



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 2016

Welcome back



A very warm welcome to all our parents and children back to school. I do hope that you enjoyed the summer break and feel reinvigorated and refreshed for the year ahead. We also welcome Miss Brazier, our new Year 5 teacher, as well as Mrs Norton and Mr Oldcorn. We wish them all every success as they continue to support the children of St Mary's.

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. Our focus for the Catholic virtues this half term are to be curious and active. Pupils at St Mary's aim to be curious about everything and active in their engagement with the world; changing what they can for the better. During Assembly on Friday it was lovely to hear how the children chosen have been applying these virtues to their learning.



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 are sending 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.

Attendance and timekeeping

Our school is working hard on improving our overall school attendance. When we broke up in July, our attendance for the academic year was 95.69%. This is lower than 2014-2015. Attendance is regularly monitored by school and the Education Investigation Service. Holidays during term time remain strictly unauthorised.



The school gate is open at 8:40 am every morning. Entry to school after 8:50 am is by the school office as the gate onto the playground automatically locks. Late children **must** be accompanied by an adult as they have to be signed into school with a reason given for their lateness.

Please consider making medical and dental appointments outside of school hours or during the school holidays. We have noticed a growing number of children attending non-emergency appointments during the school day. Most medical establishments are helpful in accommodating out of school hours.

Thank you for your continued co-operation in this matter.

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/ careers 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.



School Nurse Drop- in sessions for parents



We can ask our school nurse Mel Dowling, to contact you at any time if you have any health concerns about your child. In addition Nurse Mel is here once a month and you can simply book to see her via the school office. Mel can support you with a range of health matters and can make referrals to other health professionals. The first drop in session is Wednesday the 5th of October 2016 at 9am.

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



Mrs Montague—our SENDCo



Our SENDCo is Mrs Montague who is also the SENDCo at St Ambrose. Mrs Montague will be at St Mary's on Mondays and Tuesdays and you can book in to see her or just pop in before or after school. If you need to leave a message on any other day then speak to anyone in the school office who can pass a message on by email. You can also email her yourself at SEN@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

Internet Safety Year 1-6

In line with our Internet Safety Policy, an acceptable use form will be sent home this week to be signed and returned by Monday 26th September.



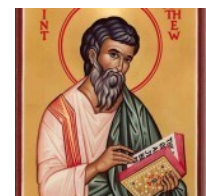
Alton Castle



A number of our Year 5 and Year 6 children will be taking part in a retreat between 21st and 23rd September. I am sure that everyone will have a wonderful time, and We all look forward to hearing about it on their return on Friday afternoon. Parents of children taking part in the visit will have daily updates from school by text.

St Matthew

It is the feast day of St Matthew on Wednesday 21st September. Children who are in St Matthews house will receive a sticker to mark this special day



MacMillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 30th September we will be holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning in school to help raise money for cancer support. This is being organised by Year 5 and the Friends of St Mary's. If you would like to donate bought or homemade cakes or biscuits, these can be brought into school on the day or the day before. Tea, coffee, squash, cakes and biscuits will be available in the school hall between 9:30 and 10:30. If you are not able to make it to the coffee morning, then any left over cakes and biscuits will be available outside Year 5's classroom at home time.



School Meals

From September Dudley Catering Services will be increasing the price of school meals to **£2.20**. Cartons of juice and milkshake are also available. Milk shakes are 23p, small cartons of juice are **27p** and large cartons of juice are **34p**. Please make sure that any money is sent into school in an envelope with your child's name on and include details of which days are being paid for. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals for your child, please contact the benefit office on 01384 814988.



If your child has any special dietary requirements for religious reasons or due to allergies, please make sure that the school is informed as soon as possible and add it to the student update form when it is sent out. Your child will then be given a badge in the dining hall to make sure that they are not given any food that they should not have.

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 Year2 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**.

Pyramid Concert Y5

Mr Mallinson from Hagley Catholic High School is working with Year 5 in preparation for the Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday 16th February 2017. The theme for this year is ' A night at the movies'. A letter will be sent out shortly with further details including purchasing tickets.



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.

English workshops

Mrs Bereton will be running English works shops for Y2- Y6 parents in the Autumn term. The focus will be on Spelling Punctuation and Grammar strategies for you to work with your child at home .



