



SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

Eco-School Green Flag Award 2017

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Dear Parents

As you know, Friday 15th March is the day of First Confession. The children sit with their family and each family has been allocated a pew. The children wear their own clothes and should be dressed appropriately for the reverence of the service. Families should be in the chapel by 10.20am for the liturgy to begin at 10.30am.

At the time of individual confession, parents / guardians walk up with their child as far as the steps when instructed. The parents wait at the steps while the child goes up onto the altar to make their First Confession and hugs them when they come back down. The children are free to go home once the ceremony is over.

Please go over the prayers with your child and the individual confession format that is attached overleaf as well as song words. Some children can be nervous about this sacrament and please let me know if your child is particularly anxious so that I can do my best to alleviate any concerns. I have reassured them that the priest will help them if they forget anything.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Sacrament, please get in touch.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Your sincerely

Miss O'Prey
P3 Class Teacher

Dear Parents

Below is the format for individual confession. Please go over this with your child as often as possible between now and the ceremony. Many children are unsure of the Bless me Father part. It is very helpful for them to know this off by heart as it gives them more confidence and for those children who have not yet decided on their bad choices, it is important to discuss that tonight to give time for practising. The more the children learn things off by heart, the less nervous they will be.

Child and parents go to the altar steps.

Parents wait there while the child goes forward to the priest.

Child blesses themselves and then says:

Bless me Father for I have sinned.

I did not show love when I ...(think of 2 or 3 examples to tell the priest, such as I didn't share / do as I was told / I hit my brother etc)

Priest gives penance (one Hail Mary)

Child says the Act of Sorrow

Priest blesses the child when giving absolution (child blesses themselves at the same time)

Child says thank you Father and returns to his / her parents

Parents hug the child and all return to their seat

Thank you for all your support,

Miss O'Prey