



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 2017

The Season of Easter



If there was ever a day that gives us hope, it is resurrection Sunday. That is why the church gathers each week on Sunday, the Lord's Day for worship. In fact, every Sunday is a celebration of the empty tomb. A celebration that Jesus is alive. It is the empty tomb of Jesus that gives us HOPE! Hope in the here-and-now and hope in the here-after. This is not a HOPE-SO kind of HOPE. It is a KNOW_SO kind of HOPE. The Hope of forgiveness. The Hope of peace. The HOPE of assurance. The Hope of Heaven. And that HOPE is centred in the person of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to everyone who sent in decorated Easter eggs for our competition before the holiday. We had some lovely entries and choosing one winner from each class was very difficult. Our winners were:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Year 6: Grace | Year 2: Sophie |
| Year 5: Mario | Year 1: Lilly |
| Year 4: Ben | Reception: Ruby- May |
| Year 3: Pierre and Guillaume | Pre-School: Poppy |

Many thanks, also, for the beautiful Easter bonnets which were brought into school. Some of these get bigger and more intricate every year. Please have a look at our Special Events page on the school website for some photographs of the children in their Easter bonnets.

I am very grateful to the Friends of St Mary's who gave an Easter egg to every child in the school. It was lovely to see the children's faces when they received them.

Time for the Good Shepherd Appeal

We would be grateful if any remaining collection boxes for this year's Good Shepherd Appeal could be returned to school as soon as possible so that the money can be sent off to the Father Hudson Society. Many thanks to those who have already sent theirs in to the school office.



What a Knight



Congratulations to the children and staff in Years 3 and 4 for a wonderful production which was staged just before the Easter holiday. The children had worked very hard to learn their lines and the songs for the play and I hope that those who came to see it were as entertained as I was. Thank you to everyone who helped with learning lines, finding costumes and bringing the children back to school for the evening performance. Thanks, also, to the Friends of St Mary's who provided refreshments for the audiences.

Holidays During Term Time

Following the running in the Supreme Court regarding the Isle of Wight case, it has now been confirmed that holidays taken during term time should not be authorised. We have recently had an increase in the number of parents requesting leave of absence for their children to go on holiday outside of the school holidays. These absences will be marked on the register as unauthorised and parents may be issued with a fine. We can only authorise such absences if there are exceptional circumstances eg a bereavement. I am aware that we have a large number of children at St Mary's who have family in other parts of the country or overseas, but it is important that visits should be made during the 13 weeks of the year when children do not need to be in school.

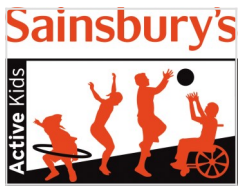


First Holy Communion



On Saturday 20th May, Year 3 children will be taking their first Holy Communion at our Parish Church of St Mary's at 11am. There will then be a Thanksgiving Mass at St Mary's on Sunday 21st May at 11am. Everyone would be welcome to come and show their support for this special time for our children.

Sainsbury's vouchers



Tuesday 2nd May will be the final day when you can collect Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. We have had a good number brought into school, but will continue to collect them for another few weeks. If you have any vouchers hiding in the bottom of your shopping bags or purses, please let us have them as soon as you can. Once they have all been counted we will have a look through the brochure to see what resources we can exchange the vouchers for. We will let you know once we have decided. Thank you to everyone who has sent vouchers in so far.

SATs

SATs for the end of Key Stage 2 will be taking place during the week beginning Monday 8th May. Key Stage 1 assessments will be carried out throughout the month of May. The staff and children have been working really hard and it would be wonderful if they can show this in their assessments. Please try to make sure that your child has plenty of early nights and is in school every day. There will be breakfasts available for Year 6 children on the mornings of the tests. Please make sure that you return the reply slip of you would like to order breakfast for your child.



Forced Closure



I have been notified that St Mary's will once again be used as a polling station for the General Election which will be taking place on Thursday 8th June. For this reason I am forced to close the school for children on that day. I realise that this can cause child care issues for parents and children will lose a day's learning, but it is out of my control. My staff and I will still be working on that day.

School Life

If you have not yet received your login details for the School Life app then please get in touch with Mrs Beese as soon as possible. This will shortly be replacing our text messaging service and it is vital that we can send out important messages from school.

School Life

Sponsored Bounce



We will be holding a 'Sponsored Bounce' on 18th May. Half of the money raised will be donated to CLIC Sargent, a charity which helps children and young people with cancer. The other half of the money will go towards replacing our stage in school. Letters and sponsor forms should be coming out shortly. The children have always had a wonderful time when we have held this event in the past and we hope that you will want to support this worthy cause while your children are having fun bouncing!

Activities for May Day

Take a look at the Resources for Parents page on our website for details of events and activities which will be taking place during May Day within the Dudley Borough.



Ms O'Beirne
Principal

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

Academy Motto

In Jesus we live learn and serve.

Event	Date	Time
Masses		
Year 2 Mass—Our Lady	Tuesday 2nd May	9:15am
Reception Mass	Tuesday 23rd May	9:15am
Prayer Leaders Mass	Tuesday 6th June	9:15am
Year 3 Mass—Sacred Heart	Tuesday 20th June	9:15am
Staff Mass	Tuesday 4th July	9:15am
Year 4 Mass—Leavers	Tuesday 18th July	9:15am
Class Assemblies		
Year 4	Friday 5th May	9:15am
Year 5	Friday 16th June	9:15am
Reception and Pre-School	Friday 7th July	9:15am
Year 6 (Graduation assembly)	Friday 21st July	9:15am
Future important dates		
Key Stage 1 SATs (Year 2)	May	
Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6)	8th—11th May	
Piety for First Holy Communion in Y3 Classroom	Thursday 11th May	3:15pm
Sponsored Bounce in aid of Clic Sargent and a new stage	Thursday 18th May	
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
Phonics Screening Check week (Year 1 and Year 2)	12th—16th June	
Sport day EYFS & KS1 9:15am KS2 10:30– 12:00	Monday 3rd July (weather permitting)	9:15 am start 12noon finish
First Reconciliation (Year 2), St Mary's Church	Friday 7th July 2017	11am
First Reconciliation Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 9th July 2017	11am

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.

2016-2017 Term Dates

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
Thursday 8th June 2017	Enforced closure for general election
Friday 21st July 2017	End of term—School closes for summer
Wednesday 6th September 2017	Start of term—School opens

Teacher Training Days for 2016-2017

Thursday 4th May (enforced closure- voting station) 2017
Monday 23rd July 2017
Tuesday 24th July 2017
Monday 4th September 2017
Tuesday 5th September 2017

