



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

October 2019



Dear Parents / Carers,

100 years ago, Pope Benedict XV released the encyclical *Maximum Illud*, which called on Catholics to bring the Good News to all peoples. To commemorate this anniversary, Pope Francis has declared October 2019 to be an [Extraordinary Month of Mission \(EMM\)](#).

This special month of prayer and action calls us all to renew our missionary commitment. We are called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all peoples.

Children have come up with their own mini mission which runs from October until the first Sunday in Advent.

Half term has rolled round quicker than ever and the children break up this Friday 25th October at 3pm. The school reopens to children on Monday 4th November at 8:40am.

I would like to thank all parents and carers who came to our Parents Evenings this week. We were delighted that so many of you came to speak to your child's class teacher to talk about how they are progressing in school.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe half term!

Ms O'Beirne

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

We have been informed that across the borough there are a significant number of outstanding applications for secondary intake for September 2020. Parents of children in Year 6 MUST complete an application form either online at

www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions

or by completing the application form provided by the local authority. If your child is due to start secondary school in 2020 then you will have to apply for a school place before 31st October 2019.

It is vital that you apply for a school place even if you have an older child at the school.



NO NUTS IN SCHOOL

Just a reminder that our school is a nut-free school, this includes sesame seeds. We have quite a number of students in school who have severe nut allergies and can be seriously affected by someone else who is eating – or may have recently eaten – nuts. Even if you eat a product containing nuts, this can have a serious effect on a student later on in the classroom.

Thank you for your support in this matter .



No parking on Zig Zag and double yellow lines outside school

Unfortunately a small number of parents and carers are still parking illegally outside our school when dropping off and collecting children. Please ensure you do not park on the zig zags or double yellow lines.

The Friends of St Mary's Needs YOU!

Have you got any spare time and are willing to help with the fundraising organised by the Friends of St Mary's within the school year?

If you are able, we would love to hear from you! We really want the Friends of St Mary's to continue, but without new members, we will not be able to organise all the events as in previous years.

Please follow us on Facebook by searching "Friends of St Mary's Catholic Primary (Brierley Hill)"

A message from the Chair of the Academy Committee

Being an academy representative is a rewarding role and gives you the opportunity to be a part of the governance and leadership of the school, providing support and challenge. We are now looking to fill two positions on the Academy Committee. If anyone would like more information please contact:

cbeech@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

We only need a few more stickers!

Thank you so much to everyone for sending their stickers in so far, if we could just ask for one final push to fill our second sheet, we would be very grateful!



ALDI'S KIT FOR SCHOOLS
Get together | Get collecting | Get active

We're collecting Team GB stickers with Aldi's Kit for Schools.

Help us collect 300 stickers to complete our poster and we'll receive an exclusive sports kit plus a chance to win **£20,000!**

Find out more and get stuck in at getseteatfresh.co.uk/kitforschools



School Nurse Drop in Sessions

Wednesday 6th November 2.30pm—3.00pm

Wednesday 20th November 8.45am—9.15am

Wednesday 11th December 2.30pm—3.00pm



Parents of children with SEND share your voice!

There is now a Dudley Parent Carer Forum with the aim of everyone working together to change SEND provision in Dudley for the better.

Sign-up today by visiting

www.members.careandshare.uk



There is a parent workshop on 7th November at 2pm for any parents whose child sees Sarah from EPE.

Please return the reply slip to Ms Mosley no later than Monday 4th November.

Speakers needed!

During November, we will be celebrating our annual "Being Brilliant in Britain" week, where, as a school, we explore and learn about different cultures and faiths we have in our local area (and beyond!).

We would like to ask whether any parents, carers or friends may like to put themselves forward for a possibility to speak to a class or classes about their own faith.

For further information or to put your name forward to be a possible speaker, please email the school on

admin@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk



and mark it for the attention of Mrs Borriello



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</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>

Early Help

An Early Help Assessment is a great way of getting your family some support whether it be with your child's behaviour, their sleeping pattern or social and emotional well-being as well as something that effects the whole family, for example, housing and finances.

