



April Newsletter 2025

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02.05.2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

April has been a quieter month in school with the Easter break at its centre, but it has still offered us meaningful moments of reflection and togetherness.

Today, we marked the Easter season with a livestreamed prayer reflection—an opportunity to come together in faith and remember the heart of the Easter message: that through Christ’s resurrection, hope is renewed, and new life is possible.

The Easter message invites us to live with faith and purpose. As it says in the Gospel of John: *“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”* (John 10:10). In school, we give every child the chance to grow—in confidence, in curiosity, and in compassion—while recognising the dignity of each person and our shared responsibility to care for one another. These values, rooted in our faith, reflect the heart of Catholic Social Teaching.

This week, we also join with Catholics around the world in praying for Pope Francis, who sadly passed away. We give thanks for his leadership and deep commitment to peace, justice, and care for creation.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful weekend as we look ahead to the term to come.

Mrs Borriello

Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope



What is a Jubilee?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

What is the theme for the Jubilee Year?

The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door on Christmas Eve 2024 to begin the Jubilee year. In schools, this officially launched 24th January 2025.

The Jubilee Prayer

The official Prayer allows pilgrims from all over the world to use the same words to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness. The official prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Holy Year, this can be found in other languages on the website of the Jubilee. The Jubilee is an experience of faith and a profound encounter with the Lord.

Prayer Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Our Gospel Value and Virtue for Spring term 2 are: Attentive and Discerning.



We are growing to be attentive to our experience and to our vocation; and discerning about the choices we make and the effects of those choices.

Our Catholic school helps us grow by promoting the practice of attentive reflection and discerning decision making: in teaching, in the examen, prayer and retreats; and through the practice and example of school leaders and staff.

Why will you treat others as you would like to be treated?

Our Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle for Spring term 2 is:
Option for The Poor and Vulnerable.



The Headlines for this Newsletter:

- *Safeguarding*
- *Class Attendance*
- *Attendance - What does this mean?*
- *Lent Activities*
- *Local Links - Brierley Hill Library*
- *SEND - Dudley's Local Offer*
- *Dyslexia support*
- *Black Country CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops*
- *Dudley Family Information Service*
- *Celebrating our God-given talents*

- *Half Termly Dates*
- *Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for February*
- *Contact School*

Class Attendance - April



Reception: 88 %

Year 1: 94 %

Year 2: 90 %

Year 3 : 89%

Year 4: 86 %

Year 5: 85 %

Year 6: 91 %

National Average: 94.5 %

Attendance record and lessons missed

- 95% attendance means 50 missed lessons. This means a child missed about 10 days or 2 weeks of lessons in the school year.
- **90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.**
- 85% attendance means 150 missed lessons. This means the child misses almost 6 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 80% attendance means 200 missed lessons. This means the child misses over 7 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 75% attendance means 250 missed lessons. This means the child misses about 9 weeks of lessons in the school year

Punctuality

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year, that's 20 lessons missed
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year, that's 55 lessons missed
- Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to 19 days absence a year, that's 123 lessons missed

Attendance - What does this mean?

Attendance Matters



This newsletters' attendance is 89 %, which needs huge improvement! If you're unsure about your child's attendance, worried about getting them into school or just want advice and support then please come and speak with us. Together, we can work hard to improve this.

On average, this would mean that:

- **90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.**

Please do reflect on this; 100 missed lessons could cause significant interruption to children's learning and would mean that learning outcomes may not be as strong as they could be.

We would obviously love to be as close to 100% as we can. The government, rightly so, has a huge focus on attendance as, ["research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well."](#) There is a clear link between attendance and better outcomes so well done to everyone that has focussed on this; by doing so, you are prioritising a brighter future for your child/children.

Attendance is everyone's responsibility just like the safeguarding of every child and young person.

Please understand, that if attendance shows deterioration, you will be contacted - this is to establish a path forward so that we can raise the level of attendance, which is heavily linked to raising the performance of your child in their crucial education. We need to prioritise this so join us and work with us!

Thank you and God bless, Mr Lodge.

Lent Activities



Living Out Our Faith This Lent

Throughout Lent, the children at St Mary's have been deeply engaged in a variety of meaningful activities to support those in need and reflect on the true message of the season.

As part of the **Good Shepherd Appeal**, pupils in EYFS and KS1 took part in the **Big Lent Walk**, while KS2 enjoyed an energetic **sports afternoon** – all in aid of raising funds for **Father Hudson's Caritas**. We are proud to share that we have so far raised **£191** through sponsorships for this vital cause. A sincere thank you to everyone who has already returned their forms. If you haven't yet, please do so soon, and we will announce the final total raised in the coming weeks.