Secondary Schools Transfer for Sept 2017

<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 15th October** from 9:00am until 12:00 noon. **Bishop Milner** will have an open evening on **Thursday 22nd September** from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. **St Paul's School for Girls, Edgbaston** will also be holding an open evening on **22nd September** between 6:00pm and 9:00pm.

Primary school Applications for Sept 2017

<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.

Event	Date	Time
School Mass led by Year 3	Tuesday 27 th September	9.10am
Introduction of Reception children and McMillan Coffee Morning led by Year 5	Friday 30 th September	9.15am
Ten Ten Theatre company assembly (parents welcome) plus class workshops	Tuesday 4 th October	9am
Friends of St. Mary's AGM , school	Tuesday 4 th October	6pm
Confirmation Meeting for Parents, school	Thursday 6 th October	7pm
School Rosary Mass led by Year 4	Tuesday 11 th October	9.15am
PARENTS' EVENING - Year 1 – Year 6 only	Wednesday 12 th October	5pm – 7.30pm
PARENTS' EVENING - Reception – Year 6	Thursday 13 th October	From 3.15pm
Year 6 Harvest assembly – produce on sale	Friday 14 th October	9.15am
School Mass led by Year 2	Tuesday 18 th October	9.15am
Rosary Week	17 th – 21 st October	
Year 6 Rosary – Marian Garden	Monday 17 th October	2.45pm
Year 5 Rosary – Marian Garden	Tuesday 18 th October	2.45pm
Year 4 Rosary – Marian Garden	Wednesday 19 th October	2.45pm
Year 3 Rosary – Marian Garden	Thursday 20 th October	2.45pm
Year 1 Assembly – shoe box appeal	Friday 21 st October	9.15am
All Saints Mass led by Faith Leaders	Tuesday 1 st November	9.15pm
Confirmation Meeting for Parents, school	Thursday 3 rd November	7pm
Confirmation – Our Lady Of Lourdes Church, Kingswinford	Thursday 10 th November	7pm
Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass at St Mary's Church	Sunday 13 th November	11.30am
Year 4 Remembrance assembly	Friday 11 th November	9.15am
Anti – Bullying Week	14 th – 18 th November	
School Mass led by Year 5	Tuesday 15 th November	9.15am
Anti-Bullying Assembly – Anti Bullying Ambassadors	Friday 18 th November	9.15am
School Mass led by School Council	Tuesday 29 th November	9.15am
Pre-School and Reception Christmas production (2 performances)	Thursday 1 st December Friday 2 nd December	1.30pm 9.30am
Christmas Fair – Friends of St. Mary's	Friday 2 nd December	3.15pm
Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas production (2 performances)	Thursday 8 th December	1.30pm 6.30pm
Breakfast with Santa - school	Saturday 10 th December	To be confirmed
School led Mass at St. Mary's Brierley Hill	Sunday 11 th December	11am
Christmas Mass led by Year 6	Tuesday 13 th December	9.15am
Christmas Lunch	Thursday 15 th December	12.00pm
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 16 th December	
Carol Service and crib blessing	Friday 16 th December	9.15am
Future important dates		
Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Concert, Birmingham Town Hall	Thursday February 16 th 2017	
First Holy Communion, St. Mary's Church (Year 3)	Saturday 20 th May 2017	11am
First Holy Communion Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 21 st May 2017	11am
First Reconciliation (Year 2)	July – date to be confirmed	

2016-2017 Term Dates

Friday 21st October 2016	Break up for half term
Monday 31st October 2016	School re-opens
Friday 16th December 2016	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 3rd January 2017	INSET day. School closed to pupils
Wednesday 4th January 2017	School opens for Spring Term
Friday 17th February 2017	Break up for half term
Monday 27th February 2017	School re-opens
Friday 7th April 2017	School closes for Easter break
Monday 24th April 2017	Start of term—School opens
Monday 1st May 2017	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 4th May 2017	Enforced closure for local elections
Friday 26th May 2017	Break up for Half Term
Monday 5th June 2017	School re-opens
Friday 21st July 2017	End of term—School closes for summer

Teacher Training Days for 2016-2017

- Friday the 7th October 2016
- Tuesday 3rd January 2017
- Thursday 4th May (enforced closure- voting station) 2017
- Monday 23rd of July 2017
- Tuesday 24th of July 2017



St Nicholas Owen Multi 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

Ms O'Beirne
Principal