



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 Broomfield, Miss Mosley, Mrs Brereton and Mrs Berry.
Child Protection policy available at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

November 2017

Advent

The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. It is the four weeks before Christmas beginning on November 30 or the nearest Sunday to it. This is the Church's New Year's Day. Advent Sunday, this year, falls on 3rd December. This is the day when the first candle on the advent crown will be lit in church. This first candle is the candle of hope, so prayers on this day focus on hope. The second candle is a symbol of God's peace. Number 3 is the candle of love. The next candle represents joy and the final candle, which is usually white, reminds Christians of the birth of Jesus.

Our Advent Mass on Thursday 30th November will celebrate the beginning of Advent.



Confirmation



On Thursday 23rd November a number of Year Six children celebrated their Confirmation. We are very grateful to Bishop McGough who visited the children in class and led the celebration. It was a lovely service. Thank you to everyone who came to support the children on this special occasion.

Parent view / comment about gate?



Thank you to all who completed the Parent View questionnaire on the OFSTED website. One concern which was raised was regarding security involving a gate. I am not sure what this relates to so am unable to address any problem which might exist. If the parent who made this comment could contact me to give me more details then I can work to resolve any issue. Thank you.

Head boy and girl



Following the recent application and interview process for our Year 6 children, I am pleased to be able to inform you that our Head Girl for this school year is Jade. Her deputies are Hannah, Amour and Emma. Our Head Boy is Mario and his deputies are Hamish and Charlie. They have already started working hard to make a positive impact on school life. I look forward to working with them in the coming year.



Student Update Forms



Mrs Hambridge has asked if parents would return Student update forms, photo consent forms, VJEs and Home School Agreements. It is vital that we have the correct contact details in case of an emergency and we need the VJE to be able to take children offsite. Without a photo consent form we are not able to use your child's photograph on displays around the school. There are various levels of consent that you can give, eg. In school only, no names with photos; but without a returned form, we cannot use their photograph in any situation.

New Stage



Our new stage has arrived! It looks great and is very sturdy. I would like to thank the Friends of St Mary's for their generous donation towards the cost of this and to Mrs Buckley who has worked very hard on our after school tuck shop which has covered part of the cost. I hope that you all enjoy watching your children on this stage during the years to come.

Late collection from school.

I would like to remind all parents and carers that school ends at 3:00pm and children should be collected at this time unless they have been booked in to the Brierley Hill after school club, or they are taking part in a club in school. Any child who has not been collected by 3:15 will be asked to join in with the club that is being run on that day, and parents will be charged the £2 fee for this. Staff have meetings to attend, and marking and preparation to do after school and are not available to care for children who have not been collected. If you do have an emergency which prevents you from getting to school on time, please let us know so that we can reassure your child/ren that you are on your way and stop them from worrying.



Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who sent in money for this year's Poppy Appeal. We have been informed by the Quarry Bank Royal British Legion that St Mary's collected a total of £214.63. They are very grateful for your generous support.



School Building Fund Donations

Mrs Beese has asked me to send out a reminder about setting up a direct payment for the School Building Fund and allowing the school to claim Gift Aid on your donations. Gift Aid allows us to claim an extra 20% of your donation from HMRC which makes a big difference, and direct bank payments make administration much easier. Forms for this are attached to this newsletter for anyone who is able to do this.

Friends of St Marys Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair which was held on Friday 24th November. £829.10 was raised which is a fantastic amount. Thanks to the parents who spent a great deal of time preparing and running the stalls.



E-safety



You may be aware that O2 mobile provider has partnered up with NSPCC to support families with E-safety. O2 are offering FREE advice and the opportunity for parent/carers to go into store and have the

<https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc>

settings amended by their O2 guru (laptops, ipads, phones etc). The address is:

Please note—The parent / carer can be on any mobile network, not just O2. This is part of their corporate agenda.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 15th December, children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper instead of their school sweatshirt in return for a donation of 50p. This money will be sent to Cancer Research.



Advent Calendars and Operation Christmas Child



Thank you for all of the advent calendars wrapping paper and sticky tape that have been sent in for the SVP Food Bank. These will be collected for distribution to those in need at the beginning of next week. We also asked for boxes of Christmas gifts for Operation Christmas Child. The have been collected and are on their way to children who may not otherwise receive a Christmas present. Thank you for your generosity.

Congratulations

Well done to Nat and Amelia who have both been awarded Blue Peter badges. There are now several Blue Peter badges that you can collect for doing different things—blue, green, silver, orange, gold and a sports badge.



Congratulations to Hannah who has been selected to perform with the Birmingham Royal Ballet in their production of The Nutcracker at the Birmingham Hippodrome. This goes to show what a talented dancer she is.

I was delighted to receive a letter from one of our Dudley councillors praising Sophia, who gave a presentation to a group of members of the council and staff from Education, Health and Children's Services. The members of the Board were so impressed by her presentation that she was asked to stay for the whole of the meeting.

Ms O'Beirne
Principal

Academy Prayer

Lord, fill our hearts and minds as we move forwards together. Enable us to work with one another to ensure that our community continues to develop and grow, for the benefit of all Amen

Academy Motto

In Jesus we live learn and serve.



This list of dates may be subject to changes or additions. If this is the case we will let you know as soon as possible. All dates are also available on our website.

Event	Date	Time
Advent Mass with Fr Des – School Council	Thursday 30 th November	9:10am
Pre-School and Reception Christmas Play	Tuesday 5 th December	9:30am
Pre-School and Reception Christmas Play	Wednesday 6 th December	1:45pm
Y1 and Y2 Christmas Play	Tuesday 12 th December	1:45pm
Y1 and Y2 Christmas Play	Tuesday 12 th December	6:30pm
Christmas Mass – Year 6	Thursday 14 th December	9:10am
Christmas Lunch	Tuesday 19 th December	12.00pm
Carol Service	Wednesday 20 th December	9:10am
Last day of term for staff and children	Wednesday 20th December	3:00pm
2018		
Staff training day. School closed for children	Tuesday 2 nd January	All Day
School re-opens for children	Wednesday 3rd January	8:50am
English workshop for Year 3 parents	Tuesday 16th January	2:25pm
Unity Week	18th—25th January	
English workshop for Year 4 parents	Tuesday 23rd January	2:25pm
Maths workshop for Year 6 parents	Tuesday 30th January	2:25pm
Maths workshop for Year 5 parents	Tuesday 6th February	2:25pm
Maths workshop for Year 4 parents	Tuesday 13th February	2:25pm
Last day of school for staff and children	Friday 16th February	3:00pm
School re-opens for staff and children	Monday 26th February	8:50am
Maths workshop for Year 3 parents	Tuesday 6th March	2:25pm
Maths workshop for Year 2 parents	Tuesday 13th March	2:25pm
Maths workshop for Year 1 parents	Tuesday 20th March	2:25pm
Last day of school for staff and children	Thursday 29th March	3:00pm
School re-opens for staff and children	Monday 16th April	8:50am

To find future term dates for planning holidays, please see the Parents' Information section on our school website.

