



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, Miss Mosley, Mrs Brereton and Mrs Berry.

Child Protection policy available at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

May 2019

Principal: Ms O. O'Beirne

According to the church calendar, the season of Eastertide lasts for 50 days - 10 days longer than Lent! During the May assemblies and collective worship in school, children have celebrated Jesus' miraculous resurrection, the cornerstone of our faith. They have marveled with Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb; they have been detectives seeking evidence for Jesus' resurrection through the story of Doubting Thomas; they have learned that, like in nature, sometimes our hearts can be cold and wintry, but that because of Jesus' death and resurrection we are offered new life and new direction.

Yet after Jesus had died, some of His disciples went back to their former way of life - fishing. But then the risen Jesus appeared to them on the shore and had other ideas. Jesus intended them to continue His mission of spreading the good news, healing people, loving others and demonstrating God's kingdom values in a society where those values were counter-cultural. Jesus once again facilitated a miraculous catch of fish and shared breakfast with His disciples. At the end of breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Look after my sheep." Jesus was calling Simon Peter to return to the mission He had planned for Him.

We have learnt that Jesus has entrusted us with this mission too! We are called to love and respect one another, to spread the good news and demonstrate Christlike values in both the big and small facets of life.

Ms O'Beirne

Principal



Well done to Year 2 who have had the best attendance this half term and are the winners of our "Attendance Cup" (complete with Curly Wurlys!)

May we take this opportunity to say a huge... WELL DONE! To all of our Year 2 & 6 pupils who have taken their SATs exams this half term.



Each child has worked above and beyond all of our expectations. The exams were really challenging and we are very impressed with the effort and commitment shown by the children. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them!



Parking Buddies

Hopefully you have now all seen our new "Parking Buddies" on the roads around school.

We have been working in partnership with West Midlands Police to improve safety for our children around school.

We were very fortunate to secure full funding for these "Parking Buddies" from Intu Merry Hill.

We are the first school in the Dudley Borough to have "Parking Buddies" and fully expect other schools to start using them soon!

We would like to say a massive thank you to PC Harrison and PC Andrews, who have given lots of their time to St Mary's with the Parking Buddies project, and of course, a huge thank you to Intu Merry Hill, for funding them.



CALENDAR DATES

Date	Event	Time
Friday 24th May	Children Break up for Half Term	3.00pm
Monday 3rd June	Inset Day	All Day
Tuesday 4th June	Children Return to School	8.40am
Friday 7th June	Whole School Mass—School Council	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 7th June	Y1 & Y2 Trip to Botanical Gardens	All Day
Monday 10th June	Y6 Confirmation Mass	7.00pm
Friday 14th June	Class Mass—Year 6	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 14th June	Y5 Trip to Wild Zoological Gardens	All Day
Wednesday 19th June	Y3 Communion Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Thursday 20th June	Y3 Trip to Sea Life Centre	All Day
Friday 21st June	Whole School Mass—Year 1	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 21st June	Y6 Trip to Safari Park	All Day
Saturday 22nd June	Y3 First Holy Communion	10.00pm
Mon & Tues 24th/25th June	Y3 & Y5 Bikability	AM & PM
Thursday 27th June	Y4 Trip to Botanical Gardens	All Day
Friday 28th June	SNOMAC INSET DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	All Day
Friday 5th July	Whole School Mass—Year 3	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 5th July	Summer Fair	3.00pm—5.00pm
Friday 12th July	Whole School Mass—Year 5	9.00am—9.30am
15th - 17th July	Y6 Residential to Astley Burf	All Day
Thursday 11th July	Pre-School & Reception Trip to Wild Zoological Park	All Day
Thursday 18th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly	9.00am
Thursday 18th July	School Disco	
Friday 19th July	Children Break up for Summer	2.00pm
Friday 19th July	Whole School Mass—Y6 Leavers	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 19th July	Children break up for Summer	3.00pm
Monday 22nd July	Inset Day	All Day
Monday 2nd September	Inset Day	All Day
Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Day	All Day

INSET DAYS 2019/2020

Monday 2 nd Sept 2019	Tuesday 3 rd Sept 2019	Friday 11 th Oct 2019	Monday 6 th Jan 2020	Friday 22 nd May 2020	Monday 20 th July 2020
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Dudley Term Dates 2019/2020

2019 Autumn Term—Term Starts: Monday 2 September 2019 **Half Term:** Monday 28 October 2019 to Friday 1 November 2019
Term Ends: Friday 20 December 2019

2020 Spring Term—Term Starts: Monday 6 January 2020 **Half Term:** Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020 **Term Ends:** Friday 3 April 2020

2020 Summer Term—Term Starts: Monday 20 April 2020 **Half Term:** Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020 **Term Ends:** Monday 20 July 2020

Academy Committee Representatives

We have an exciting opportunity for you to get involved in the life of St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

There is currently one vacancy for a Parent Representative. Therefore, you are invited to take part in the election of this role. The Articles of Association and Scheme of Delegation requires that the Academy Committee must include two parent Academy Committee members who have been elected by the parents/carers of registered students of the school and who themselves are parents/carers of registered students of the school at the time of their election. However, any parent who is an elected member of the local authority or employed to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve consecutive months is not eligible to be a Parent Academy Committee Member.

