

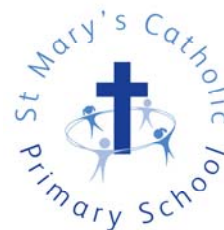
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

St Mary's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment

*Designated Child Protection Officer: Ms A Maher
Child Protection policy available at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk*

Spring 1 2012



Dear Parents and Children

Welcome back to another new term at St Mary's and thank you for the most generous Christmas wishes and gifts wishes received by myself and the staff at the end of last term.

As the old year ends, it is natural to look back on the achievements of the previous year and to make plans for the future. Everyone involved with St Mary's should be immensely proud of the achievements of our school community last year: excellent SAT results, winners of Merry Hill Choir competition, extremely successful Ofsted inspection and an Outstanding judgement in our RE Inspection to name just a few and all due to the hard work and dedication of staff, pupils, parents and parish.

As the new year unfolds, we look forward to the future and start to make plans for the days ahead. As you will see from the front of the school, the building extension is progressing very well. Again, this is all thanks to your generosity. Without your donations in the little envelopes we would not be able to provide these new facilities for your children. However, there is still much that we would like to do for your children eg new furniture and equipment for the new rooms so please continue to donate – every penny counts. The extension is due to be completed in February so I am looking forward to taking parents and children on guided tours before we break up for Easter. Further details will follow in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, please enjoy reading the RE Inspection Report attached with this newsletter and please send in your donations so that, together, we can continue to make St Mary's the best that it can be.

I hope that you will enjoy what we have got planned for the next term and I wish you all the best for 2012.

Happy New Year!

Ms A Maher
Headteacher

Thank You

A big thank you to the Friends of St. Mary's for organising the sale of tea towels and calendars at the end of last term. If you would like to help out with our Friends Association please speak to Mrs Hambridge in the school office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during January and February. If your name is not on the list please let us know so that we can check we have the correct date of birth on our records:

Aldren Yr 2	Naishe Rec
Anthony Y1	Kate Y3
Vikesh Y6	Sam Y3
Zoe Y2	Piper Y4
Hannah Rec	Rayne Rec
Colbie Y3	Bernadette Y3
Savannah Y4	Isabel Y1
Poppy Rec	Isabell Y1
Yash Y1	Joseph Y2
Jacob Y1	Jordan Y5
James Y1	Joe Y2
Vladimir Y6	Luciano Y6
Timothy Y2	Rosie Y3
Darci Y3	Kye Y6
Amie Y3	

Attendance Return

31st October 2011—16th December 2011

Rec—96.26%
Yr 1—98.04%
Yr 2—97.23%
Yr 3—97.66%
Yr 4—96.41%
Yr 5—96.27%
Yr 6—94.85%

Well done Year 1. You are this half term's winners.

Our overall absences were:
2.74% authorised
0.60% unauthorised
Our overall attendance was 96.67%

Please note that unauthorised absences count as truancy so if we have not heard from you by 10am we have to keep a record for our Education Welfare Officer. **Please remember that holidays in school time are also unauthorised.**

Please also note that if your child arrives late, after registers are closed, this is counted as an absence so please try to be on time.

Whole School Mass List

There will be no Masses this half term as Fr Darley is away. School Masses will resume after February half term.

We look forward to seeing as many parents and parishioners as possible at our whole school Masses.

Diary Dates



Fri 13th Jan	Goods for Gambia Sale
Weds 25th Jan	Preschool INSPIRE
Fri 27th Jan	Fire Safety Y5
Weds 1st Feb	Y4 INSPIRE
Mon 6th Feb-Fri 10th Feb	Multifaith Week
Weds 8th Feb	Y3 INSPIRE
Thurs 9th Feb	Hagley Pyramid Concert Y6—7pm Birmingham Town Hall
Fri 10th Feb	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
Fri 2nd Mar	Women's World Day of Prayer—St Mary's Church, Brierley Hill, 11am
Weds 14th Mar	KS2 (Y3, 4 and 5) Production 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Weds 21st Mar	Parent's Evening 3.10-5.30pm
Weds 28th Mar	Parent's Evening 5.00-7.30pm
Fri 30th Mar	BREAK UP FOR EASTER
Mon 16th Apr	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

INSET Days 2011-2012

Thurs 3rd May	Local Elections—school closed to children
Fri 4th May	INSET—school closed to children
Mon 7th May	Bank Holiday—school closed
Mon 23rd July	INSET—school closed to children

Class Assemblies

Fri 20th Jan	Year 6 Assembly	9.10am
Fri 10th Feb	Multi Faith Assembly - All classes	9.10am
Fri 2nd Mar	Barnardos Assembly	9.10am
Fri 9th Mar	Foundation Stage Assembly	9.10am
Fri 23rd Mar	Year 2 Assembly	9.10am
Fri 30th Mar	Year 1 Assembly	9.10am

Re'sounding Success

Well done to Mrs Deans and St. Mary's Choir who won 'Best Choir' in the Merry Hill Choir Competition in December. The prize is £1000 which we will spend on a whole school event. We are looking into lots of possibilities and will let you know as soon as something is booked.



