



## 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](http://www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk)

January 2016

### Happy New Year!



Welcome back to everyone after the Christmas and New Year break. I hope that all of our children and their families had a happy and peaceful Christmas break. On behalf of all of the staff, I would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity of wishes, cards and gifts.

### Attendance and Punctuality

We are finding that there are a high number of absences due to medical appointments. We understand that hospital appointments are given by them and are difficult to change. However, we would ask that appointments with your GP or dentist are made after school or during school holidays wherever possible. If they must be during the school day, please try to make them at the beginning or end of the day so that your child can spend most of the day in school.

### Unity Week

January 18th to 25th is a week of prayer for Christian unity. As part of this, we were delighted to welcome staff and pupils from nearby schools for a Unity Service. Thorns, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, and Withymoor Primary Schools were represented. Each school was presented with a unity candle as a gift from St Mary's. Our children did an excellent job as hosts and we received many lovely comments from the visiting schools.



### Year of Mercy

Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, Pope Francis has called for the Year of Mercy. This is a special period, also known as a Holy Year or Jubilee Year, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for the Church across the world to take a year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way.



The Year of Mercy is an invitation to show love, kindness and unbounded generosity. Pope Francis is offering us all the opportunity to encounter the incredible mercy of God. Encountering mercy means encountering God. It can transform our life, our relationships, our work, and our ability to embrace and experience all of life. Pope Francis has asked us all as individuals and as a Church, "to be a witness of mercy" by reflecting on and practising the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

This half term our children will focus on the virtues of compassion and love. In our assemblies and lessons we will be exploring together how we can show these virtues to each other on a daily basis.

This is one of the prayers we will be learning this year:

#### ***Year of Mercy—Salve Regina***

*Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,*

*Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope!*

*To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.*

*To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.*

*Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb.*

*Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

One of the first physical signs to mark this special year are the 'Doors of Mercy' which is the doorway into the hall. As the children pass one way (into the hall) they experience God's mercy and learn about this through prayer, meditation and Collective worship. As they pass the other way (exit) they will take God's mercy to others through their words and deeds to all that they meet.



### Anti Bullying Ambassadors



On Tuesday 19th January we watched The Sticks and Stones Anti-Bullying Production. This is an interactive play about verbal bullying for Years 2 to 6, which uses a combination of forum theatre, storytelling, puppetry and humour to strike home its serious message, 'Stop and think: words can hurt'.

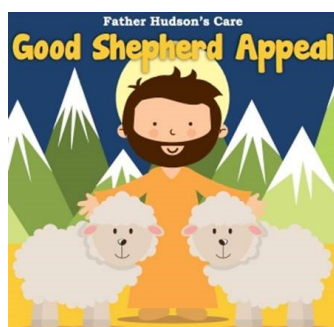
### Change4Life- Sugar Smart- News from Dudley Healthy Schools

A new campaign has been launched this week to help parents understand the importance of controlling their child's sugar intake. Children are consuming far too much sugar, which can have a huge impact on a child's health to include tooth decay, weight gain and general wellbeing. This new campaign will help parents look at how you can reduce the amount of sugar your child consumes with some great tips and ideas, as well as a fantastic app which will enable you to see how much sugar there is in everyday food and drink. The free app works by scanning the barcode of products and revealing the amount of total sugar it contains in cubes and grams. Please follow the link below for more information and how to get the app!



<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/campaigns/sugar-smart/home#ZMiFy17OImDJiMOT.97>

### Lent 2016: time for the Good Shepherd Appeal



St Mary's Catholic Primary School is taking part in Father Hudson's Care's Good Shepherd Appeal. This is a tradition among Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham stretching back more than a century. Children have been given a self-assembly collecting box. Please support your child and encourage them through Lenten sacrificial giving and abstinence to put money that might otherwise have been spent on sweets and treats into the collecting box. Last year schools raised more than £54,000 for Father Hudson's much needed work.

