



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

November 2018

Principal: Ms O. O'Beirne

Today's liturgy is realistic; it is tangible. It shows us the three-dimensional framework of life, three dimensions that even children understand: the past, the future, the present. Today is a day to *commemorate the past*, a day to remember those who have walked before us, who have also accompanied us, have given us life. To remember, to commemorate. Remembrance is what makes a people strong, because it feels rooted in a journey, rooted in a history, rooted in a people. Remembrance helps us understand that we are not alone, we are a people: a people with a history, with a past, with a life. Remembering so many who have shared a journey with us, and they are here. It is not easy to remember. We often struggle to turn our thoughts back to what has happened in my life, in my family, in my people.... But today is a day of remembrance, the remembrance that takes us to the roots: to my roots, to the roots of my people. Today is also a day of *hope*: the second reading showed us what awaits us. A new heaven, a new earth, and the holy city, new Jerusalem. A beautiful image which it uses to help us understand what awaits us: "I saw the holy city ... coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (cf. Rev 21:2). Beauty awaits us.... Remembrance and hope, the hope of meeting each other, the hope of arriving where there is the Love that created us, where there is the Love that awaits us, a Father's love. And between remembrance and hope there is the third dimension, that of the *path* that we must and do take. And how do we take the path without making mistakes? Which are *the lights* that will help me avoid taking the wrong path? What is the 'navigating system' that God himself gave us, so as not to take the wrong path? It is the Beatitudes that Jesus taught us in the Gospel. These Beatitudes — meekness, poverty of spirit, justice, mercy, purity of heart — are the lights that accompany us so as not to lose our way: this is our *present*. Life's three dimensions are in this cemetery: remembrance, we can see it there; hope, we will celebrate it now in faith, not in visions; and the lights to guide us on the journey so as not to lose our way. We have heard them in the Gospel: they are the Beatitudes.



We were lucky enough to have a visit from Pudsey Bear just before our cake sale for Children in Need. Pudsey went round the school and had lots of 'high fives' from the children. Thank you so much to everyone that bought a cake, in total we raised a fantastic £131.25 for Children in Need!



Volcano's—Year 4

For homework over the half-term holidays, Year 4 were asked to research and make volcanoes to prepare themselves for the start of their new topic Extreme Earth. All the children took part and Mrs Rogers was amazed by the standard of the volcanoes. Here are a few of the fabulous creations!



Christmas Card Competition

Following on from the Christmas Card Competition set by local MP Mike Wood, he came into school today to thank the children who entered the competition. There were some fantastic entries and one of our pupils was a runner up and her Christmas card design will feature on the Christmas Cards that Mike Wood MP will send to the Queen and the Prime Minister.

Parent Academy Committee Representatives

We have an exciting opportunity for you to get involved in the life of St Mary's Catholic Primary School by taking part in the election of Parent Academy Committee Representatives.

The Articles of Association and Scheme of Delegation requires that the Academy Committee must include two parent Academy Committee members who have been elected by the parents of registered students of the school and who themselves are parents of registered students of the school at the time of their election. However, any parent who is an elected member of the local authority or employed to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve consecutive months is not eligible to be a Parent Academy Committee Member.

There are currently two vacancies. Therefore, you are invited to take part in the election of two Parent Academy Committee Members who will serve on the Academy Committee for four years unless they resign the post in the interim.

Nomination forms are available from the school website or office and must be returned to the school no later than 12 noon on Monday 3rd December 2018. Should two or fewer nominations be received by the official closing date, the candidate(s) will be duly elected unopposed. In the event of there being three or more nominations, an election will take place Friday 14th December 2018. Information on voting arrangements will be sent to you at a later date.

Parking outside school premises



Please can we remind parents /carers that parking is **NOT PERMITTED** on the white lines / zigzags outside of school.

Parents must not park or drop off children on the white lines or zigzags.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Head lice are a normal part of childhood – surveys among primary school children have found that nearly 1 in 10 have head lice at any one time. As a parent or carer you probably know what a hassle it is to treat head lice and just how frustrating it can be when your child comes home scratching their head yet again. St Mary's Catholic Primary School has joined the crusade against head lice by advocating the 'Once a Week, Take a Peek' campaign and wants to work in partnership with our families to help increase the awareness of the need to regularly check for head lice and to work together to hopefully minimise, if not eradicate, head lice within our school.



