

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



'Providing a Christ centred setting whereby everyone can live out the messages of Jesus with love, understanding and care'
St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi Academy Company and St Mary's are 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 Officers: Ms O' Beirne, Mrs Addis and Mrs Broomfield.
Child Protection policy available at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

July 2016

Year of Mercy



Pope Francis has said that mercy is not an abstract word but a way of life. Christians should examine their conscience and ask themselves if they place the spiritual and material needs of others before their own. A Christian who chooses to be merciful experiences true life and has "eyes to see, ears to listen, and hands to comfort." Those who have experienced the mercy of God in their own lives do not remain insensitive to the needs of others. The works of mercy compel Christians to "roll up their sleeves in order to ease suffering."

As we almost reach the end of another academic year at St Mary's I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to all parents, colleagues, Academy Committee members and the school community for their support in making our school a very special place. By continuing to work together we have enabled your children to experience rich and varied learning experiences in a nurturing and caring environment. Thank you for the partnership we share which is vital for your children to thrive and succeed.

Attendance

I have received several requests for leave of absence during this term. Please may I remind parents that we need at least 14 days notice of you wish to take your child out of school in exceptional circumstances. I appreciate that this is not always possible if an emergency crops up, but I need time to consider the application and send a response before the period of absence begins.

Our overall attendance for 2015—2016 is 95.84%. Well done to our top 3 classes this year:

1st	Year 5	97.81%
2nd	Year 3	95.95%
3rd	Year 2	95.75%



Goodbye to Miss Adkins and Year Six



We sadly will be saying goodbye and good luck to Miss Adkins who will be leaving us at the end of this term. We wish her well in her future career. We would all like to thank our Year 6 pupils who have just a few days remaining with us before they take on the exciting challenge that lies ahead. Our thoughts and prayers go with them on their life journey as they transfer to their Secondary schools.

Welcome to Mrs Brazier, Mrs Hope, Mrs Darby and Miss Skett.

In September we look forward to welcoming four new members of staff to St Mary's. Mrs Brazier will be replacing Miss Adkins in Year 5. Mrs Hope will be working in Year 3 so that Mrs Addis can be released to work alongside me in her role as Assistant Principal. Mrs Darby will be working as a class mentor and Miss Skett will be a lunchtime supervisor.



Year 6 Enterprise Project



Over the past few weeks Year six have been busy setting up their own business making and selling healthy snacks and smoothies. They had business managers, account managers, chefs and a marketing team who all worked together to research ingredients, make the food and sell their produce to parents and children at home time. They applied for a Business Start-up Loan from Ms O'Beirne and managed to make a profit of £149.00 after the loan had been repaid. A donation of £45 was made from the profit to the SVP Society. The rest was spent on a trip to the cinema for Year six and some flowers for Mrs Morgan and Mrs Howarth in appreciation of their help. Thank you to everyone who supported this business venture and to Mrs Sheldon -Wilson who led it. It was a valuable learning experience for the children and one which they all enjoyed taking part in.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Friday 15th July Year 2 went to St Mary's Catholic Church for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This was a lovely service and was followed by a thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 17th July. Year 2 would like to thank everyone who came to support them at this special service and Father Cecil and Father Stephen who led the service

Friends of St Mary's Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to support this year's Summer Fair. We raised £482.12. Particular thanks go to Mrs Mauldrige, Mrs Coffield, Mrs Durnall, Mrs Young, Mrs Addis and Mrs Homer who have done so much for the Friends of St Mary's during the year including organising fund raising events and providing refreshments in school for special occasions. Your support is greatly appreciated. We would also like to



thank everyone who donated prizes for the raffle. This includes a voucher for one day's free childcare at Twinkle Toes Day Nursery and Mischief and Giggles Play Den who offer childcare for children between the ages of 5 and 12 during school holidays. We also received a voucher towards and after school club for the Autumn



term from Strike Sports who support us with many of the sporting activities which take place in school.

