

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 2 2013



Dear Parents 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 which will be happening at St Mary's between now and the end of term when we finish for Christmas.

Already shops are selling Christmas presents and, 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. This term, Sister Mary-Grace (who is now living with two other nuns in the house in Brierley Hill where Father Darley used to live) will be leading class liturgies with the children and their parents in preparation for Christmas. Please check the newsletter diary for the date when your child's class will be involved. Please also find attached a Cafod leaflet with lovely Christmas ideas for helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

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

School will finish for children on Friday 20th December 2013.

School will start again for children on Tuesday 7th January 2014.

Ms. A. Maher

St Mary's achieves Fairtrade School Status

We are delighted to be able to inform you that we have been awarded the Fairtrade School Status. This is in recognition of all the work the school community has done to promote Fairtrade in school and also to the wider community. Thank you for your support so far and please continue to support our Fairtrade activities.

Don't forget Fairtrade uniform is available to purchase from school.



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:

Alora Presch	Joseph Y6	Lliy Presch
Stephen Presch	Luke Y1	Tom Presch
Rhys Y3	Isaac Y1	Naqeeb Y2
Cori Y2	Lucy Y5	Gianna REC
Alexander REC	Graciela Y3	Nathaniel Y4
Kory Y5	Danny Y4	Natasha Y5
Shreyan Y5	Kiara Y6	Kian Y1
Chloe REC	Iwan Y6	Harrison Y3
Filip Y1	Mary Y2	Rio REC
Kirsten Y4	Jena Y4	Elliana REC-
Shelbie Y6	Nathan Y3	Rehaan REC
Han Lan Y3	James Y4	Jason Y6
Cute Y2	Joanna Y2	

Attendance Return

3rd September 2013—25th October 2013

Rec—96.04%
Yr 1—95.69%
Yr 2—93.05%
Yr 3—97.46%
Yr 4—96.90%
Yr 5—97.68%
Yr 6—96.44%

Well done Year 5. You are this half term's winners.

Our overall absences were:
2.87% authorised
0.91% unauthorised
Our overall attendance was 96.22%

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. You can contact us by phone on 01384 818435 or email: admin@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk. **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

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

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

Thurs 7th Nov	PTA Meeting 1.30pm. All welcome
Fri 8th Nov	Arctic Convoy Speaker to Y5
Mon 11th Nov	Y1 Liturgy with Sr Grace in class 2.30pm
Tues 12th Nov	Y6 to St. Mary's Church 11.00am Confirmation practice
Fri 15th Nov	Children in Need—Children to wear yellow for 50p
Sun 17th Nov	Children's Liturgy 11.00am Mass, St Mary's Church
Mon 18th Nov	Y2 Liturgy with Sr Grace in class 2.30pm
Weds 20th Nov	Confirmation—Archbishop Longley, St. Mary's Church 7.00pm
Sun 24th Nov	Confirmation Mass of Celebration, St Mary's Church 10.00am
Mon 25th Nov	Y3 Liturgy with Sr Grace in class 2.30pm
Tues 26th Nov	Y5 to St Mary's Church 11.00am for church tour with Fr Cecil
Sun 1st Dec	Children's Liturgy 11.00am Mass St Mary's Church
Mon 2nd Dec	Y4 Liturgy with Sr Grace in class 2.30pm
Thurs 5th Dec	Y5 Visit to Cannock Chase
Fri 6th Dec	Christmas Fair 3.00pm
Mon 9th Dec	Y5 Liturgy with Sr Grace in class 2.30pm
Weds 11th Dec	KS1 Christmas Nativity (Y1 and Y2) 1.45pm KS1 Christmas Nativity (Y1 and Y2) 6.30pm
Thurs 12th Dec	Y4 to St. Mary's church for church tour with Fr Cecil
Sat 14th Dec	Breakfast with Santa
Sun 15th Dec	Children's Liturgy 11.00am Mass St Mary's Church
Mon 16th Dec	Y6 Liturgy with Sr Grace in class 2.30pm
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 Magician Show for whole school
	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS
TUES 7TH JAN	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL



Class Assemblies

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.



