



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



March 2016

Year of Mercy



The Pope's intention for March is that families in need may receive the necessary support and that children may grow up in healthy and peaceful environments. He also prays that those Christians who, on account of their faith, are discriminated against or are being persecuted, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the Church.

Pope Francis' message for Easter says, "Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! This event is the basis of our faith and our hope. If Christ were not raised, Christianity would lose its very meaning; The message which Christians bring to the world is this: Jesus, died on the cross for our sins, but God the Father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death."

Lent 2016: Time for the Good Shepherd Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has returned the collection boxes for the Father Hudson Society. So far we have collected £55.55 with some boxes still to come in. If you have not yet returned your child's box, these can still be returned when the children return after the Easter holiday.



Easter at St Mary's Church



Many thanks to Father Cecil for inviting Years 5 and 6 to say the Stations of the Cross at St Mary's Church on Monday, and for coming into school to take confession from Years 3 to 6. Please see below a list of events for Holy Week:

Thursday 24th March 19:30 Mass of the Lord's supper (KF)
Tuesday 22nd March 10:00 Holy Week Mass (BH)
Friday 25th March 12:00 March of Witness (starts at Bank St Methodist Church)
15:00 Good Friday Liturgy (BH)
Saturday 26th March 20:00 Vigil Mass of Easter (KF)
Sunday 27th March 11:00 Easter Day Mass (BH)

Services of Reconciliation

Monday 21st March 19:30 Our Lady of All Saints, Stourbridge
Tuesday 22nd March 19:30 Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford

Adult and Community Learning

Dudley are offering a 4 week course which will enable you to:

- * confidently help your child/ren with their homework.
- * understand what EYFS is all about.
- * look further into how to incorporate the core National Curriculum subjects into your child/ren's everyday learning
- * become confident in helping your child/ren learn with you

The cost of the course is £24.00. For more information or to book a place, contact Simon, Geri or Craig on 01384 812368.



Attendance and Punctuality

Well done to the following classes who achieved the best attendance for the first half of the Spring Term 2016:

1st	Year 5:	97.48%
2nd	Year 3:	97.40%
3rd	Year 2:	97.07%

Holidays in term time are strictly not allowed in law and headteachers and principals cannot authorise them. Please see our attendance policy for more information.

Parents' Forum



We are planning to set up a Parents' Forum at St Mary's. This is intended for any parents who feel that they can make a positive contribution towards the school community in a variety of ways. This could include sharing views about school events or helping us to make better use of the school library and our outdoor environment. We intend to hold a meeting once a term and these are likely to be held at different points in the day in the hope that working parents who want to be involved may be able to make it to at least one meeting.

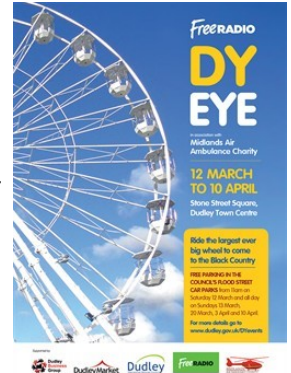
DY Eye

From 12th March to 10th April you have a chance to ride the largest ever big wheel to come to the Black Country. The wheel is located in Stone Street Square, Dudley Town Centre. There is free parking in the Flood Street car parks from 11 am on 3rd April and 10th April. Tickets cost £4 for adults and £3 for children (under 1.4 metres). Family tickets for two adults and two children cost £10. Opening times are as follows:

12 March to 10 April seven days a week, 9am - 5pm

CLOSED Easter Sunday, March 27

During the Easter holidays, from Saturday, March 26 - Sunday April 10, the wheel will remain open until 8pm, while demand continues.



Voting Days



As usual, St Mary's will be used as a polling station for the local council elections being held on Thursday 5th May. On this day school will be closed for children, but open for staff to hold a staff training day. We have now been informed that the school will also be used as a polling station for the EU Referendum being held on Thursday 23rd June. Once again, school will be closed for children but open for staff.

Would you like to learn a musical instrument?

You are invited to an open evening on 23rd March (drop in any time between 18:30 - 20:00) for students interested in learning a musical instrument. By going along you can try a range of instruments, find out about singing lessons, meet the teachers and ask any questions you have. Learning a musical instrument is a great thing to do and will open up all sorts of opportunities for children. Our school is committed to providing opportunities for children to get involved in music and we hope that you are able to go along. The evening will take place at Saltwells Education Centre, Bowling Green Road, Netherton DY2 9LY.



Vivo concert



On 11th March our choir went to Dudley Town Hall to take part in the 6th annual Vivo Concert organised by Jessons Primary School. Several other schools took part including Withymoor, St Mary's C of E, Russells Hall and Woodsetton. The choir enjoyed singing on the stage under the spotlights and the parents who came to watch the concert enjoyed listening to our four songs. As usual, we were very proud of our school choir.

Fair Trade fortnight

29th February to 13th March was 'Fairtrade Fortnight'. As part of this, Miss Wooldridge and Mrs Bate took a group of children to Oldswinford Primary School to take part in an assembly and workshop. A Fairtrade producer from India came to talk to the children about how Fairtrade helps the farmers in her region. The children then worked together to produce cards to send to farmers in India to show their support for Fairtrade.