School holiday activities

As usual, there is a wide range of events, activities and holiday schemes being organised by Dudley MBC for during the summer break. Details of these are on the Dudley website which is kept up to date on a regular basis. When you access the site, select the 'What's On' section and the information will be there. Any further activities for the summer holiday and throughout the year will be uploaded onto the directory so it is worth checking this on a regular basis: <https://fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd/>



Got 2 Sing Youth Choir



Two of our pupils, Grace and Amour recently took part in two very special performances with Got 2 Sing Youth Choir. They both took part in a performance at Merry Hill on Saturday 2nd July as part of intu Merry Hill's summer celebration weekend where they were raising money for Mary Stevens Hospice. Their big performance however, took place on Wed 6th July on the main stage at Symphony Hall, Birmingham at the Music For Youth National Festival where 12,00 musicians came together to perform on various stages around Birmingham. It was a great honour to be invited to perform on the main stage at Symphony Hall as over 40,000

young people auditioned in the previous regional festivals and they are one of only 23 choirs who have been asked to perform at the National Festival.

If your child is interested in joining the choir you can visit www.got2sing.co.uk or email:

youthchoir@got2sing.co.uk or phone Theresa on 07890 098 563. If children want to get involved with the choir they just contact Theresa and go along for a free taster session.

Well Done



Well done to Zach and Aisha who ran the Race for Life 5km run at Himley Hall on Sunday 10th July in aid of Cancer Research UK. You may have seen their photograph on the front page of last week's Chronicle. Well done to Cori and Emma who won the 'Dancers of the Week' trophy at their Irish Dancing class last week. I am sure that many of our children will be taking part in exciting activities and learning new skills during the long summer break. I look forward to hearing all about them when we return to school in September.



Gamesmark Gold



We are very proud to inform you that this year we have been awarded the gold Gamesmark for inspiring and involving more young people than ever before in school sport and competition. We are grateful to Ace Coaching, Pure Sport, Strike Sports, Believe to Achieve and Hagley Catholic High School for the support that they have given us throughout the year. We hope to build on this success next year in order to retain the gold standard.

School Dinners

As from September the price of school meals will be increasing to £2.20 per day. The cost of drinks will be 24p for milkshake, 34p for large juices and 27p for small juices. May we remind parents that if you receive certain benefits then you may be entitled to free school meals for your child. Details of how to apply online can be found on the Dudley MBC website. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 it is still worthwhile applying as this increases the amount of Pupil Premium Funding that is allocated to the school.



Building fund money

We are now able to accept Building Fund money direct from your bank account. Please see Mrs Hambridge for details of the account that the money needs to be paid into. You may continue to send cash or cheques into school if you prefer.

School Uniform Suppliers



Just a reminder that school uniform for September can be purchased from either of the following websites:

www.yourschooluniform.com

www.clothingattesco.com

For more information on uniform please see our school website.

Newsletters Online

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, from September our newsletters will not be sent home as a printed version. It will be available to view on our website. A text message will be sent each time there is a new newsletter for you to see.

Thank you once again to every for their support at St Mary's this year. I hope that you all have a lovely summer break and I look forward to seeing you and your children back at school on **Tuesday 6th September**.

Ms O'Beirne
Principal



Dudley Term Dates 2016—2017

Autumn Term 2016	
Mon 5 September	(Inset Day - School closed to pupils)
Tue 6 September	Start of Term - School opens
24 to 28 October	Half Term
Fri 16 December	End of Term - School closes for Christmas
Spring Term 2017	
Tue 3 January	(Inset Day - School closed to pupils)
Wed 4 January	Start of Term - School opens
20 to 24 February	Half Term
Fri 7 April	End of Term - School closes for Easter
Summer Term 2017	
Mon 24 April	Start of Term - School opens
Mon 1 May	May Day Bank Holiday
29 May to 2 June	Half Term
Tue 25 July	End of Term - School closes for Summer

INSET days 2016—2017

In Service Training Days for school staff will take place on the following dates:

Monday 5th September 2016

Friday 7th October 2016

Tuesday 3rd January 2017

Thursday 4th May 2017 enforced closure for local elections

Monday 24th July 2017

Tuesday 25th July 2017

Children will not be required in school on these days.

Meet the Teacher—School Transition Day

A reminder that there is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet their child's new class teacher on Friday 9th September. There will be three 10 minutes sessions starting at 9:10am