The position consists of serving on the Academy Committee for four years. Nomination forms are available from the school website or office and must be returned to the school no later than 12 noon on Monday 20th June 2019. Should one nomination be received by the official closing date, the candidate will be duly elected unopposed. In the event of there being two or more nominations, an election will take place on Friday 25th June 2019. Information on voting arrangements will be sent to you at a later date.

Please note that you should not participate in more nominations than there are vacancies. Each nomination requires two proposers.

The Academy Committee is also looking to fill the vacancies for the role of Foundation Academy Representative.

The term for this role is also four years. **Academy Foundation Representatives must be Catholic** and are appointed to the position of Academy Foundation Representative by the Director of Education of the Diocesan Education Service, on behalf of the Archbishop and Trustees of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

If you wish to discuss any of these roles or find out more information please contact Mrs Caroline Beech, Chair of the Academy Committee via email: cbeech@st-mary-bh.dudley.sc.uk

Holidays in term time

We do not authorise holidays during term time. In line with legislation, we refer unauthorised absence to the Education Investigation Service who have the power to issue penalty fines and in some cases, prosecutions.

Our attendance policy and a link to the government legislation is on our website. Please do not be offended because a request for holiday is refused – it is our clear policy and has been for several years – it is not fair to make exceptions and we are only complying with the law of the land.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Contribution to School Funds

Thank you to the small number of parents who have generously contributed to school funds either through a one off donation or have signed up to a monthly payment scheme. Every penny will help support the school through very challenging financial times. The government states that more money than ever is being invested into education, however, in real terms to schools this is not the case. With an increasing expenditure and an Income which does not reflect inflation, the school is having to make difficult decisions on which services are retained and removed whilst aiming to continue to improve standards. The PTA are always looking at ways to help support the school financially and I urge you to support any future events.

Support we can offer you

Our school nurse, Amy Emery, is available for appointments and runs regular drop-in sessions. Just ask at the office if you'd like to see Amy (she is excellent!). In addition, if you have any concerns about your child's learning, progress or emotional health and well-being our SENDCO, Miss Mosley, is here most Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and can offer a range of help and support as well as arranging appointments wherever necessary. If you feel you need any help or support just let us know – come and see Ms O' Beirne or Mrs Borriello and we will do our best to arrange the best support we can.

Polite Reminder

Please be reminded that when we release your child to you at the end of the school day, they immediately become your responsibility. Please do not allow your child to run off onto the field or out of the playground unaccompanied.

Please help us to maintain a quiet and respectful atmosphere at assembly and Mass

Please can we ask you to support the children and the staff by keeping assembly and Mass as a quiet and special time? Please avoid talking and using mobile phones and please supervise little ones as much as possible. We obviously don't expect babies and toddlers to be silent all of the time but please feel free to take your little one out into the main entrance area to settle them down if need be. Everyone of every age is always welcome for assembly and Mass but we do need to make sure it is a quiet and respectful time where all of the children and adults can concentrate and listen without being distracted. Your support and understanding is very much appreciated.



Let's be sure to treat each other with respect

It's very important that the school looks after families with the highest level of respect. We are very grateful to you for treating us with respect and care too. Even when you are upset about something – please remember we will do our best to sort it out for you.

Treating each other respectfully is an important part of life at St Mary's and it's important we look after each other well. A big thank you for your ongoing support. Please pass this message on to anybody who comes to the school on your behalf e.g. grandparents, uncles and aunts – it's very important that everyone treats each other respectfully at school.



Please remember your water bottle! A number of children have been coming to school without a water bottle.

It is very important that children take regular drinks throughout the day. Please ensure your child brings their water bottle in every day!

Attendance

As you know, good attendance is very important to us here at St Mary's and we are working hard to make sure that all children attend school as often as possible. I understand that children cannot help being ill, but I would urge parents to do their best to ensure that medical and dental appointments are made for outside of school hours.

I am no longer able to authorise holidays taken during term time. Please see our Attendance Policy on our website for details of fixed penalty notices which are now being issued by Dudley for holiday absences.

Mr Paul Weston, our Attendance Support Officer, will continue to monitor attendance and will issue letters to parents to alert them when their child's attendance falls below 95%, 93% and 90%.

He will also be visiting homes of children whose attendance has dropped significantly.

Before the end of the summer term Mr Weston will be holding an attendance clinic. Invitation letters will be issued in due course.



We hope you all have a wonderful half term. Please take a look at our website for Information about events and activities taking place in Dudley over the holiday.

Please remember we have an Inset day on Monday 3rd June, and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Tuesday 4th June.