



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



December 2015

Year of Mercy



Every 25 years the Pope declares a Holy Year of Jubilee. This year, Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee. Tuesday 8th December marked the beginning of the Year of Mercy. He chose this date as it is the date of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This special year will end on 20th November 2016, the Feast of Christ the King. The Year of Mercy is an invitation—an invitation to love, kindness, and unbounded generosity. Pope Francis is offering you the opportunity to encounter the incredible mercy of God. Encountering mercy means encountering God. It can transform your life, your relationships, your work, and your ability to embrace and experience all of life.

Attendance and Punctuality

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.55%	95.68%	96.94%	98.00%	95.98%	98.19%	96.37%

Congratulations to Year 5 who achieved the highest percentage for attendance for the Autumn Term. We have 68 children who have 100% attendance for the term. Well done to those children who have not missed any of their learning time so far.

Choir

Well done to the St Mary's School Choir who went to Merry Hill on December 3rd to take part in the "Little Voices Christmas Choir Competition". They sang 5 Christmas songs including their own version of "We Three Kings". Thank you to everyone who came along to offer support and listen to the beautiful singing.



Congratulations



Well done to Hrithik who has earned his brown belt in Kickboxing. He has been attending classes at Venture Martial Arts for about two years. Congratulations also go to Zoe who ran 5km on the Santa Jog in Mary Stephens Park on Sunday 6th December. She and her mum raised over £100 for Mary Stevens Hospice. At the end of November Isaac took part in two shows at Netherton Arts Centre performing street dance and gymnastics with "Rhythmics."



We love to share the achievements of St Mary's Pupils from outside school. Do please let us know if your child deserves a mention in our newsletter.

Thank you for your generosity.

I would like to thank all pupils, parents and relatives for their generosity this term. You have all made a special difference to the lives of others by your charitable donations: We raised £481 for Macmillan Cancer Support with our coffee morning; £200.66 was raised for CAFOD's "Brighten Up This Harvest" appeal; £155.49 was donated to the British Legion Poppy Appeal; we raised £182 for Children in Need; a large number of Christmas boxes were brought in for Operation Christmas Child and around 30 Advent Calendars were donated to the SVP Project Food Bank. Thank you all for your tremendous support.



It's A Party!

Well done to everyone from Years 1 and 2 who were involved in Thursday's performances of their Nativity play, "It's A Party". We have received lots of positive comments from members of the audiences so hopefully you enjoyed watching it as much as the children enjoyed performing it. Thank you to Mrs Mauldrige, Mrs Coffield, Mrs Pearson, Mrs Angell and Mrs Harris who helped with refreshments during the afternoon and evening.

School Admissions September 2016

Applications for Reception in September 2016 should be made to the local authority by 15th January 2016. If you have a sibling starting next September remember that you need to provide the school with a copy of their baptismal certificate in order for them to apply as a Catholic.

For full details of Dudley's scheme and to apply online for a school place, please go to www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions or call 01384 814223 if you need further assistance.

Anti Bullying Ambassadors

Wear a Christmas Jumper

Thank you to everyone who paid £1 to wear a Christmas jumper on Friday 11th December. This raised around £175 which will be spent on buying a 'buddy bench' to go in the playground.



Parking Safety

We need to remind everyone that the entrance to the school driveway is not a drop off point. There are double yellow and zig-zag yellow lines in this area. We are having issues with pedestrians being put at risk by cars who are pulling in to let children get out of the car.

The Friends of St Mary's - your school's Parent/Teacher Association

Thank you to everyone who supported Breakfast with Santa on December 5th. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed their breakfast. All of the children enjoyed spending time with Santa and we would like to thank him for coming to spend time with us at his busiest time of the year.

Attached to this newsletter is a full list of prizes from the Christmas Fair Raffle and the names of the winners. Congratulations to everyone who won a prize and thank you to everyone who donated prizes.

Extreme Weather Conditions



When we return to school after Christmas, there may be a chance of bad weather. As an academy, the Local Authority does not have the power to oblige academies to close, but may come to an agreement with the Academy Committee. At a recent Committee of Principals' meeting it was agreed that all SNOMAC schools would inform parents via the school's texting service and an alert notice on the homepage of each school's website. Radio stations will not be informed as this can cause greater confusion to parents. The deadline for any decisions to be made would be 7am in advance of the school day. We would ask you to make sure that you inform a member of the school office team if your mobile telephone number has changed recently.

Goodbye and Good Luck

We are saying Goodbye to four members of St Mary's staff this term: Mrs Walters, Mrs Deere, Mrs R Homer and Miss Marsden. We would like to thank all of them for their hard work during their time at St Mary's and wish them well for the future.

Christmas Mass at St Mary's, Brierley Hill and Our Lady of Lourdes, Kingswinford

CHRISTMAS EVE: 17:30—Vigil Mass of Christmas (BH) 19:30—Carol singing (KF)

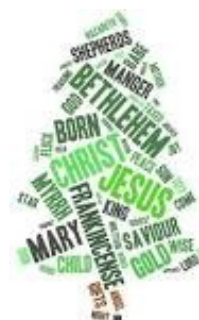
20:00—Mass of Midnight (KF)

CHRISTMAS DAY: 09:00—Mass of Dawn (KF)

10:30—Mass of the Day (BH)

May God fill your life with love, joy and peace this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.

Ms O' Beirne - Principal



Friends of St Mary's Christmas Raffle 2015

List of Prize Winners

Prize	Winner
1 st Prize: £50 Cash	Julia – Reception
2 nd Prize: £25 JD Sports Voucher	Arlo – Reception
3 rd Prize: Christmas Hamper	Evette Clarke
4 th Prize: Bottle of Champagne	Naomi Hughes
5 th Prize: Man's Leather Wallet	Zach – Year 3
6 th Prize: Christmas Hamper	Archie – Year 5
7 th Prize: Ladies Leather Purse	Myenna – Year 3
8 th Prize: Christmas Hamper	Amanda Inkersole
9 th Prize: Vodka Bar	Naomi – Year 4
10 th Prize: M & S Hamper	Olivia – Year 1
11 th Prize: Ace Coaching Voucher	Sherelle – Year 6
12 th Prize: Bottle of White Wine	Isabell – Year 5
13 th Prize: Tin of Fox's Biscuits	Sophie - Reception
14 th Prize: Bottle of Red Wine	Tanya Evans
15 th Prize: Christmas Cake	Ellie-May – Year 3
16 th Prize: Bottle of Rose Wine	Stephen – Year 1
17 th Prize: Tub of Celebrations	Hannah – Year 4
18 th Prize: Christmas Pudding	Julia – Reception
19 th Prize: Bottle of Mulled Wine	Hamish – Year 4
20 th Prize: Cuddly Duck	Holy – Year 3

Mass and Class Assemblies

Friday 18th December	9:15am	Carol service and Baby Jesus blessing with Fr Cecil
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2016

Tuesday 12th January	9:15am	Mass	
Friday 22nd January	2:30pm	Reception Class Assembly	
Tuesday 26th January	9:15am	Mass	Year 2
Tuesday 9th February	9:15	Mass	Liturgical Leaders
Friday 12th February	2:30pm	Year 1 Assembly	

Important Dates

Friday 18th December	Children break up for Christmas
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2016

Monday 4th January 2016	INSET day for staff. School closed to children
Tuesday 5th January	Children return to school
Tuesday 19th January	Anti-Bullying Theatre group Y2-Y6
Thursday 4th February	Hagley Pyramid Concert for Year 5
Wednesday 10th February	Year 3 and 4 Production
Friday 12th February	Break up for half term
Monday 22nd February	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.