



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

September 2017

Welcome back



A very warm welcome back to school to all our parents and children. I do hope that you enjoyed the summer break and feel reinvigorated and refreshed for the year ahead. We also welcome Mrs Rogers who is our new Year 4 teacher, Mr Annett who is teaching in Year 2 and Miss Slater who is our Year 1 teacher. We wish them all every success as they continue to support the children of St Mary's.

Some of you may have noticed some other new faces around school this term. Mrs Walker, Mr O'Connor and Mrs Warnett will be in school working alongside our teachers and Senior Leaders. I know you will make them all feel welcome and a part of the warm St Mary's community. Don't forget to say 'Hello' to them if you see them around school.

The children have settled back into the daily routine of school life and I have been pleased with how well the children have focused on their learning with their new teachers.

A Prayer for the New School Year

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your spirit upon our children and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their learning and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

School Information and Procedures

This week we have sent out Student Update Forms so that you can let us know about any changes of address or telephone numbers. It is **very** important to make sure that contact information is **kept up to date** in case we need to contact you urgently. Please return this form as soon as possible, even if there are no changes to be made. In this way, we can be certain that we have the most up-to-date information from you. If any details change during the year, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can update our records. We will also be sending consent forms for offsite visits, internet use, photograph use etc. **Please return these to school as soon as possible to ensure your child does not miss out on any activities.** An annual medical update form for Reception - Year 6 is also being sent out. **Please return this as soon as possible, even if your child has no medical conditions (just write N/A).** If your child has an inhaler please make sure it is back in school after the holiday and that the 'use by date' will last for the whole term. May I also remind you that First Aiders may only give prescribed medicines if parents complete a school consent form. Please complete and return your home - school agreement as soon as possible.



Photo consent forms

Each year we require an update on permission to use your child's photograph in a variety of settings. This includes classroom and corridor displays in school, on our monthly newsletters, and on our school website. It is lovely for us to be able to share children's achievements and the exciting activities that they have taken part in, but we cannot use these photographs unless we have your permission. It is possible to give permission for some things, eg in school, but not in others, eg, on the internet. We will never publish a child's full name with a photograph for safeguarding reasons. If we do not have the form returned then we cannot assume that we have your permission.



Parents Code of Conduct



At St Mary's we believe that staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work and learn. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress to any users of the premises is contrary to the aims of our school. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Any behaviour that is deemed unacceptable may result in the Police being informed.

The school reserves the right to take any necessary actions to ensure that members of the school community are not subjected to abuse. School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in cases of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering school.

Keep in touch



At St Mary's we are absolutely committed to making sure your children are safe and happy. We try our best to prevent any problems from arising but inevitably things can and do go wrong from time to time. If something goes wrong, if there is a problem or if you or your child are unhappy for any reason it is vital you let us know straight away. No problem is too small and the quicker we know about things the quicker we can sort them out.

If there are any problems or concerns that parents/ carers would like to discuss with a class teacher, staff are more than willing to meet you **after school by appointment**. Mornings are not really suitable for meetings without prior notice as staff are preparing for the school day and once the bell rings, their priority is the children. Urgent messages may, of course, be left with the office staff or SLT on the gate that morning.

We are really looking forward to working with you and your child/ren this term.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child's school clothes are **labelled**, especially jumpers and PE kit. The children also need to bring in sports kit for any lunchtime clubs and trainers for breaks and lunchtimes. A reminder of correct school uniform can be found on our school website. Earrings, jewellery and nail varnish are not permitted. Thank you.



MacMillan Coffee Afternoon



On Friday 29th September we held a MacMillan Coffee Afternoon in school to help raise money for cancer support. This was organised by School Council. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes or biscuits, and to those who came to buy a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake. I am delighted to let you know that we have raised £205.53 so far, with more to come in for the cakes which we still have to sell.

IMPORTANT- Free School Meals

If you receive certain benefits you are eligible for free school meals. Even if you do not wish to take up the free meal (your child can still bring sandwiches!) - If you fill in the form and confirm your eligibility **the school will receive additional funding called 'pupil premium'**. We spend all of this money on improving provision for the children. Likewise even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and is receiving the universal free infant meal- **PLEASE phone 01384 814988, or Search Google for Dudley Free School meals. You may also get a copy of the application form from the school office.**



Money



Please make sure that any money sent into school is in an envelope with your child's name and the purpose of the money written on the front. Money that is not labelled can get lost and it is very difficult to return it to the correct person. All cheques should be made payable to **St Nicholas Owen MAC**.

Parking: A reminder to our new and existing families

The school car park is for staff only. There are plenty of parking spaces by next Home and KFC. Please do remember to park with consideration on the roads surrounding the school so that local residents can gain access to their own properties. Parents should never park on any zig zag lines or within the red zone close to the school entrance.



OFSTED Inspection



As you know, we were visited by Mrs Crooks on Wednesday 27th September for a one day school inspection. Thank you to everyone who took the time to either fill in the parents' online questionnaire or speak to Mrs Crooks in the playground. We will let you know her findings as soon as her report is published, which should be in about two week's time.

