

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 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 1 2013



Dear Parents and Children

Welcome back to a new academic year at St Mary's. I hope that you all had a good Summer and that you are fully refreshed for all the wonderful events that are planned for the new term. Thank you for the lovely gifts received by myself and the staff at the end of last term. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Welcome to all the new families who have joined St Mary's this term. We all look forward to working with you and your children and hope that you will experience many happy years at St Mary's. Welcome also to Miss Taylor who has joined us in Year 5 and to Mrs Hodson who will be working across Key Stage 2.

In October, the month of The Rosary, we hope that you will be able to join us in our prayer garden to pray The Rosary with Key stage 2. If you are unable to join us it would be wonderful to pray the Hail Mary with your children during October. The Hail Mary is printed in our newsletter.

In November, the Year of Faith draws to a close and we are looking forward to sharing this event with parents. Further details will follow later.

In the meantime, please check the diary dates in this newsletter and keep logging on to our online calendar so that you don't miss out on anything!

Yours sincerely

Ms A Maher
Headteacher

Uniform

We are very pleased to see the children looking so smart on their return to St. Mary's after the Summer Holidays and following the dress code which is:

- Navy Sweatshirt
- Blue polo shirt
- Grey or navy trousers or skirts
- Sensible black school shoes, no trainers
- No jewellery except stud earrings or watches
- Sensible haircuts (ie. No shavings) and no hair dye



Please label all uniform with your child's name.

Uniform is available to order online at www.yourschooluniform.com
www.tesco.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during September and October. 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:

Harry REC	Talitha Y1	Alyssa Y5
Jaimee Y3	Seth Y2	Oliver Y5
Adriana Y2	Callum Y3	Erin Y1
Mollie Y3	Daniel Y3	Kallum Y2
Alan Y4	Mikail Y1	Amelia Y1
Rayya Y1	Martha Y2	Joe Y6
Stephen Y6	Archie Y3	Ashoka REC
Ellie Y1	Sophie Y6	Samantha Y5
Linda Y4	Sean Y6	Melanie REC
Leon Y4	Pierre REC	Justine Y6
Joshua Y5	Samuel Y1	Joseph Y6
Rio Y1	Stuart Y5	Joseph Y4
Amour Y2		

GENERAL REMINDERS

P.E. Kit

Children should have a P.E. Kit available, in school, every day during term time. It is only used for a short time each week and will need washing only once or twice during the term. P.E. kit consists of white t-shirt, black shorts, pumps for indoor P.E. and trainers for P.E. on the field.

Contact Details

As it is the start of a new year, we need all parents to complete/check new contact forms as changes can occur during the holidays. We urge that you keep us up to date with contact details in case your child is ill at school or needs urgent medical attention. Can the forms provided with this newsletter please be returned to the school office as soon as possible, even if no changes are required, to ensure our records are up to date.

READING BUDDIES



If you would like to become a Reading Buddy and join our team of parents who offer invaluable support to our pupils, please ask at the office for an application form. Any time that you can offer, no matter how short, will make a difference.

Whole School Mass List

Fr Cecil will be celebrating Mass in school on the following dates:

Tues 17th Sept	Mass prepared by the School Council	9.15am
Tues 1st Oct	Mass prepared by Y2	9.15am
Tues 15th Oct	Mass prepared by Y3	9.15am
Tues 5th Nov	Mass prepared by staff	9.15am
Tues 19th Nov	Mass prepared by Y1	9.15am
Tues 3rd Dec	Mass prepared by Y4	9.15am
Tues 17th Dec	Christmas Mass prepared by Y6	9.15am

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

Diary Dates



9th-13th Sept	Residential Trip to Astley Burf
Weds 18th Sept	'Get to Know You' for parents and teachers 2.15pm
Weds 25th Sept	Y6 INSPIRE re SATs (and secondary transfer) 9-10am
Fri 27th Sept	Macmillan Coffee afternoon and mufti day 2.00pm
Weds 2nd Oct	Y5 & Y6 visit to St. Chad's Cathedral
Tues 8th Oct	Parent's Evening 5.00-7.30pm
Tues 15th Oct	Parent's Evening 3.10-5.00pm
21st-25th Oct	Rosary Week
Thurs 24th Oct	School Photos
FRI 25TH OCT	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
MON 4TH NOV	RETURN TO SCHOOL
Thurs 21st Nov	Confirmation—Archbishop Longley, St. Mary's Church 7.00pm
Sun 24th Nov	Confirmation Mass of Celebration, St Mary's Church 10.00am
Fri 6th Dec	Christmas Fair 3.00pm
Weds 11th Dec	KS1 Christmas Nativity (Y1 and Y2) 1.45pm
	KS1 Christmas Nativity (Y1 and Y2) 6.30pm
Sat 14th Dec	Breakfast with Santa
Tues 17th Dec	Foundation Stage/Preschool Christmas Production 1.45pm
Weds 18th Dec	Foundation Stage/Preschool Christmas Production 10.30am
Thurs 19th Dec	Children's Christmas Lunch & Christmas parties/disco
Fri 20th Dec	KS2 Carol Service
	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS
TUES 7TH JAN	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