It will involve a meeting with professionals from different agencies depending on your family's individual needs and a plan will be put in place to show the different support you will receive and who is responsible for getting it done.

It is not input from Social Services; it is there as a support tool only for a variety of different reasons.

If you have any questions or feel you may benefit from this please feel free to contact Ms Mosley on 01384 818435 or arrange an appointment to see her via the school office.



Safeguarding



Please be aware that we have a duty of care to all children at St.Mary's and this may mean we need to contact Social Services for advice or to report a situation.

We understand that this will be a distressing time for all those involved, but please be assured that we always have your child's best interests at heart.

St Mary's Breakfast Club

St Mary's breakfast club runs Monday to Friday from 7.40am to 8.40am.

Prices are as follows:

£2.50 per day per child
£2.00 per day for Sibling
 or
£10.00 per child per week

Mrs Buckley provides breakfast for those children who would like a choice of toast, yogurts, drinks and pancakes. This is an additional cost of 50p per child per day.

Places available and no booking is required.

Samaritans Purse

Operation Christmas Child

We are supporting Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal again this year.

Leaflets have been sent home with the children.

The deadline for the return of the shoeboxes is **Monday 18th November**.

We really hope you can help us and support this wonderful cause.

If you need any further information, please contact the school office or look on the following website:

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX

- 1. SHOEBOX:** Get a standard-size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Preprinted shoeboxes are available on our website.
- 2. SPECIAL ITEM:** Select a quality toy such as a doll, football with pump, or stuffed animal.
- 3. OTHER GIFTS:** Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies.
- 4. PERSONALISE & PRAY:** Including a personal note and photo makes a big impact. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.
- 5. INCLUDE £5 DONATION:** A donation of £5 is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. Give online through **Follow Your Box** and include a barcode in your shoebox to discover its destination.
- 6. DROP OFF:** Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location **11-18 November**. Visit our website to find one near you.

EVERY BOX NEEDS A SPECIAL ITEM!

DO NOT INCLUDE used or damaged items; clothing other than hat, gloves or scarves; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; sweets, chocolate or food items; toothpaste, lotions or liquids including bubbles; medicines; hand-made stuffed toys; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; religious or political literature; sharp or fragile items; books with mainly words.

For additional gift suggestions and more, visit samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

DUE TO IMPORT REGULATIONS, TOOTHPASTE AND SWEETS CAN NO LONGER BE INCLUDED IN SHOEBOXES.

Calendar Dates Autumn Term 2019/2020

Date	Event	Time
Friday 25th October	No After School Club	
Monday 4th November	Children Return to School	8.50am
Friday 8th November	Class Mass—Led by Year 2	9.00am—10.00am
Monday 11th November	Remembrance Day	All Day
Tuesday 12th November	Reading & Writing Parent Workshop—Reception Class	2.15pm—2.45pm
Wednesday 13th November	Reading & Writing Parent Workshop—Year 3	2.15pm—2.45pm
Thursday 14th November	Reading & Writing Parent Workshop—Year 2	2.15pm—2.45pm
Friday 15th November	Children in Need Day	All Day
Monday 18th November	Operation Christmas Child deadline for donations	All Day
Monday 18th November	Reading & Writing Parent Workshop—Year 6	2.15pm—2.45pm
Tuesday 19th November	Year 6 Trip to St Chad's Cathedral	9.00am—3.00pm
Tuesday 19th November	Reading & Writing Parent Workshop—Year 1	2.15pm—2.45pm
Wednesday 20th November	Reading & Writing Parent Workshop—Year 5	2.15pm—2.45pm
Thursday 21st November	Reading & Writing Parent Workshop—Year 4	2.15pm—2.45pm
Friday 22nd November	Class Mass—Led by Year 1	9.00am—10.00am
Thursday 28th November	Assembly—Led by Year 4	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 29th November	Mass—Led by Mini Vinnies	9.00am—10.00am
Friday 6th December	Class Mass—Led by Year 5	9.00am—10.00am
Friday 13th December	Mass—Led by Staff	9.00am—10.00am
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day
Friday 20th December	Children Break up for Christmas	3.00pm
Friday 20th December	No After School Club	