In order to raise awareness of Fairtrade products available here, Year 4 held a tombola after school to round off Fairtrade Fortnight. Thanks to everyone who supported this. We raised £32.56 which will be added to the Father Hudson collection.



St David's and St Patrick's Days

Thank you to everyone who wore a daffodil for St David's Day and made a badge to wear for St Patrick's Day. It was lovely to see that so many children wanted to celebrate the patron saints of the UK.



Easter Egg Painting Competition



Well done to everyone who has brought in a decorated egg for our competition. The money raised will make up the balance needed to buy our new 'Buddy Bench' which is being organised by Erin and Talitha. Winners are being announced in assembly today and will be mentioned in our April newsletter.

Easter Bonnet Parade

Thank you to all of the children who brought an Easter bonnet to wear on Wednesday. This was not a competition, just a bit of fun, so it was nice to see as many children taking part.



Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our two Parent -Teacher consultation evenings recently. It was good to see so many parents there and it really helps the children's education when teachers and parents can work together so closely.

Anti Bullying Ambassadors

Thank you to everyone who brought in a decorated egg for our Easter competition. The money raised from this should make up the rest of the amount needed to buy our buddy bench for the playground.



Sainsbury's Active Kids

Once again we are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers which enable us to obtain sporting equipment and cookery resources for your children to use in school. The collection box is in the lobby just outside the office. Please send them into school by 3rd May.



Magical Maths

Magical Maths is returning to St Mary's. You don't have to have attended the first club to attend this new club. But if you did, then you'll know how much fun maths can be! Magical maths is a super fun club designed to boost children's confidence and better engage them with maths. The club runs for an hour straight after school starting Thursday 14th April for 6 weeks. Parents receive weekly email updates to see what their child has been learning. Dates and Times of Clubs

KS1 (Years 1&2) - 3.05pm to 4.05pm Thursdays 14th Apr, 21st Apr, 28th Apr, 5th May, 12th May, 19th May

KS2 (Years 3-6) - 3.05pm to 4.05pm Thursdays 14th Apr, 21st Apr, 28th Apr, 5th May, 12th May, 19th May

For more information and to sign up, visit www.magicalmathsclub.com Or call 0121 392 7475 Cost is £37 for the 6 sessions. If your child has Pupil Premium funding then this could be used to pay for the club.



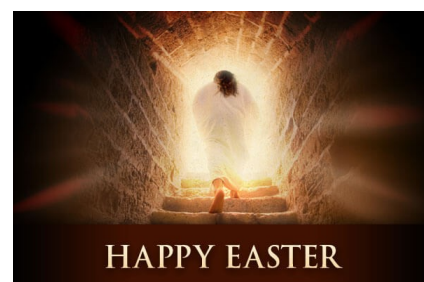
PTA Money

You will remember from previous newsletters that the St Mary's PTA has changed to become the Friends of St Mary's, which is managed by a new committee of volunteers. When the former PTA closed down there was an amount of money which the committee wanted to spend on the children. We are very grateful for the £4,000 worth of new IT resources which have been donated to the school. The money has also paid for new rain jackets for the football team and a visit from the Animal Lady. £500 has been donated to Pre-school for them to spend on resources.

Happy Easter

May you and your family be blessed as you celebrate the true meaning of Easter, from the reflection of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Sunday and the promise of eternal life.

Ms O'Beirne
Principal



Mass and Class Assemblies

Friday 29th April	Year 4 Class Assembly
Tuesday 10th May	Mass Reception and Year 1
Friday 20th May	Year 5 Class Assembly
Saturday 21st May	First Holy Communion 11:00am
Sunday 22nd May	Thanksgiving Mass 11:00am
Tuesday 24th May	Mass for Corpus Christi
Tuesday 14th June	Mass Year 3
Tuesday 28th June	School Prayer Service for the Year of Mercy— School council, Faith Leaders and Minnie Vinnies
Friday 8th July	Reception and Pre-School Assembly
Friday 15th July	Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Mary's Church
Tuesday 19th July	Leavers' Mass
Thursday 21st July	End of Year Assembly

Important Dates

Tuesday 22nd March	Confession for Year 3-6 at school
Wednesday 23rd March	Children break up for Easter
Thursday 24th March	INSET day for staff
Thursday 24th March	Holy Thursday
Friday 25th March	Good Friday
Monday 11th April	Children return to school
Thursday 5th May	School closed for local elections (INSET day for staff)
Thursday 12th May	Reconciliation meeting in school hall 7:00pm for Year 2
Friday 20th May	Parents' Forum meeting 2:00pm
Wednesday 8th June	Year 6 and Reception photographs
Thursday 16th June	1st Confession meeting in school hall 7:00pm for Year 2
Monday 20th June	Sports week begins
Thursday 23rd June	School closed for EU referendum (INSET day for staff)
Friday 1st July	Friends of St Mary's Summer Fair
Wednesday 6th July	Y6 transition Day to Hagley
Friday 8th July	Y6 visit to West Midlands Safari Park
Friday 15th July	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y2 at St Mary's Church 11:00am
Thursday 21st July	Y6 Leavers' Graduation
Thursday 21st July	School closes for the summer break
Monday 5th September	INSET day for staff
Tuesday 6th September	Children return to school



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.