Children in EYFS and KS1 and KS2 also led a reverent and joyful **Lent Prayer Morning**, which was a beautiful moment of reflection and community. Thank you to the staff, children, and the many parents and family members who came along to support.

In addition to fundraising, our school-wide **Lenten mission** has focused on collecting donations for **Brushstrokes**, another initiative supported by Father Hudson's Caritas. We're pleased to announce that we have raised **£316.80**.

Well done to every class for their incredible generosity and effort. Together, we continue to bring the love and light of Jesus to those in our wider community. We are so proud of our St Mary's family for making such a positive impact this Lent!

Local Links - Brierley Hill Library



Sustaining Our Local Links with Brierley Hill Library

At St Mary's, we love encouraging a passion for reading, and we are delighted to continue strengthening our **local links with Brierley Hill Library!** The children have been excited to visit once again - **next to visit is Reception and Pre School on the 2nd April.**

Take a look at what's been happening around School



1 - Year 1



2 - Year 1



3 - Year 1



4 - Year 1



5 - Year 1



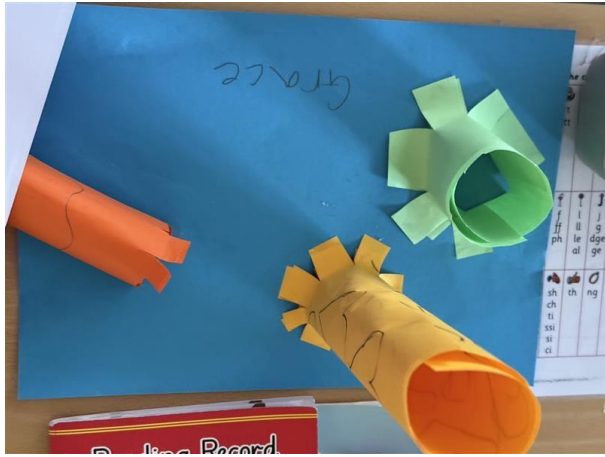
6 - Year 1



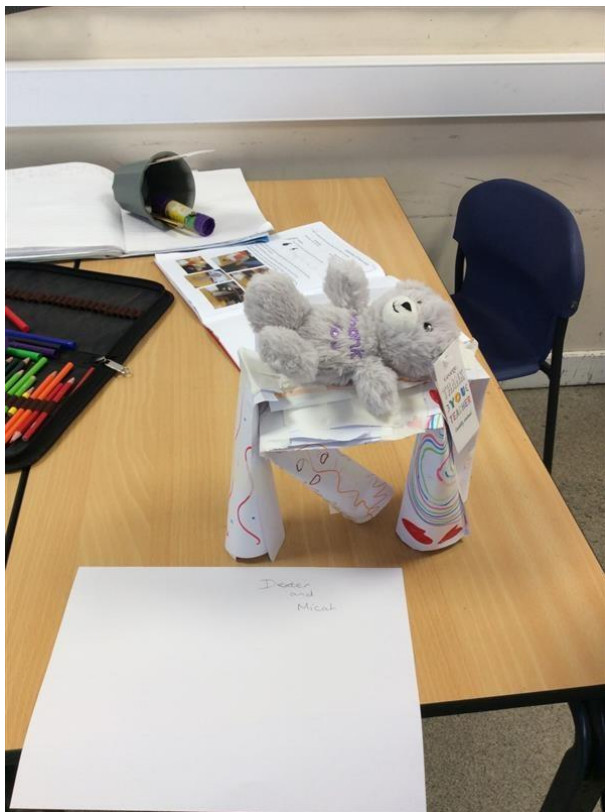
7 - Year 1



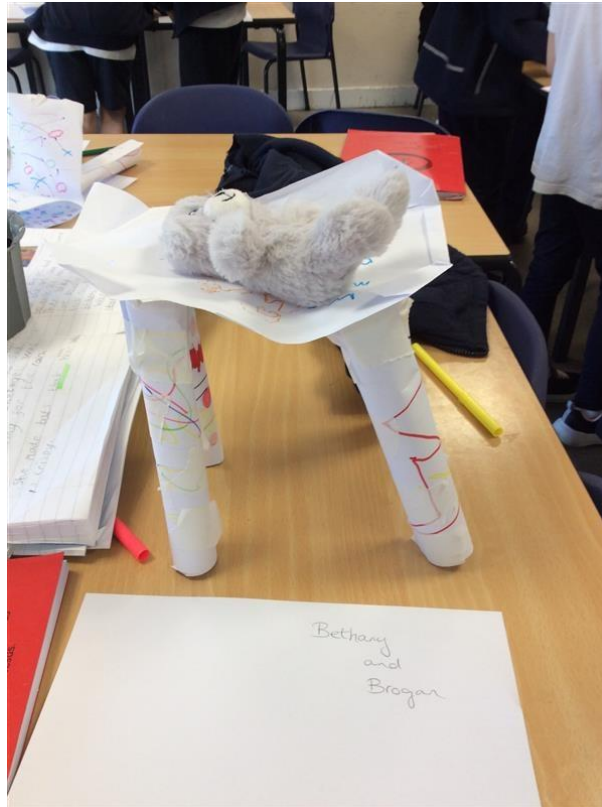
8 - Year 1



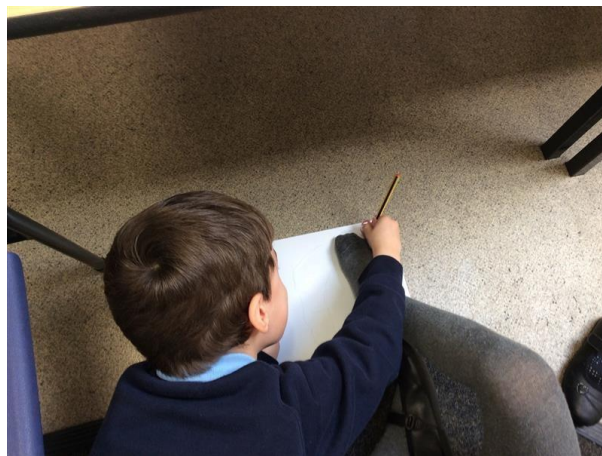
9 - Year 1



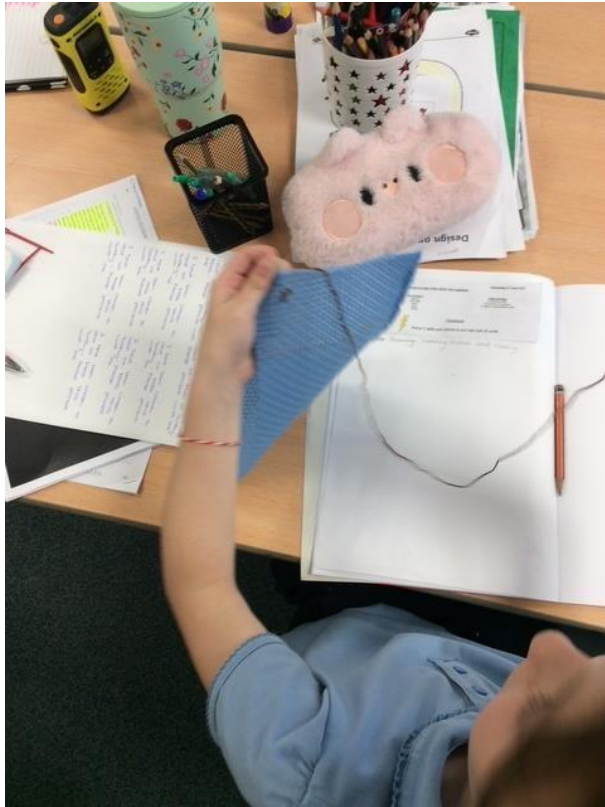
10 - Year 2



11 - Year 2



12 - Year 2



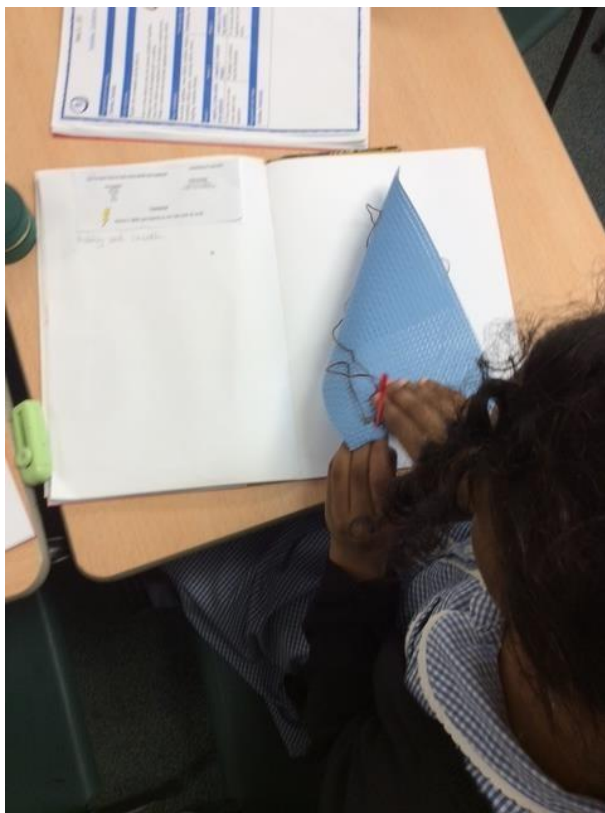
13 - Year 3



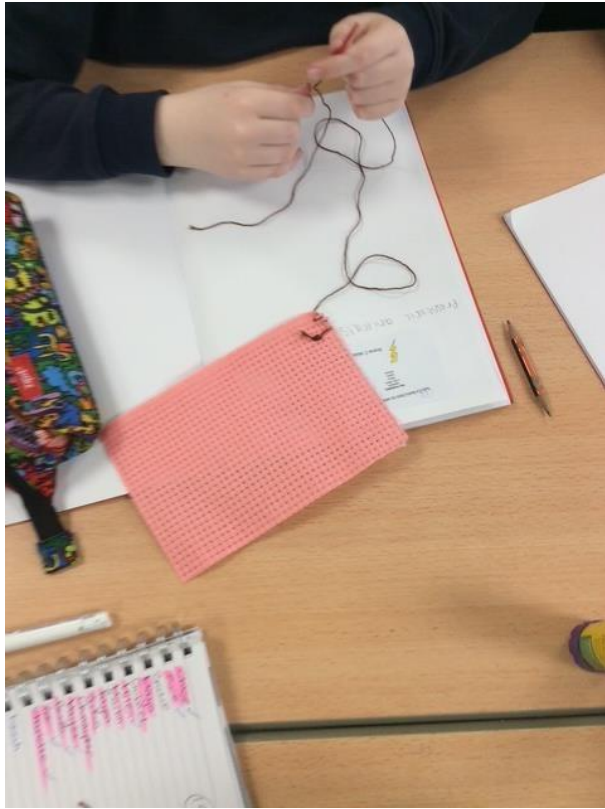
14 - Year 3



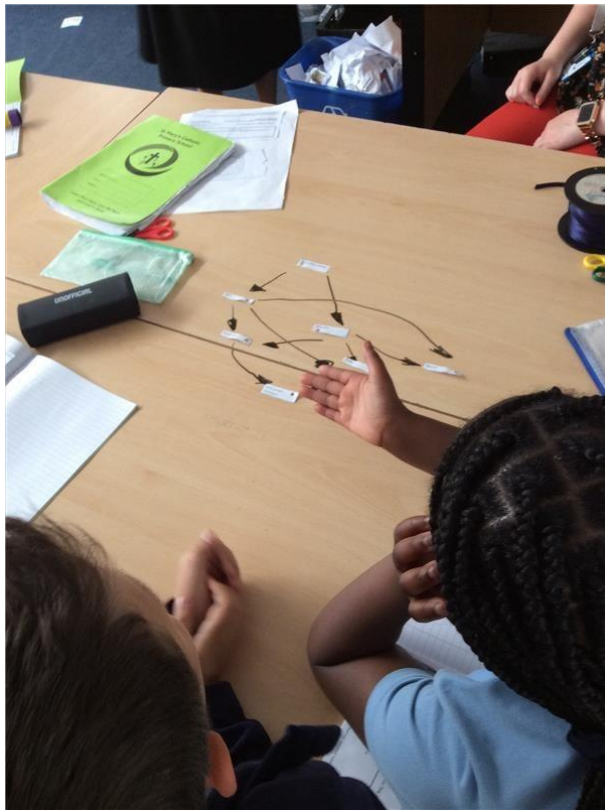
15 - Year 3



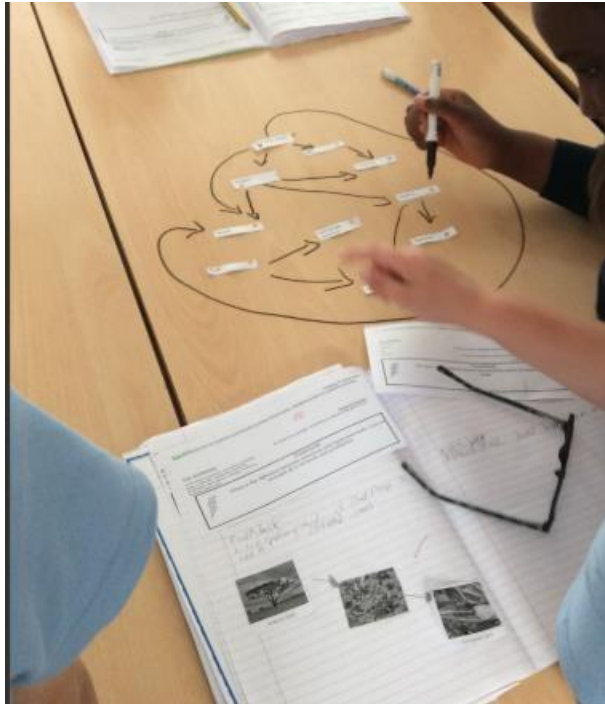
16 - Year 3



17 - Year 3



18 - Year 4



19 - Year 4

Notices



Half Termly Dates

May:

1.5.2025: Year 6 Class Mass
5.5.2025: May Day – Bank Holiday
8.5.2025: Mass - Year 5 Whole School Mass
VE Day 80th Anniversary and FHC Parent Meeting 3
12.5.2025: Mental Health Week Start
KS2 SATs Start
13.5.2025: STM Feast Day: Our Lady of Fatima
14.5.2025: FHC Practice - In church
15.5.2025: KS2 SATs End
16.5.2025: Mental Health Week End
VE Day- street party
Confirmation Meeting 3

Dates for the new school year:

Further dates for the term ahead are available on our website. If you require support accessing these, please contact our friendly office administrator, Mrs Bate, for additional help.

