

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

St Mary's is 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 Officer: Ms A Maher
Child Protection policy available at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

Autumn Term 2 2010



Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome back to another new half-term at St Mary's. I hope that you all had a very restful half-term break and that you are refreshed and ready for all the numerous events that will be happening at St Mary's this term.

During November we will be remembering all our friends and family members who have died. This year again we will have our remembrance box on our front altar containing the names of deceased members of our school community. If you would like someone remembered at our school Masses, please put their name on a slip of paper and drop it into the box.

We break up for Christmas on **Friday 17th December** and, already, shops are selling Christmas presents. With Merry Hill so close to our school, it is impossible to forget that Christmas will soon be here. As Advent approaches, it is important for us to remember to try to prepare our hearts also for the best Christmas gift of all: Baby Jesus who brought joy to the world. The image of a tiny baby in a simple stable helps us to remember that gifts don't have to be the biggest to be the best and that often the best gift of all is time to listen and to be there for each other just as Jesus is always there for us.

Best wishes to you all for the new half-term at school.

Ms. A. Maher

School Lunch Money

Could school lunch money please be paid at the cash point during lunchtime wherever possible. If it is necessary to pay at the school office could you please ensure that the correct money is in an envelope clearly stating your child's name and amount of dinners being paid for. Could you also ensure that dinner money is kept separate from any other monies coming into school as they are not banked into the same account. Dinners can be paid for on a weekly or daily basis. School lunches cost £1.75 per day, £8.75 per week. If you wish to pay by cheque could it please be made payable to Dudley MBC.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during November and December. If your name is not on the list please let us know so that we can check we have the correct date of birth on our records:

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Joshua Yr 4 | Lauren Yr 6 |
| Saam Yr 2 | Joseph Yr 3 |
| Michael Yr 5 | Rhys REC |
| Frances Yr 5 | Katie Yr 5 |
| Shaylee Yr 2 | Scarlett Yr 6 |
| Graciela REC | Alex Yr 6 |
| Nathaniel Yr 1 | Kory Yr 1 |
| Natasha Yr 2 | Danny Yr 1 |
| Kiara Yr 3 | Connor Yr 5 |
| Iwan Yr 3 | Terrence Yr 3 |
| Ellie Yr 4 | Harrison REC |
| Jack Yr 6 | James Yr 6 |
| Kirsten Yr 1 | Jena Yr 1 |
| Molly Yr 4 | Reece Yr 4 |
| Shelbie Yr 3 | Nathan REC |
| Jenny REC | James Yr 1 |
| Jade Yr 1 | Jason Yr 3 |
| Joshua Yr 4 | Lewis Yr 4 |

Attendance Return

6th September 2010—22nd October 2010

Rec—96.80%
Yr 1—96.24%
Yr 2—96.24%
Yr 3—97.29%
Yr 4—98.52%
Yr 5—96.71%
Yr 6—95.28%

Well done Year 4. You are this half term's winners.

Our overall absences were:
2.66% authorised
0.61% unauthorised
Our overall attendance was 96.73%

Please note that unauthorised absences count as truancy so if we have not heard from you by 10am we have to keep a record for our Education Welfare Officer. **Please remember that holidays in school time are also unauthorised.**

Please also note that if your child arrives late, after registers are closed, this is counted as an absence so please try to be on time.

Whole School Mass List

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Weds 10th Nov | Prepared by Year 4 | Fr Darley 9.15am |
| Weds 17th Nov | Prepared by Year 2 | Fr Darley 9.15am |
| Weds 1st Dec | Prepared by Year 1 | Fr Darley 9.15am |
| Weds 15th Dec | Christmas Mass | Fr Darley 9.15am |

We look forward to seeing as many parents and parishioners as possible at our whole school Masses.



Diary Dates

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Mon 15th Nov | St John First Aid Training Year 6 |
| Sun 21st Nov | Mass of Commitment Y2 & Y3 10.30am St Mary's Church |
| Wed 24th Nov | Confirmation 7.00pm St Mary's Church |
| Fri 26th Nov | Mufti Day for Christmas Fair |
| Thurs 2nd Dec | Maths Curriculum Evening 7.00pm |
| Fri 3rd Dec | Refreshment Morning for parents 9.15am with parent support advisor Tina Walker |
| | Christmas Fair 3.00pm |
| Weds 8th Dec | Y5 & Y6 to St Mary's Brewood |
| Thurs 9th Dec | Stour Valley Carol Concert, Brierley Hill Civic Hall 6.30pm |
| | KS1 Production 1.45pm and 6.30pm |
| Fri 10th Dec | Y3—Y6 Christmas Confessions |
| Mon 13th Dec | Preschool & Foundation Stage Christmas Production 10.30am |
| Weds 15th Dec | Preschool & Foundation Stage Christmas Production 1.45pm |
| Thurs 16th Dec | School Nurse drop in 2.30pm |
| Fri 17th Dec | BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS |

