

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

May 2016

Year of Mercy



On May 5th, the Holy Father presided at a Vigil dedicated to those who suffer in soul and body. The purpose of the prayer vigil was to dry faces streaked with the tears of physical or spiritual suffering and to bring them consolation. This Jubilee event was aimed at being a visible sign of the merciful hand of the Father extended to dry the tears of a mother or father who have lost a child; or of a child who has lost a parent; of someone who is fighting sickness; of someone who is out of work and cannot find a job; of someone who lives in a situation of family discord; of someone who feels alone because they are elderly; of someone who has suffered an injustice, or of someone who cannot find the sense of his or her life, or who has lost it. The sufferings—large or small—that every person carries inside are many and varied, but they all have in common that they bring "a struggle" to life and, often, a lack of hope and faith.

Attendance

I am sure that you have heard in the media about the court case where a father objected to a fine being issued for taking his daughter out of school during term time for a holiday. It was interesting that the high court agreed to this considering the child's attendance was only 93% which is below national expectations and would be classed as a cause for concern at any school. Currently Head teachers are categorically governed to not authorise any holidays during term time and only exceptional circumstances for absence are to be considered. We value your child's education and stress the importance of your child attending school during term time so that this does not impact on their learning. We await the response and guidance from the government with this matter. Thank you for your continued support.



SATs Week



Well done to Year 2 and Year 6 for all their hard work before and during SATs week. They all tried their hardest and that is all that we can ask of them. Thank you to the rest of the school for your prayers and showing consideration to Year 6 during the tests.

Thank you

Many thanks to the Parish of St Mary's for their kind donation of £300 to our Stations of the Cross. We are very grateful.



Year 3 First Holy Communion



On Saturday 21st May the children from Year 3 received their First Holy Communion in our Parish Church of St. Mary's. Other children from Year 3 also came to support their friends at the celebration. It was a lovely and very special Mass. The Mass was followed by a Communion breakfast back at school. A lovely day was had by all. You will soon be able to read more about this and see more photographs in the events section of our school website.

Run a Mile with the Mayor

On Wednesday 18th May we were delighted to welcome The Lord Mayor of Dudley, Mr Steve Waltho and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Jayne Waltho to St Mary's. They came to run a mile with the children from Key Stage 2 to support us in starting to run the Daily Mile, and also to raise awareness of the charities that they are supporting during their year of office, which comes to an end tomorrow. To begin with, the weather was against us and torrential rain led us to start the run in the hall, but after a while the rain cleared and we were able to move outside. Well done to all the children and staff who ran a mile. Thank you to the Mayor and Mayoress for making St Mary's one of the schools that they are visiting during a busy two days. Since their visit a number of children and children and staff have made The Daily Mile part of their daily routine.



Warmer weather

We are hoping that the sun will continue to shine on us during the coming weeks so that the children are able to make the most of being outside. We would ask that parents apply a long lasting sun cream to their children before sending them to school as staff are no longer allowed to apply it in school.



Please also make sure that your child brings a sun hat and a water bottle to school, particularly on PE days.

Big Board Game Day for the NSPCC



On Friday 27th May we held a 'Big Board Game Day' to support the NSPCC. Children brought traditional board games to school such as Monopoly, Connect 4, Boggle etc. They were asked to make a donation of at least 50P to be able to spend time in the afternoon playing one of the board games which were brought in. The money has yet to be counted, so we will let you know the total raised for the NSPCC in the next newsletter.

For more information look at www.nspcc.org.uk/BoardGameDay

Parents' Forum



The first meeting of the St Mary's Parents' Forum was held on Friday 20th May at 2:00pm. This was just a taster to see how this could work, but was a very positive session. The date of the next meeting is **Friday 10th June at 2pm**. Everyone is welcome and the focus of the session will be the school library. We would like to think of ideas to get the maximum benefit from this room and our English Lead, Mrs Brereton, will be at the meeting to join the discussion.

Catering Assistants wanted

Dudley MBC are recruiting catering assistants to work in schools across the borough. It is an ideal opportunity to find work which fits around school hours. If you would like more information, you could go to one of their recruitment fairs which are listed below, or call 01384 814322.

Stourbridge Library	22nd June	10:30—2:30
Halesowen Library	27th June	10:30—2:30
Dudley Library	28th June	10:00—3:00
Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre	29th June	10:30—2:30



The Dudley Trail



Well done to Jacob in Year 4 who completed the Dudley trail on May 1st. This was a challenging walk in the heart of the 'Black Country' within and around the boundary of Dudley Borough. Jacob managed to walk 6 miles in 1 hour and 55 minutes.

Walk to School Week

The week beginning Monday 16th May was Walk to School Week. Well done to those children who walked to school every day. They will have received a sticker and a certificate for this.



Hagley School Band



On Friday 27th May we were treated to a visit from Mr Mallinson and the band from Hagley Catholic High School. The students showed how their instruments work. This included flutes, clarinets and guitars. The band then accompanied our children while they sang a selection of their favourite hymns. Many thanks to the students from Hagley. We look forward to their next visit on 15th July.

