



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

February 2016

Year of Mercy



This Jubilee Year of Mercy is a pilgrimage for us all. It is a renewed opportunity for everyone to experience the great mercy of God. The mercy of God is central to the faith and life of Pope Francis. It is his experience of God's mercy and the numerous ways Pope Francis shows others the mercy that he has received, that makes him such a notable figure in our world today. As a school we will be undertaking a range of activities together as we continue on this pilgrimage.

This half term's focus is "Faith Filled and Hopeful". Our Heavenly Father delights in those who place their hope in Him. His unconditional love, concern, and Hope Filled Scriptures are consistently in His Word from Genesis to Revelation. Wishing and hoping in people, events and circumstances is not real hope. Real hope springs from absolute faith in God and His promises.

24 Hours for the Lord

Pope Francis has requested that churches throughout the world remain open for a 24 hour period over 4th to 5th March. His holiness wants people to have the opportunity to spend time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament as well as being able to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Lent 2016: Time for the Good Shepherd Appeal



During Lent we are reminded to grow and deepen our grasp of the depth of God's mercy and compassion and resolve to devote time to prayer, reading the scriptures and committing ourselves to fasting and almsgiving. In this Year of Mercy we can receive a new sense and experience of the abundant mercy and forgiveness of God.

Mrs Davis, who works for Father Hudson's, came into school last Monday to inform the children about our Lenten charity, the Good Shepherd Appeal. Your child should have received a calendar for Lent as well as a collection box for Fr. Hudson's.

Attendance and Punctuality

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

1st Year 3:	97.33%
2nd Year 2:	97.01%
3rd Year 5:	96.93%

We would ask that, when leaving a recorded message to report your child's absence from school, you tell us what type of illness your child is suffering from and how long you expect them to be absent from school. We need details of the illness in order to be authorised the absence. On the fifth consecutive day of absence we need evidence of medical advice being sought eg a doctor's appointment card.

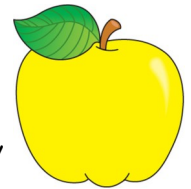
Please make sure that your children are collected on time as staff have other commitments at the end of the school day and supervision is difficult. If you know that you are going to be late then please book your child into After School Club.

If somebody will be collecting your child who does not usually collect them, such as a friend or grandparent, please let the office know as teachers need to be sure that they are letting the children leave school with the correct person.



Golden Apples

Thank you to everyone who returned the golden apples which were sent out before the half term holiday. It is great to see that so many of our children are living out their values at home. Some examples of what the children have written are: "I raised some money for Guide Dogs for the Blind."; "I helped my granddad put his shoes on." Several children said that they donate their toys to the church for children who do not have any.



Parents' Forum



We are planning to set up a Parents' Forum at St Mary's. 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.

SENDCo

Our new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) is Mrs Montague. If you have any concerns she can be contacted via the school office or at pmontague@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk. She will shortly be setting up drop in sessions for parents to come and speak to her about their child. She is also going to set up a SEND section on the school website. More information will follow shortly.

St David's Day



Monday 1st March will be St David's Day. He founded several churches and a monastery in Wales and eventually became an archbishop. St David was canonized in 1120 and became the patron Saint for Wales.

To celebrate this day, children are invited to wear a daffodil to school. This can be a fresh flower or a home made one.

Sewing Bee

We would like to ask for help from anyone who has a sewing machine and would be willing to spare a few hours to help us make some graduation gowns for our Year Six children. All materials will be provided. The more volunteers we have, the less each person will need to do. If you are able to help then please contact the school office. Thanks to those who have already offered.



Hagley Pyramid concert



Well done to everyone in Year 5 who travelled into Birmingham for a very long day on Thursday 4th February. They first attended a Mass in St Chad's Cathedral to celebrate the first year of the St Nicholas Owen Multi Academy Company. They then walked to Birmingham Town Hall to begin rehearsals for their evening concert. During the evening, Year 5 performed along with children from all of the other Academy schools, singing songs by stars from the Midlands including Duran Duran, Slade and Jamelia. As usual, the children from St Mary's did an excellent job of representing the school and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the concert.