INSET Days 2010-2011

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 4th Jan | INSET Day—school closed to pupils |
| Thursday 5th May | Local Elections—school closed to pupils |
| Friday 6th May | INSET Day—school closed to pupils |
| One further day to be confirmed | |

Class Assemblies

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Fri 12th Nov | Year 5 Assembly | 9.10am |
| Fri 19th Nov | Year 3 Assembly | 9.10am |
| Fri 17th Dec | Christmas Carol Service | 9.10am |

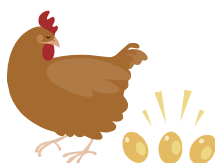
Mufti Day for Christmas Fair

There will be a mufti day on Friday 26th November. Children can come to school in their own clothes for £1. The money raised will be used to fund activities being provided for the Christmas Fair on Friday 3rd December at 3.00pm. This year, our Christmas Fair is taking place after school so that more of our families who live quite a distance from our school will be able to attend.

Please support our PTA who work tirelessly in raising funds for our school.

Free Range Eggs For Sale

Eggs laid by our very own chickens are now available for purchase 20p each on a first come first served basis. Eggs are available from the school office.

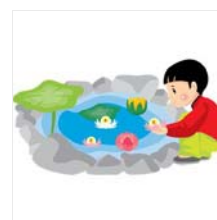


School Council

Our new School Council members are Sean and Niamh (Y6), Kiera and Jibin (Y5), Reece and Abby (Y4), Joseph and Sophie (Y3), Sam and Sammy (Y2), Kirsten and Aldren (Y1). On Thursday 4th November we went to meet the Mayor at Dudley Council House and he told us all about how to run a Council. Mr Douglas came in his big taxi to collect us and

Pond Area

Our pond area at the front of the school is nearing completion and soon we will have low level fencing around the perimeter of the carpark to make all the land that is the children's, safe and secure for them.



| 2010/11 | Autumn Term 2010 | Spring Term 2011 | Summer Term 2011 |
|-------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Term start | Monday 6th September | Wednesday January 5th | Tuesday 26th April |
| Half term | Mon 25 th – Fri 31 st Oct | Mon 21 st - Fri 25 th Feb | Mon 30 th May-Fri 3rd June |
| Term end | Friday 17 th December | Friday 8th April | Wednesday 27 th July |

Requests for leave during term time

Please remember pupils are **not** entitled to holidays during term time. If leave is required in extenuating circumstances, a written request must be submitted to the Governing Body c/o the school office. Requests will be given due consideration on an individual basis and a reply sent. **Please take note of term dates given in this newsletter so that family holidays can be arranged during school holidays.**

PARENT SUPPORT ADVISOR

If parents/carers have any concerns or just wish to seek free, impartial advice about their family from a professional who is not connected to school, our Parent Support Advisor (PSA) **Tina Walker** is available on 01384 818780, 07827973275, psa@rufford.dudley.sch.uk or www.stourbridgelearningpartnership.org.uk. The website also has details of courses and meetings for parents/carers. Leaflets are also available in school.

Emailing Service To Parents

Following on from the success of the texting service we offer, we are now able to email parents. This gives us the ability to email newsletters, trip letters and anything else that is normally sent home on paper. If you would like to use this service, please send your email address into the school office if you haven't already done so.



After School Clubs

To begin week beginning 8th November

| | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|
| Mon | Football Mr Turner KS1 | 3.15– 4.15pm |
| Tues | Morning Club Ms Maher KS1 & KS2 | 8.00am – 8.40am* |
| | Painting Club Miss Phillips KS1 & KS2 | 3.15-4.15pm |
| | Gardening Club Mrs Brereton KS2 | Lunchtime |
| Weds | Irish Dancing Una Rollinson KS1 & KS2 | 3.15-4.15pm |
| | Creative Club Mrs Berridge Yrs 1-3 | 3.10-4.10pm |
| Thurs | Morning Club Ms Maher KS1 & KS2 | 8.00am—8.40am* |
| | Spanish Mrs Deere KS1 & KS2 | Lunchtime |
| | Gardening Club Mrs Brereton KS2 | Lunchtime |
| Fri | Football Mr Turner Y5 & Y6 | Lunchtime |
| Fri | Football Mr Turner KS2 | 3.15-4.15pm |

Due to costs incurred for materials used etc. we would be grateful for a voluntary contribution of £1 for all after school clubs run by members of St Mary's staff. All clubs run by professionals incur their own costs which is paid directly to the organisation concerned.