



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



December 2017

Christmas

With so much shopping, cooking, visiting, wrapping, partying, playing, carol-singing, panto-watching, TV viewing and Christmas card writing to do, it might come as a surprise to many people that the most important 'activity' at this time of the year in getting ready for Christmas is waiting 'waiting'. But it is an active waiting. Not like waiting for a bus or an exam result or a doctor's appointment. For Christians, the long-awaited event has already taken place in Bethlehem around 2000 years ago. But the effects of that earth shattering event are still being felt in the world as the life and death and resurrection of the Christ child born and laid in that manger all those centuries ago is made known to the whole world. God is waiting too, to give us, in His unlimited love and generosity, the ultimate answer to our prayers. As the Bible tells us, 'God so loved the world that he gave his only son.' It may be comforting to know - especially for some for whom Christmas joys are tinged and sometimes overwhelmed with pain for all sorts of reasons - God is ready at this Advent and Christmas time, even if some of us may feel that we are not.



Christmas Jumper Day



Friday 15th December was Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you to everyone who came to school in their Christmas Jumper and made a donation of 50p to Cancer Research. Everyone looked very festive and we managed to raise £78.00.

Christmas Productions

Thank you to everyone involved in the EYFS and Key Stage 1 Christmas plays. The children did very well to manage such great performances, especially with the disruption caused for Key Stage 1 because of the bad weather. I am very grateful to all of the staff involved, and the Friends of St Mary's who provided refreshments and organised the raffle.



Christmas Carol Service



It was lovely to see so many parents at our carol service. Congratulations to all of the children involved in the organisation and to those who took part. It was lovely to be able to listen to the pop-up choir which has been organised by Mrs Pearson. The children sang beautifully. Thanks also to the Friends of St Mary's who provided refreshments. Mr Breslin was here to make a sound recording of the children singing. This will be played on Black Country Radio over the next few days.

KEMP Hospice Christmas Hamper

Thank you to everyone who has bought a raffle ticket for the KEMP Hospice Christmas Hamper. This enabled us to make a donation of £75 to this worthy cause. The draw took place after the Carol Service and Mr Beat was the lucky winner.



Attendance

Please see the table below for attendance for each class during the Autumn Term:



Rec	93.53%	Year 4	97.89%
Year 1	93.74%	Year 5	94.89%
Year 2	93.20%	Year 6	95.93%
Year 3	95.28%	Average	94.94%

There have been some nasty bugs around this term which has affected our attendance figures. We have 67 children who have achieved 100% attendance during the Autumn Term. They will receive a certificate and a gold leaf with their name on will be added to our attendance tree in the hall.

It's a Girl!

We are delighted to be able to tell you that Mrs Broomfield had her baby in the early hours of Sunday morning, 17th December. Cordelia Broomfield made her entrance at 12.37am weighing 6lb 6oz. Both mother and baby are doing well.



Thank you

THANK YOU!

I would like to thank Fr Des from Our Lady and All Saints Church in Stourbridge who has done so much to help us during the Autumn Term since Fr Cecil moved to his new parish. Welcome to Fr Stephen who will be supporting St Mary's in the New Year. He will be joining us for our Carol Service on the last day of term. I am sure you will all make him feel welcome.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Friends of St Mary's this term. They have provided refreshments for a number of events; donated a substantial amount of money to the school which enabled us to buy our new stage; and have organised and run discos at the end of each half term. We really appreciate their hard work and support.

Goodbye

We are saying 'Goodbye' to Mrs Catchpowle who will be leaving us at the end of term to focus on her family business. Mrs Catchpowle has been a very important member of the school admin team. Amongst other things, Mrs Catchpowle alongside with myself helps puts the magic into our wonderfully produced newsletters. She will be greatly missed by all staff and especially by the Principal. We all wish her well in her future ventures. We welcome Mrs Stanley who will be joining the admin team in the New Year.



School Uniform Shop

We are pleased to inform you that The School Shop in Stourbridge High Street is now stocking uniform carrying the St Mary's logo. If you would like to check that they have what you are looking for or need to know prices, they can be contacted on 01384 443242.

Extreme Weather Conditions



Thank you for your understanding during the recent bad weather. Closing the school is a difficult decision to make as I know how hard it can be for parents and carers to arrange child care, but the safety and well being of children, staff, parents and carers is my main priority.

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. It has been 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.

May the spirit of Christmas
And the echo of the carols
And the lights of the Tree
Bring happiness and Joy
into your life and home
Have a very happy Christmas!



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. Mass dates to follow in January.

Event	Date	Time
Carol Service	Wednesday 20 th December	9:10am
Last day of term for staff and children	Wednesday 20 th December	3:00pm
2018		
Staff training day. School closed for children	Tuesday 2 nd January	All Day
School re-opens for children	Wednesday 3 rd January	8:50am
English workshop for Year 3 parents	Tuesday 16th January	2:25pm
Unity Week	18th—25th January	
Staff Mass	Friday 5th January	9.10am
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.