Year 3 and 4 production

This year's production was called YE-HA! Years 3 and 4 worked very hard to learn the script, songs and dances for this action packed and funny story of the Wild West. The Year 3 and Year 4 staff would like to thank the children for all of their hard work; the parents for providing wonderful costumes and coming to support the children; and the Friends of St Mary's for providing refreshments after both performances.



Parking



If parking in Woodbury Close before or after school, please ensure that you have parked correctly and been thoughtful towards the residents there. Also, if parking in Mill Street, please make sure that no driveways are blocked or restricted. There should be no stopping to drop off within the zig-zag lines outside of school unless you hold a disabled badge. Thank you for your co-operation with our efforts to keep the children of St Mary's safe.

Parents' Evening



This term Parents' Consultations will be held over two evenings: **Tuesday 8th March from 5:00pm—7:30pm**; and **Thursday 10th March from 3:15pm—5:45pm**.

Appointments may now be booked using the online system. If you have any problems using this then please speak to Mrs Hambridge and she will be happy to help you book the appointment that you would prefer. Please note that appointments are for **ten minutes** only. If you have a query which needs a longer discussion then please make an appointment to see the teacher at another time to avoid long delays from building up for other parents.

Keep in touch

We are proud to always be ready to sort problems out straight away. If you or your child are unhappy or worried for any reason, no matter how small, you only have to let us know. You can make an appointment to see the **class teacher** after school and you can always phone and leave a message if you prefer. We will always phone you back as soon as possible. If for any reason you do not feel your problem has been resolved to your satisfaction, please always see Mrs Broomfield, Mrs Addis or myself and we will do our best to resolve the matter.



School Website



Our school website is regularly updated with events, news items and other information. School policies and procedures can be found on the website too. Please do take the time to browse as it really does offer parents a good opportunity to keep up to date with the busy, productive school life. All newsletters are published on the website and can be referred to if the paper copy sent home is misplaced. Go to:

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

Anti Bullying Ambassadors

The Anti bullying Alliance now has an anti bullying tool for parents. This is an interactive tool which offers support and advice for parents who think their child may be being bullied:



<http://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/advice/parents-carers/anti-bullying-tool-for-parents/>

Years 5 and 6 Residential to Astley Burf



For the second half of this week many of the children from Years 5 and 6 are enjoying a range of outdoor activities at the Astley Burf Residential Centre near Stourport. For many of the children this is their first experience of being away from home without their family. It is a great opportunity to have fun with their friends whilst gaining independence. We are very grateful to Mrs Brereton, Miss Adkins, Mrs Young and Mrs Jones who have gone with the children and have left their families for the three days of the trip. I am pleased that the weather has stayed dry for them.

Sainsbury's Active Kids

Once again we are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers which enable us to obtain sporting equipment and cookery resources for your children to use in school. The collection box is in the lobby just outside the office. Please send them into school by 3rd May.



Ms O'Beirne
Principal

Mass and Class Assemblies

Tuesday 1st March	9:15am	Mass	St David's Day: Years 1&2
Sunday 13th March	11:00am	Mass of Commitment—St Mary's Church Y2, 3 & 5	
Tuesday 22nd March	9:15am	Mass	Holy Week: Year 6

Important Dates

Wednesday 2nd March	World Maths Day
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day
Tuesday 8th March	Parents' Evening 5:00pm—7:30pm
Thursday 10th March	Parents' Evening 3:15pm —5:45pm
Friday 11th March	Choir to attend Vivo Concert at Dudley Town Hall
Monday 21st March	Stations of the Cross: Years 5 and 6 St Mary's Church
Tuesday 22nd March	Confession for Year 3-6 at school
Wednesday 23rd March	Children break up for Easter
Thursday 24th March	INSET day for staff
Thursday 24th March	Holy Thursday
Friday 25th March	Good Friday
Monday 11th April	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.