Friends of St Mary's Summer Fair

This year's Summer Fair will be held on Friday 1st July. Many thanks to everyone who sent in bottles for our bottle stall last week. We will be asking for donations of toys and books for other stalls. In return, children may wear their own clothes that day. If you would be available to help out with our preparations or running a stall then please contact school or Bridget Mauldrige. All offers of help will be gratefully received.



Maths Workshops

Over the next few weeks Mrs Berry will be holding a series of workshops for parents and carers to help them to support their children with written calculation methods. Each workshop will focus on the stages of development for the next school year. Dates are as follows:

Reception	Monday 6th June	2:30pm
Year 1	Thursday 9th June	2:30pm
Year 2	Friday 17th June	2:30pm
Year 3	Wednesday 22nd June	2:30pm
Year 4	Tuesday 28th June	2:30pm
Year 6	Wednesday 29th June	2:30pm



Year 1 Phonics Screening

This year the Phonics Screening for Year 1 children will take place during the week beginning Monday 13th June. These are important assessments and this is the only week during which they can be carried out. Please make sure that your child is in school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.

SEN

We are pleased to announce that St Mary's SEN Parent Forum has recently been set up: Mrs Sarah Harris-Tigh was elected Chair, Mrs Rachel Ashlee, Deputy Chair and Mrs Christina Dunne-Anderson was elected Clerk. The Forum will meet again on Tuesday 14th June, straight after Year 3 Mass. Everybody is welcome to attend! St Mary's SEN Children's Forum have decided to call themselves 'The Achievers', the group will meet every half term and discuss ways in which they can raise awareness around difficulties some children might encounter in respect of their learning. Mrs Montague the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is in school on Monday and Tuesday and can be contacted via email: SEN@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk. See the school website for more information!

Fundraising Event for Hollie

Thank you to everyone who bought cakes or made donations to the SMA Trust on 22nd April. This raised £105.50.

On Friday 24th June there will be a fundraising evening at the Hare and Hounds pub in Wynall Lane, Stourbridge with music from Ready Eddies Rock and Blues Band. Tickets for this event are £5 each and are available to buy from Mrs Hambridge. The proceeds of this evening will go towards buying a new wheelchair for Hollie who is a pupil at St Mary's and suffers from Spinal Muscular Atrophy.



Happy Birthday Your Majesty



Two of our pupils have had royal connections recently. Amour and her Brownie group made birthday cards for the Queen's 90th birthday which were sent to her. Amour has a letter which was sent by one of the Queen's ladies in Waiting saying how much Her Majesty had enjoyed looking at the cards. Amour and her brother, Ash were also treated to seats at the Queen's birthday celebrations which were held in the grounds of Windsor Castle on Sunday 15th May. The event was also broadcast on television. This was a surprise treat and Amour and Ash had a fantastic time.

Half Term Activities

As usual, there are plenty of activities planned for the half term holiday around Dudley Borough along with a variety of play schemes. If you are looking for something to get the children out and about and active, then you can find details on the Family Information Service of the Dudley website at:

<https://fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd/>

Click on the 'What's On' section for some great ideas.



I hope that you have a very enjoyable half term break and I look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 6th June at 8:50am.

Ms O'Beirne
Principal



Mass and Class Assemblies

Tuesday 14th June	Mass	Year 3
Thursday 16th June	Mass of Anointment for Year 6 at St Mary's Church	
Friday 8th July	Reception and Pre-School Assembly	
Friday 15th July	Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Mary's Church	
Sunday 17th July	Celebration Mass at St Mary's Church	
Tuesday 19th July	Leavers' Mass	

Important Dates

Friday 27th May	Break up for Half Term holiday
Monday 6th June	Children return to school
Monday 6th June	Reception Maths Workshop 2:30pm
Wednesday 8th June	Year 6 and Reception photographs
Thursday 9th June	Year 1 Maths Workshop 2:30pm
Friday 10th June	Parent Forum meeting 2pm. All welcome
Friday 17th June	Year 2 Maths Workshop 2:30pm
Monday 20th June	Sports week begins
Monday 20th June	Sports Day: KS1 am, KS2 pm
Wednesday 22nd June	Year 3 Maths Workshop 2:30pm
Thursday 23rd June	Enforced School closed for EU referendum (INSET day for staff)
Friday 24th June	Olympic Workshop. 2:20pm Parents welcome
Tuesday 28th June	Year 4 Maths Workshop 2:30pm
Wednesday 29th June	Year 5 Maths Workshop 2:30pm
Friday 1st July	Friends of St Mary's Summer Fair
Tuesday 5th July	Road Safety Officer to see Year 6
Wednesday 6th July	Y6 transition Day to Hagley
Thursday 14th July	Hagley Induction Evening for Y6 parents
Friday 15th July	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y2 at St Mary's Church 11:00am
Friday 15th July	Hagley Band Tour
Thursday 21st July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly
Thursday 21st July	Last day of term
Friday 22nd July	First day of Summer Holiday
Monday 5th September	INSET day for staff
Tuesday 6th September	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.