New School Website

We hope you have all taken the time to view our new school website. This new site is much more informative as it includes 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 and a blog which keeps you updated of events and any changes which may occur. Please leave comments about our website or any suggestions/ideas you may have about what you would like to see on our site on our guestbook. There is also a facility to view the website in different languages! The address is the same as our current address: www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk



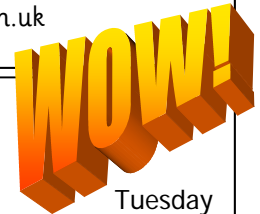
School Council

Congratulations to our new School Council members who are; McKenzie, Ibbey, Georgia, Naqeeb, Anthony, Shelbie, Shreyan, Thomas, Amelia, Rosie and Hannah. The School Council have already started thinking of ways to improve attendance at St. Mary's and also about how to make St. Mary's a healthy eating school. They will be meeting for 'Posh Nosh' with Ms Maher during their lunchtimes on a regular basis so if you have any other ideas for improvement please give them to your class representative.



Building Update

We were delighted to welcome Bishop McGough to school on Tuesday 23rd July when he blessed the completed building work. Y1 and Preschool have settled in to their new classrooms and our KS1 children are enjoying the extra space in the outdoor classroom which has been made available since the removal of the old blue mobile.



PTA Events

Fri 6th Dec—Christmas Fair 3.00pm.
Donations of unwanted/unused gifts Required.

Sat 14th Dec—Breakfast with Santa.
A few places still remaining but filling up fast!

Fri 20th Dec—Magician Show for whole school

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.

This year we are very pleased to be able to tell you that even more improvements are to be made to the structure of St Mary's School. Our existing Y2 and Y3 classrooms and the library will be redesigned in order to create more space in these classrooms. We have been granted planning permission to erect a chalet style outdoor library on the playground in the corner near to Y6 classroom. We are hoping that this facility will also be used for 'play and stay' sessions from 9.00 -9.30am every morning for parents and toddlers who have dropped older children off at school. This building work is only made possible because of your generous donations which are made in the little envelopes which accompany these newsletters. Donations can also be made by direct debit. Forms are available from the school website.

Thank you for all donations received so far and in anticipation of those yet to come. No amount is too small. Thank you

Parent Calendar

It is now possible for you to add our school parent calendar through your ipad, iphone or android device. This will give you information about what is happening in school ie. assemblies, masses and other events which may be of interest to you.

For those of you who have given us your email address this document has been emailed to you to enable you to click on the link to add this calendar. If you haven't received this document by email and you would like to, please give your email address to the school office.

The ics. link that you need to enable you to do this is:

<http://amsprd0410.outlook.com/owa/calendar/ParentCalendar@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk/Calendar/calendar.ics>

Instructions, should you need them, are below:

Setting up the School Calendar on an iPad

In order to read the **school calendar** on an iPad or iPhone the **.ics** link shown above from the published **school calendar** has been sent via email to the email address registered with school. When you select this **.ics** link you are given the opportunity to **subscribe** to the **school calendar**. It will be added to your calendar list under **Subscribed**



Setting up the School Calendar on an Android device

The ics share link does not work on Android the same way as with an IOS device (iPad or iPhone). In order to share the ics link to give Android users a read view of the O365 Calendar it will be necessary for you to use the Calendar in a Gmail account. In order to do this you should:

Set up a **Gmail** account

Open the **Calendar** screen on a computer

Down the left hand side of the screen is a link to **Other Calendars** with a drop down arrow

Click on the drop down arrow and in the menu options

Click on **Add URL**

Paste the O365 Calendar **ics link** into this box

This will import the O365 Calendar into the GMail Calendar on the computer and onto their Android device

Visit the **Calendar Settings** to name the calendar etc.