You Said, We Did:

We received feedback to say that there is not enough advanced notice for dates, so we have added them to the monthly newsletter! Please do continue to provide useful feedback that could be used to enhance your Saint Mary's experience.

We are also now giving parents a full week's notice for when your child is due to receive a Gifts of God certificate. Some exceptions will still apply, such when additional certificates are awarded.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for April



For the use of new technologies

Please join us as we continue Pope Francis' good work after his tragic passing.

"For the use of new technologies"

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

In his message, Pope Francis emphasized the importance of using technology to foster human connection rather than hinder it. He cautioned against excessive screen time, noting that it can cause us to forget the real people behind the devices. He encouraged the faithful to use technology to unite, assist the poor, improve the lives of the sick and differently-abled, and care for our common home. [Catholic News Agency](#)

This intention was part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, which invites Catholics globally to unite in prayer each month for specific challenges facing humanity and the Church.

Please join Pope Francis and the whole Church in praying these monthly intentions, particularly on Fridays at 12.30pm.

Safeguarding



If you find you are ever facing something challenging in your family life, please come and see us. We are always here to help you and your child(ren).

Early Help

An Early Help Assessment is a great way of getting your family some support, whether it be with your child's behaviour, their sleeping pattern or social and emotional wellbeing, or something that effects the whole family, housing and finances, for example.

It involves a meeting with professionals from different agencies (dependent on your family's individual needs) and a plan will be put in place to show the different support you will receive and who is responsible for getting this done.

It is not input from Social Services: it is there as a support tool only, for a variety of different reasons.

If you have any questions, or feel you may benefit from this, please contact Ms Mosley on 01384 985 005, or contact the school office to arrange an appointment to see her.