Father Hudson's Care is the social care agency of the Archdiocese and a registered charity (number 512992). It helps those in need of all ages, regardless of race or religion, through the Family Support Service in schools, care for disabled adults and elderly people, support for lonely, disadvantaged and vulnerable people in society and by finding foster parents for children in care. There is more information online at [www.fatherhudsons.org.uk](http://www.fatherhudsons.org.uk)

### Extreme Weather Conditions

As an academy, the Local Authority does not have the power to oblige academies to close, but may come to an agreement with the Academy Committee. At a recent Committee of Principals' meeting it was agreed that all SNOMAC schools would inform parents via the school's texting service and an alert notice on the homepage of each school's website. Radio stations will not be informed as this can cause greater confusion to parents. The deadline for any decisions to be made would be 7am in advance of the school day. We would ask you to make sure that you inform a member of the school office team if your mobile telephone number has changed recently.



### Gloriana History

One of our parents is part of a group who have a passion for Medieval and Tudor dance. They offer talks and demonstrations, living history workshops and performances in historic buildings and stately homes. On Saturday 20th February they will be holding a Gloriana Day School at Brettle Lane Community Centre. If you would like any information about Gloriana Living History then you can contact Julia Lowe on 01384 441109 or email [glorianahistory@gmail.com](mailto:glorianahistory@gmail.com)



### Sewing Bee



We would like to ask for help from anyone who has a sewing machine and would be willing to spare a few hours to help us make some graduation gowns for our Year Six children. All materials will be provided. The more volunteers we have, the less each person will need to do. If you are able to help then please contact the school office.

## Congratulations

A belated "Well done" to Amelia who won a competition at the Ruskin Glass Centre last year. She had to decide which was the exhibits in a major art exhibition. All of those who voted for the winner had their names put in a hat and Amelia's name was drawn out. She was presented with a glass owl.



## English Workshops



Thank you to everyone who has attended our English workshops which we have been running this month. We have been delighted by the number of parents who have been able to come along and we have received some very positive feedback. We will be holding another set of workshops in the Summer Term for Maths. More details will follow soon.

## Support for Parents and Carers—CEOP Team

Families can visit [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) to access advice and support on how to keep children safe from abuse both online and off. Articles provide guidance on a range of topics including helping a child with autism negotiate life online and more sensitive issues too. Users will find films, downloadable guides and useful links to support organisations.

Families can also use the website to access the CEOP Safety Centre ([www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre)) where they can report abuse and exploitation direct to CEOP.



## Extra Curricular Activities

Current clubs offered at St Mary's are as follows:

	Before School (7:45—8:40am)	After School (3:15—4:15)
Monday	Breakfast Club	Street Dance
Tuesday	Breakfast Club	Football (KS1)
Wednesday	Breakfast Club	Irish Dance
Thursday	Breakfast Club	Fun games and activities
Friday	Breakfast Club	Football (KS2)

## Brierley Hill Before and After School Club

Brierley Hill Primary School runs a Breakfast Club each day from 7.45 am and an After School Childcare facility is available in school from 3:15 until 5:45 pm Monday to Friday, with the exception of INSET days and school holidays. Further information is available from the school office on 01384 816981.



Ms O'Beirne  
Principal

## Mass and Class Assemblies

Tuesday 9th February	9:15am	Mass	Liturgical Leaders
Friday 12th February	2:30pm	Year 1 Assembly	
Tuesday 1st March	9:15am	Mass	St David's Day: Years 1&2
Sunday 13th March	11:00am	Mass of Commitment—St Mary's Church	Y2, 3 & 5
Tuesday 22nd March	9:15am	Mass	Holy Week: Year 6

## Important Dates

Thursday 4th February	Mass at St Chad's Cathedral and Hagley Pyramid Concert for Year 5
Wednesday 10th February	Year 3 and 4 Production (afternoon and evening)
Thursday 11th February	First Holy Communion meeting in school for Y3 7:00pm
<b>Friday 12th February</b>	<b>Break up for half term</b>
<b>Monday 22nd February</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>
24th—26th February	Year 5 and Year 6 visit to Astley Burf
Wednesday 2nd March	World Maths Day
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day
Tuesday 8th March	Parents' Evening 5:00pm—7:30pm
Thursday 10th March	Parents' Evening 3:15pm —5:45pm
Friday 11th March	Choir to attend Vivo Concert at Dudley Town Hall
Monday 21st March	Stations of the Cross: Years 5 and 6
<b>Wednesday 23rd March</b>	<b>Children break up for Easter</b>
Thursday 24th March	INSET day for staff
<b>Monday 11th April</b>	<b>Children return to school</b>



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.