Requests for leave during term time

Please remember pupils are **not** entitled to holidays during term time. If leave is required in extenuating circumstances, a written request must be submitted to the Governing Body c/o the school office. Requests will be given due consideration on an individual basis and a reply sent. **Please take note of term dates given in this newsletter so that family holidays can be arranged during school holidays.**

After 18 unauthorised sessions, which is nine days because each day counts as two sessions, we have got to involve the Education Investigation Service so please help us to avoid this uncomfortable process by booking family holidays during school holiday time. Thank you

School/Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Following the success of our pilgrimages to Harvington Hall in 2009 and the Papal Visit 2010, we are organising a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham, Norfolk on Saturday 12th May. We would hope to leave school at 8am and return for 11pm and depending on numbers the cost will be about £20. A more detailed letter will follow so please look out for it as spaces are limited.

Just to confirm the arrangements that have been made with regard to the extra bank holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee have been taken into account by the local authority. When the term dates were set for 2011 - 2012 the half term was moved a week later to 4th - 8th June and the actual working days reduced from 195 to 194 days. There is, therefore, no extra day to be taken in lieu of the extra bank holiday.

2011/12	Spring Term 2012	Summer Term 2012
Term start	Tuesday January 3rd	Monday 16th April
Half term	Mon 13th- Fri 17th Feb	Mon 4th—Fri 8th June
Term end	Friday 30th March	Friday 20th July

Morning Club



We now have a morning club on Monday-Friday mornings 8.00am—8.40am. This is being provided by Top Score UK and a whole range of sporting activities take place. Research shows that morning clubs are frequently linked to increased enjoyment of learning, positive attitudes to school and healthier lifestyles.

Outstanding Success



Fr Michael Dolman visited St. Mary's on 21st and 22nd November to undertake a rigorous inspection of the Catholic life and provision at St. Mary's. He looked at numerous documents, observed lessons and spoke to many of our children, staff, governors, parents and Fr Darley. As a result St. Mary's has been judged to be an 'outstanding' school and this is a wonderful accolade to all the hard work that takes place in our school and parish communities. Thank you to everyone for their commitment and please enjoy reading the attached (well deserved) report.

Lost property

We have an inordinate amount of lost property in school at present. As most of this contains uniform which has not been labelled with the child's name we are finding it impossible to trace items to owners. Therefore, we urge all parents to (i) please label all items of clothing as one sweatshirt/polo shirt etc is indistinguishable from another and (ii) to look in the lost property box ASAP if their child is missing any property. Items not claimed by February half-term will be recycled. Thankyou.

Extra-Curricular Activities

To begin Week Beginning 9th January 2012

	8.00-8.50am	Lunchtime	3.15-4.15pm
Monday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Zumbatomics Miss Whitehouse KS2
Tuesday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Dodgeball Top Score UK KS1 & 2
Wednesday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Irish Dancing Una Rollinson KS1 & KS2
Thursday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2	Gardening Club Mrs Brereton KS2	Ballet Mrs Portman FS, KS1 & KS2 Science Club Mrs Broomfield KS1
Friday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2	Football Mr Turner Y5 & Y6	Football Mr Turner KS2 Disco Dancing Mrs Portman FS, KS1 & KS2

A number of parents have enquired about their pre-school child attending our after school clubs. The pupil : adult ratio, by law, is very different for children who are not yet of statutory school age so if a pre-school child attends an after school club additional adults are needed for supervision. This means that we would require parents to attend the club with their child. As parents will be in a supervisory role they will need to be CRB cleared in order to fulfil all safeguarding guidelines before attending the club. Forms for CRB clearance are available from our school office and clearance usually takes about six weeks. If you do wish your child to attend our after school clubs we would need you to gain CRB clearance first. Once children are older and reach Reception class and are in full time education they will be able to attend after school clubs without additional adult supervision.