Class Assemblies

Friday 4th October	Year 4	9.15am
Friday 18th October	Year 6 Harvest Assembly	9.15am
Friday 8th November	KS2 Child Initiated Learning	9.15am
Friday 22nd November	Year 5	9.15am
Friday 29th November	Year 3	9.15am
Friday 20th December	KS2 Carol Service	9.15am

Punctuality

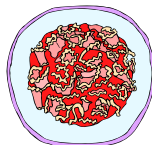
Please remember that school starts at 8.50am. Any children arriving after the bell have to enter through the front office and **MUST** be signed in by parents. Some children arriving late are being dropped off at the top of the drive. Please, please, please bring your child into school. A lot can happen to a child between the top of the drive and the school office.



School Meals Prices

Please note the prices below for school meals and drinks:

School Meal £1.90 per day
Milk shakes 22p
Small Orange and Apple juices 24p
Larger juice drinks 28p



Guidelines regarding earrings

We are not allowed to remove your child's earrings for PE, nor are we allowed to put plasters over earrings, so children who cannot remove their own earrings must leave them at home on PE days. Similarly, children can no longer wear earrings when swimming in case they get caught and rip the child's earlobes. If your child has got pierced ears, they must wear only small studs to lessen the chances of injury during playtimes.

Thank you.

Absence Reporting Procedures

We are aware that our phone lines become very busy in the mornings when parents are trying to let us know of any absences, so we have set up an email box to make it easier for you to let us know if your child will be absent. Simply email us at admin@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk by 9.30am with the **name of your child**, their **class** and the **reason** for the absence.

We will continue to check on children's safety, so if they are not in school, and if we have not heard from you by 9.30am, we will contact you. Therefore it is really important that we have up to date contact details for all children.

Coming soon..... New School Website

We have been working tirelessly over the past term to rebuild our website. We hope this new site will be much more informative as it will include policies and documents for you to download if you wish, a link to the parent portal where you will find, amongst other things, our parent calendar, curriculum plans so you can see what your child is learning each term, a blog which will keep you updated of events and any changes which may occur and also a guestbook where you can leave comments about our website or any suggestions/ideas you may have about what you would like to see on our site. We hope you will take the time to browse our new site which will be live within the next few weeks. There is also a facility to view the website in different languages! The address will be the same as our current address:

www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk



PTA Events

Thurs 19th Sept—PTA meeting at 1.30pm in school. Everyone welcome.

Fri 27th Sept—We will be holding a coffee event and mufti day in aid of Macmillan. Coffee will be served at 2.00pm in the school hall and cakes will be available to buy. Any donation of cakes would be welcome. Children can wear mufti on this day for £1. All proceeds will go to the Macmillan charity.

Fri 6th Dec—Christmas Fair 3.00pm.

Sat 14th Dec—Breakfast with Santa.

Thank you to everyone for your continuing support. We hope to see as many of you as possible at the above events. If you are able to help out at any of these events please contact the school office as extra pairs of hands are always needed.

School Building Fund

The Archdiocese provides a distinctive Catholic education for parents who seek a real alternative to other schools within the maintained sector.

80,000 children attend 252 Catholic schools across the Archdiocese.

In Catholic schools there is a legal liability to pay 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work.

To ensure that we are able to meet this legal liability,(which will ensure that our schools are properly maintained and necessary building work is undertaken), we invite parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5 per child per half-term or where more than one child attends St Mary's School, £7.50 per half-term. This equates to 58p per child per week.

Collections are made via envelopes, which are issued, one envelope per half term period with our newsletter.

All monies raised are used exclusively for St. Mary's School. The money does not go into a large fund for the Archdiocese, so St. Mary's benefits directly from the monies which are raised and this year we are hoping to have enough money to rebuild Pre-school and improve KS1 classrooms.

We have a legal obligation to raise 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work for St. Mary's School, but for each £1.00 we raise for the School Building Fund, the Government will give us £9.00 for St. Mary's. Therefore, every £1 that is donated has tremendous buying power to improve our school for your children and, as you can see, no donation is too small.

If you are worried that you may not be able to afford the contributions to the fund, please contribute what you can.

A form is included with this newsletter if you would like to make a regular contribution by direct debit. However, you can still make a cash/cheque donation at the school office if you prefer. Could cheques please be made payable to **St Mary's Catholic Primary School (332 3303) S B Fund A/C.**

For further information, please visit our website at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk where you will find a booklet produced by the Diocesan Schools Commission explaining the fund in greater detail.

Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among
women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our
death

Amen.