Primary school Applications for Sept 2018

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/learning-school/parental-support/school-admissions/>

If you have a child starting this school **next** September you should apply online to the local authority or return your completed preference form to School Admissions. There is also a helpful parent's guide that you can read or download to guide you through the process.

Secondary Schools Transfer for Sept 2018

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/learning-school/parental-support/school-admissions/>

Year Six pupils and their families will shortly be asked to express their preference for Secondary School places for next September. Information for this will be sent through the post from Dudley. I would strongly advise all families to go to look around schools that they are considering for next year. **Hagley RC** will be holding an open day on **Saturday 14th October** from 9:00am until 12:00 noon. **Bishop Milner** have open mornings on Friday 29th September between 10:30 and 11:30am; Monday 2nd October between 9:30 and 10:30; and Tuesday 3rd October between 10:30 and 11:30. These need to be pre-booked by calling the school on 01384 889422. **Thorns Community College** will be holding an open evening on Thursday 28th September from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. They also have open mornings from 9:00–11:00am on October 3rd, 4th and 6th.

School Building Fund

In Catholic schools there is a legal liability to pay 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work. To ensure that we are able to meet this legal liability,(which will ensure that our schools are properly maintained and necessary building work is undertaken), we invite parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5 per child per half-term or where more than one child attends St Mary's School, £7.50 per half-term, (there are six half-terms in the school year). This equates to 58p per child per week.



All monies raised are used exclusively for St. Mary's School. The money does not go into a large fund for the Archdiocese, so St. Mary's benefits directly from the monies which are raised. For each £1.00 we raise for the School Building Fund, the Government will give us £9.00 for St. Mary's. Therefore, every £1.00 that is donated has tremendous buying power to improve our school for your children and, as you can see, no donation is too small. If you are worried that you may not be able to afford the contributions to the fund, please give what you can.

We can now accept payments for the School Building Fund by direct payment from your bank. The Standing Order Authority form can be found on our new school website along with a Gift Aid form which allows us to claim the tax paid on any donations.

Diocesan Education Service



Archdiocese of Birmingham
Diocesan Education Service

Are you looking for a way to live out your faith and serve your local community at the same time?

The Birmingham Diocesan Education Service is currently inviting applications from practicing Catholics who would be interested in being appointed as a Director on the Board of a multi Academy Company or as a Foundation Governor or Foundation Representative at an individual school. Foundation Directors, Governors and Representatives play an important part in maintaining and developing the Catholic character of Diocesan schools.

If you are over 18, have approximately 10 to 12 hours a month free and a genuine interest in supporting Catholic education, then please consider this important role and what you can offer. In return, you will benefit from knowing that you are helping to secure and improve Catholic education in the Diocese.

Whilst not essential, applicants would be particularly welcome from individuals who have knowledge and experience in business, finance, HR or with a legal background. But if you don't have any of these specific skills, you may have other qualities that would be beneficial to one of our schools. Training is provided to help individuals carry out their role.

If you think that becoming a Director, Governor or Representative may be for you, or you would like further information or an informal discussion, please contact Rebecca Tonks, Admissions and Governance Adviser at the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service on 01675 464755 ext 110 or email r.tonks@bdes.org.uk.

Harvest Festival

We will be holding our Harvest Festival on Friday 6th October. If you are able to send any donations of food for our harvest display, then please send them into school next Thursday if they are tinned or in packets, or on Friday if they are fresh. The food displayed will then be sold and any money raised will be sent to CAFOD. Any food not sold at the festival will be donated to the SVP Food Bank.

CAFOD
Just one world

Important Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Time
Rosary / Mary Mass – Mini Vinnies	Thursday 5 th October	9:10am
Harvest Festival – Year 6	Friday 6 th October	9:10am
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 10 th October	5:00 – 7:30pm
Parents' Evening	Thursday 12 th October	3:00 – 6:00pm
Year 5 class assembly to introduce Reception Class	Friday 13 th October	9:10am
Rosary Week	16 th – 20 th October	
Rosary prayers in the Marian Garden Year 5	Monday 16 th October	2:20pm
Rosary prayers in the Marian Garden Year 6	Tuesday 17 st October	2:20pm
Rosary prayers in the Marian Garden Year 4	Wednesday 18 th October	2:20pm
Rosary prayers in the Marian Garden Year 3	Thursday 19 th October	2:20pm
Last day of school. Break up for Half Term holiday	Friday 20 th October	3:00pm
School re-opens for staff and children	Monday 30 th October	8:50am
Flu vaccinations for Rec to Y4	Friday 10 th November	All day
Remembrance Mass with Father Des – Year 4	Thursday 16 th November	9:10am
Confirmation for Year 6 at St Mary's Church	Thursday 23 rd November	7:00pm
Advent Mass with Father 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 20 th December	3:00pm
Staff training day. School closed for children	Tuesday 2 nd January	All Day
School re-opens for children	Wednesday 3 rd January	8:50am

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.