**Come and See**' religious programme. '**Come and See**' is an invitation and a promise of life for everyone. Through this programme, we offer the opportunity to search, to explore, to discover and to respond; this is part of what it is to be human. During religious education lessons, children undertake activities such as discussing in pairs, groups or whole class, reading from Scripture and Bibles, making posters, paintings and recordings of their knowledge and understanding and interacting with different environments, including outdoors. Collective worship, planned partly or fully by the children themselves, forms another important part of the children's spiritual growth and links with Holy Rosary Church are strengthened year on year.

## THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

### MINI VINNIES

We have a carefully selected group of 'Minnie Vinnies' in school who promote charity and community work, linked to the work of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. So far this year our team have delivered the parish Christmas cards to the streets surrounding our school, organised and arranged a whole school bake sale to raise awareness and funds during Fairtrade fortnight, collected and delivered Easter eggs to a local food bank and delivered an Easter card accompanied by a chocolate bunny and a fresh tulip to the sick and housebound of the parish. We are extremely proud of the work of our 'Minnie Vinnies' and the generosity of our whole school community.



### STAY & PRAY

The reception classes are always looking for ways to engage with their families, particularly those who are new to the school. They have promoted parents popping into school for the first session at the beginning of the day for a number of years now and it has been extremely well received. Previous sessions have been 'Stay & Play' and 'Stay & Read' etc. This year they have introduced a 'Stay & Pray' session. This session took place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and was a huge success. Parents commented on how impressed they were by the children's reverence during the session and were touched with their gift of a daffodil to take home. Well done Reception!

## PRAYER GARDEN

A beautiful new prayer garden has recently been developed for our key stage two children. An enclosed area on the back playground has been professionally landscaped with seating areas to provide a tranquil space for prayer. A statue of Mary that originally stood in our old infant building has been restored and weather proofed and stands proud on a dedicated plot in the centre of the garden. Father Vin will bless the space with the children before it is officially opened for use.



## SCHOOL DISPLAY



Our school hall has been transformed this year with the addition of a beautiful mosaic of Our Lady and the communal area outside the staffroom has been utilised to proudly display our new mission statement in 3D artwork. We commissioned the work of a local artist to

work with every single child from Year 1 to Year 6 in the development of these works. This has given the children ownership and they are very proud of their work. The mosaic piece was generously funded by the Friends of Holy Rosary.

## YEAR 6 RETREAT

Our Year 6 children enjoyed their annual retreat day on 6<sup>th</sup> December with Animate Youth Ministries at Low House in St. Helens. The staff who attended were extremely proud of how reverent and open our children were and a wonderful day was had by all involved.



## CLASS MASSES

Class masses have been reintroduced to our timetable by Father Vin this year. Mass has been enjoyed with all upper key stage two classes so far this year. Children have taken a lead role in the mass, preparing bidding prayers and readings and choosing suitable hymns.

## COME & SEE ASSEMBLIES

All Key Stage Two classes celebrate a Come and See topic with their peers and families as part of the rejoice element of the Come and See Programme. So far this year we have enjoyed the assemblies of J6, J8, J7 and J4 with all others to follow later in the school year. These assemblies are a testament to the excellent teaching and learning in religious education and provide an excellent link between the school and home.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Throughout December our infant department presented a total of five nativity performances to our families. The lower juniors led an advent service one evening in church and the upper junior department wrapped up the celebrations with a final presentation of the story of the first Christmas in church. All performances were beautiful and reminded everyone of the true meaning of Christmas, well done to everyone involved.



## CCRS

As a teaching school we facilitate two modules for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies.

### LINKS WITH PARISH



As a school we are always keen to strengthen our links with the parish. Our children have already enjoyed preparations for Christmas at church with the Y3 and Y4 advent service and Y5 and Y6 First Christmas Story Celebration and Y6 provided a wonderful reminder of the importance of Easter at the end of the spring term. Our staff support the Reconciliations and First Communions which are facilitated by the With You



Always team. Teachers constantly look for ways to promote the church; visitors to school to talk to children where appropriate during topics e.g. people who help us and visits to church to see particular artefacts e.g. font, altar etc.

As chair of the governing body and our parish priest Father Vin pops into school whenever he can to be a visible link for the children.