

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

April 2016

Year of Mercy



Pope Francis has sent a message to children throughout the world about the Year of Mercy. In it he says, "The Church is celebrating the Holy Year of Mercy, a time of grace, peace, conversion and joy. It is meant for everyone: people of every age, from far and near. There are no walls or distances which can prevent the Father's mercy from reaching and embracing us.....This grace-filled moment also concerns you, dear young people. I encourage you to take an active part in this celebration and to realize that each of you is a child of God.....The Jubilee is a year-long celebration, in which every moment becomes a chance for us to grow in holiness. It is a time when we can discover that life together as brothers and sisters is like a great party, perhaps the most beautiful party we can imagine, the endless party that Jesus has taught us to celebrate by his Spirit. The Jubilee is the party to which Jesus invites us all, without excluding anyone. Yours is a time of life which is full of amazing changes. Everything seems possible and impossible all at once. Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! Jesus gives us this courage! ... With him we can do great things; I realize that not all of you can come to Rome, but the Jubilee is truly for everyone and it is also being celebrated in your local Churches.....May the Lord bless your journey towards the Holy Door. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your steps and enlighten you. For you and your families, and for all who help you to grow in goodness and in grace, may the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of us all, be a true Door of Mercy."

Attendance and Punctuality

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

1st Year 5:	97.43%
2nd Year 3:	96.90%
3rd Year 2:	96.73%



Our average attendance for the Spring Term is 95.62%, which is just short of our target. Hopefully the better weather to come will reduce the number of coughs and colds which children have been suffering from over the winter.

We have 73 children who achieved 100% attendance for the Spring Term, and 32 children have managed 100% attendance for two full terms.

E safety—gaming

There is growing concern these days regarding the impact that some computer games can have on young people. Children spend a lot of time online—it can be a great way for them to socialise, explore and have fun. But children do also face risks like cyberbullying or seeing content that is inappropriate. The NSPCC have set up a useful website to help keep children safe online:



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Well Done

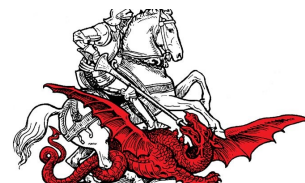


Congratulations to Briony who competed in the South Staffs Show on her horse during the Easter holidays. She won 1st, 3rd and 4th rosettes and a very impressive sash in the various events that she entered.

The Queen's Birthday and St George's Day



It was lovely to have a day of celebration on Thursday 21st April for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday and St George's Day. We celebrated our saint's day a little early as it falls on a Saturday this year. Thank you to everyone who came to school dressed in red, white and blue to mark the occasion.



Parents' Forum



The first meeting of the St Mary's Parents' Forum will be held on **Friday 20th May at 2:00pm**. 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.

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.



Cup cake sale for SMA



On Friday 22nd April children donated cup cakes to sell at playtime in aid of The SMA Trust. SMA stands for Spinal Muscular Atrophy. One of the children in our school has this condition and the money raised will go to help find a cure for the condition. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes or sent in money to buy them.

Silly Socks Day

On Monday 25th April staff and children donated 50p to wear silly socks to school in aid of Autism awareness. Thank you to everyone who donated and joined in with the fun.



Sainsbury's Active Kids



May 3rd is the final day for bringing Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers in to school. We will then count them up and see how much we can get for the school. Please check your purses, shopping bags and glove compartments for any vouchers that may be hiding there. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent vouchers in.

First Holy Communion Meeting

There will be a meeting held in school for parents of Year 3 children regarding their First Holy Communion on Thursday 5th May at 7pm. As this is polling day for the local elections, this meeting will be held in the Year 6 classroom.



Father Hudson Good Shepherd Appeal



Money has continued to arrive in school in the Father Hudson collection boxes. I am delighted to tell you that the total as of this week is now up to £177.25. It is not too late to send in any other money which has been collected. This can be sent to Mrs Hambridge in the office.

Alton Castle

Letters have now been sent out for the retreat to Alton Castle in September for the future Years 5 and 6. Please make sure that the reply slips are returned to school by Friday 6th May to ensure that your child does not miss out on this experience.



School Uniform and Dress Policy

May I remind parents that our policy states: " Hair shaving and sculpting (e.g. tram lines, ticks and other shavings) are not allowed. Hairstyles must be neat and smart. Use of gels or styling products should be minimal. For reasons of health and safety and to avoid the spread of head lice children (boys and girls) all shoulder length hair and longer should have their hair tied back with a hair band. Highlights, dyeing and colouring of hair is not allowed. " A full version of this policy can be viewed on our website.



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	1st Holy Communion Mass. St Mary's Church 11:00am Yr 3
Sunday 22nd May	Thanksgiving Mass. St Mary's Church 11:00am
Tuesday 24th May	Mass for Corpus Christi (staff)
Tuesday 14th June	Mass Year 3
Friday 8th July	Reception and Pre-School Assembly
Friday 15th July	Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Mary's Church
Sunday 17th July	Celebration Mass at St Mary's Church
Tuesday 19th July	Leavers' Mass

Important Dates

Monday 2nd May	School closed for May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 5th May	School closed for local elections (INSET day for staff)
Thursday 5th May	First Holy Communion meeting in Y6 7:00pm for Year 3
9th–12th May	Key Stage 2 SATS for Year 6
Thursday 12th May	Reconciliation meeting in school hall 7:00pm for Year 2
Thursday 19th May	1st Confession meeting in school hall 7:00pm for Year 2
Friday 20th May	Parents' Forum meeting 2:00pm
Friday 27th May	NSPCC fundraiser
Friday 27th May	Break up for Half Term holiday
Monday 6th June	Children return to school
Wednesday 8th June	Year 6 and Reception photographs
Monday 20th June	Sports week begins
Monday 20th June	Sports Day: KS1 am, KS2 pm
Thursday 23rd June	Enforced School closed for EU referendum (INSET day for staff)
Friday 24th June	Olympic Workshop. 2:20pm Parents welcome
Friday 1st July	Friends of St Mary's Summer Fair
Wednesday 6th July	Y6 transition Day to Hagley
Friday 15th July	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y2 at St Mary's Church 11:00am
Thursday 21st July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Thursday 21st July	Last day of term
Friday 22nd July	First day of Summer Holiday
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.