**REMEMBER
ONCE A WEEK,
TAKE A PEEK**

Well done Amelia!



Amelia has been attending MSA Dance Academy for 3 years where she has been learning tap, ballet and freestyle. She has already performed in two annual dance shows and is just getting ready to do her third on the 1st of December. During these shows she showcases all 3 styles of dance that she has learnt. Recently she performed at a "Chance to Dance" event at the Birmingham Hippodrome in front of 1500 people! We would like to wish Amelia the best of luck for her next show, and we can't wait to hear all about it!

Pyramid Concert

This years Pyramid concert will be held at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday 14th February where our Year 5 pupils will be taking part in the concert.

We are looking for anyone who may wish to sponsor part of the programme. If you are interested or know someone who may be able to help, please contact Mrs Waterfield via the school office.



Prayer

God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support.

Instill in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other. Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, and for their occasional failures instill forgiveness and peace.

May the mutual love and affection of parents set a good example. Instill in children self-respect that they may respect others and grow in mature Independence.

May the mutual affection and respect of families be a sign of Christian life here and hereafter, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ATTENDANCE

As a school we have a duty to monitor all pupils' attendance. As you know, good attendance is very important to us here at St Mary's and we are working hard to make sure that all children attend school as often as possible. We understand that children cannot help being ill, but we would urge parents to do their best to ensure that medical and dental appointments are made for outside of school hours. Below is a table showing how time off affects our child's learning.

97% and above	<p>Less than 6 days absence a year – Less than 30 hours of learning lost</p> <p>Excellent attendance. Your child is giving his/herself the best chance of achieving their full potential at school.</p>
95%	<p>10 days absence a year – 50 hours of learning lost</p> <p>Your child may start to find it difficult to maintain their target levels/grades Pupils who take a 2 week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.</p>
93%	<p>13 days absence a year – 70 hours of learning Lost</p> <p>Missing this much time is putting your child in an unfair position when it comes to achieving their potential.</p>
90% and below	<p>19 days absence – 95 hours of learning lost</p> <p>Your child is now classified by the Government as "Persistently Absent". Missing so much time means it will almost be impossible for your child to learn effectively. Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by Dudley Council, including the issuing of Penalty Notices and Fines.</p>

CALENDAR DATES

Event	Date	Time
Christmas Fair	Friday 30th November	3.00pm—5.00pm
EYFS Christmas Production	Thursday 6th December	9.30am—10.15am
Whole School Mass—Year 5	Friday 7th December	9.00am—9.30am
EYFS Christmas Production	Friday 7th December	2.00pm—2.45pm
Flu Nasal Vaccines	Wednesday 12th December	1.00pm—3.00pm
Class Mass—Year 4	Friday 14th December	9.00am—9.30am
Afternoon Tea with Santa	Friday 14th December	3.00pm—5.00pm
KS1 Christmas Play	Monday 17th December	2.00pm—2.45pm
KS1 Christmas Play	Monday 17th December	6.00pm—7.00pm
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 19th December	12.00pm—1.15pm
Christmas Jumper Day in support of Spinal Muscular Atrophy	Wednesday 19th December	All Day
Carol Service	Thursday 20th December	9.00am
Whole School Mass	Friday 21st December	9.00am—9.30am
School closes for Christmas Break	Friday 21st December	3.00pm
Children return to School	Monday 7th January	8.40am
Whole School Mass—Year 6	Friday 11th January	9.00am—9.30am
Last day for Primary School Admissions	Tuesday 15th January	All Day
Whole School Mass—Year 5	Friday 18th January	9.00am—9.30am
Whole School Mass—Year 4	Friday 25th January	9.00am—9.30am
Whole School Mass—Year 3	Friday 1st February	9.00am—9.30am
Whole School Mass—School Council	Friday 8th February	9.00am—9.30am
Pyramid Concert	Thursday 14th February	7.00pm—9.00pm
Children break up for half term	Friday 15th February	3.00pm