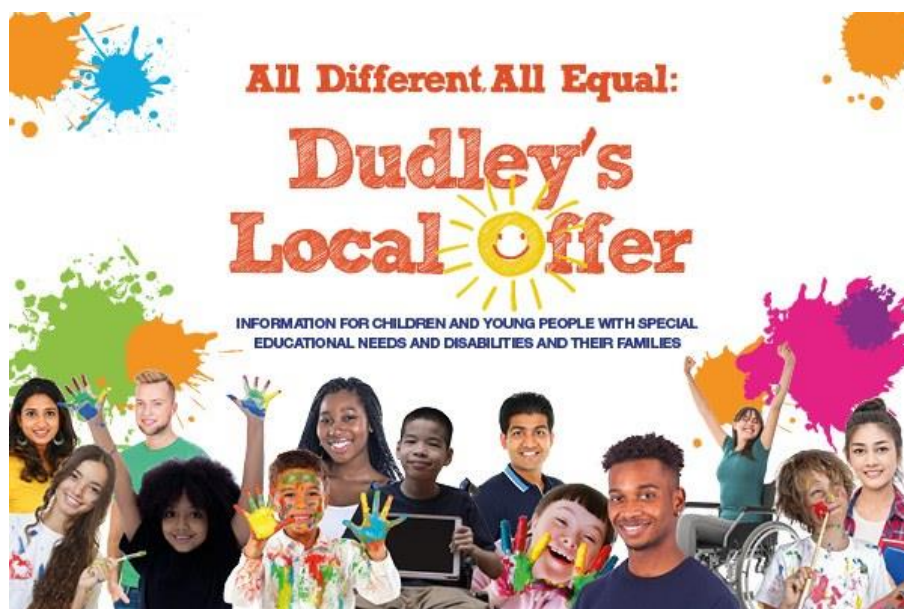
Safeguarding

Please be aware that we have a duty of care to all children at St. Mary's and this may mean we need to contact Social Services/Family Support for advice or to report a situation. We understand that this can be distressing for those involved, but please be assured that we **always** have your child's best interests at heart.

If you have any concern or worry about another member of the St. Mary's School community, please don't hesitate to contact any of our DSLs (Designated Safeguarding

Leads): Mr Lodge, Miss Clewley or Ms Mosley. Our Interim Executive Principal, Mr Wilkes, will also be a member of our DSL team too.

SEND - Dudley's Local Offer



Dudley's Local Offer

The Local Offer is full of information and advice on things to support you and your child with Special Educational Needs or disabilities. If you need advice on health, education, social care and community support for you and your family visit the Local Offer website:

www.localoffer.dudley.sch.uk

Dudley Parent Carer Forum

Parents and carers from across Dudley borough who have children with disabilities and special needs are being invited to join the Dudley Parent Carer Forum.

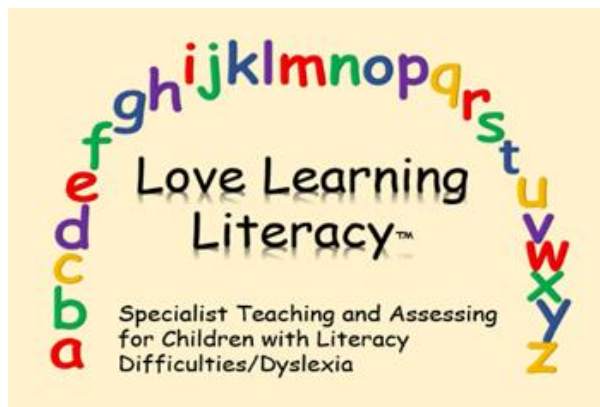
Dudley Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parent carers of children and young people (0-25 years) with disabilities and additional needs. The forum provides a safe environment for parent carers of children with disabilities or additional needs to share their thoughts and concerns and to empower them to have their voices heard in a way that influences change and service design.

Any parent carer of a child with a disability or additional needs, residing in Dudley borough can become a member.

For more information contact the forum via their Facebook page or by their website: www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk/

Events and workshops for people with SEND

Dudley SENDIAS (special educational needs & disabilities information advice and support) Service is running a range of online activities over the coming months to help parents and carers or young people with SEND. Find out more at <https://dudleyci.co.uk/workshops-and-events>



20 - Does your child have literacy difficulties/dyslexia? Would you like them to improve their reading and writing in the comfort of their own home?

I create and teach interactive, multisensory Online lessons using Dyslexia Action's highly effective Structured Literacy Programme. After an informal assessment, each lesson is tailored to your child's needs to ensure enjoyable progress. Lessons are for children aged 5-11 years and can be 30/40 minutes or one hour.

For more information, please contact Vee Bird (Specialist Dyslexia Teacher) on 07554 253 703 or write to: //lovelearningliteracy@gmail.com

Thank you,

Vee Bird (MSc, PGCE, Associate of The Dyslexia Guild)

Dudley Family Information Service



Please click on the following link to access the latest bulletin from Dudley's Family Information Service:

[Family Information Summer Newsletter \(govdelivery.com\)](http://govdelivery.com)

Polite reminder - teachers can be contacted using the class email address or through making a telephone appointment through the Main Office. Teachers will reply as soon as possible, during normal working hours. Out of school hours, in an emergency, you can contact us by completing this form here: <https://st-mary-bh.sch.life/page/detail/contact-school-1>



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Visit us on the web at [St. Mary's Website](#)