



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

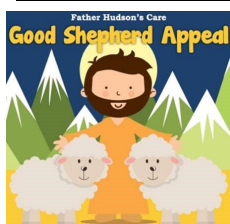


Lent

This year Lent begins on Wednesday 1st March. In Pope Francis' message for Lent 2017 he says, "Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive."

On Friday 10th March we will be holding a Lenten Retreat Day in school. Look out for details of this in our events section on our new website.

Lent 2017: Time for the Good Shepherd Appeal



St Mary's Catholic Primary School is taking part in Father Hudson's Care's Good Shepherd Appeal. This is a tradition among Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham stretching back more than a century. Children have been given a self-assembly collecting box. Please support your child and encourage them through Lenten sacrificial giving and abstinence to put money that might otherwise have been spent on sweets and treats into the collecting box.

Father Hudson's Care is the social care agency of the Archdiocese and a registered charity (number 512992). It helps those in need of all ages, regardless of race or religion, through the Family Support Service in schools, care for disabled adults and elderly people, support for lonely, disadvantaged and vulnerable people in society and by finding foster parents for children in care. There is more information online at www.fatherhudsons.org.uk

School Building Fund

In Catholic schools there is a legal liability to pay 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work. To ensure that we are able to meet this legal liability, (which will ensure that our schools are properly maintained and necessary building work is undertaken), we invite parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5 per child per half-term or where more than one child attends St Mary's School, £7.50 per half-term, (there are six half-terms in the school year). This equates to 58p per child per week.

All monies raised are used exclusively for St. Mary's School. The money does not go into a large fund for the Archdiocese, so St. Mary's benefits directly from the monies which are raised. For each £1.00 we raise for the School Building Fund, the Government will give us £9.00 for St. Mary's. Therefore, every £1.00 that is donated has tremendous buying power to improve our school for your children and, as you can see, no donation is too small. If you are worried that you may not be able to afford the contributions to the fund, please give what you can.

We can now accept payments for the School Building Fund by direct payment from your bank. The Standing Order Authority form can be found on our new school website along with a Gift Aid form which allows us to claim the tax paid on any donations.

New Website

School Life We now have a lovely new website which has been set up for us by School Life. This website makes it much easier for us to update information quickly and we love the new design. We have already received some very positive feedback about it.

There is also an app which you can download to your phone or tablet which enables us to send push notifications to your email address. Many of you have already sent email addresses into school, but we do not yet have all of them. Please let us have the forms for this back as soon as possible so that we can add your details to our mailing list.

SMA Trust

If you have any unused unwanted Christmas gifts, The SMA Trust would be very grateful if you could donate them as raffle prizes for this year's annual ball. They can be left at the school office.



School Nurse Drop-ins

Our school nurse will be holding monthly drop-in sessions on the following **Wednesdays** between **9am and 10am**. If you have any health concerns for your child, eg asthma, diet, sleep, recurring illness, then you can come along at any time to speak with her and she will advise you of any support available.:



15th March, 26th April.

Sainsburys Active Kids



Active Kids 2017 is back. With your help, we'd love to try and encourage even more children at school to eat well, move well and live well this year. What cooking and sports equipment would your children like to get their hands on? Spread the word Encourage people in our community to collect and donate as many vouchers as possible. Please post your vouchers in our collection box which is outside the front office. Vouchers can be collected in store and online at Sainsbury's from 25th January until 2nd May. Collecting for Active Kids is a great way for parents, children and communities to pull together - so remind everyone to jump into action.

Hagley Pyramid concert

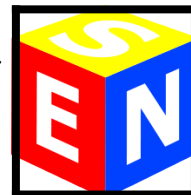
Well done to everyone in Year 5 who travelled into Birmingham for a very long day on Thursday 16th February. They first attended a Mass in St Chad's Cathedral to celebrate the second year of the St Nicholas Owen Multi Academy Company. They then walked to Birmingham Town Hall to begin rehearsals for their evening concert. During the evening, Year 5 performed along with children from all of the other Academy schools, singing songs by stars from 'A Night at the Movies'. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.



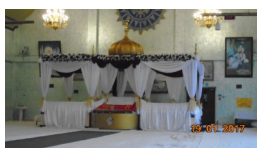
SEN Parents Meetings

The St Mary's SEN Parents Forum will be holding their next meeting on **Tuesday 21st March 2017 from 9:15–10:30am**. Please let Miss Mosley or Sarah Harris-Tighe know if you are able to attend.

Individual SEN Parents meetings will take place on **Tuesday 4th April between 8:30am and 12:30pm**; and on **Thursday 7th April between 1:30pm and 5:30pm**. Appointment letters will be sent out after half term. Look out for flyers about SEN parent workshops which will be starting next half term.



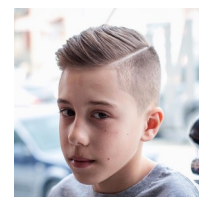
Years 3 and 4 visit a Gurdwara



On Thursday 19th January Years 3 and 4 visited the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick where they learnt about the Sikh religion and the importance of the 5Ks. They covered their heads, removed their shoes and washed their hands as a sign of respect. They visited the prayer hall then went to the Langar where they shared a meal of vegetarian food.

Hairstyles

We are still having some children coming to school with severe haircuts. Our School uniform policy states 'Hair shaving and sculpting (e.g. tram lines, ticks and other shavings) are not allowed.' The full policy can be viewed on our website.



Ms O'Beirne
Principal

Academy Prayer

Lord, fill our hearts and minds as we move forwards together. Enable us to work with one another to ensure that our community continues to develop and grow, for the benefit of all Amen

Academy Motto

In Jesus we live learn and serve.

Event	Date	Time
Masses		
Mini-Vinnies Mass—Ash Wednesday / St David	Wednesday 1st March	9:15am
Year 1 Mass—Lent	Tuesday 14th March	9:15am
Year 6 Mass—Holy Week	Tuesday 4th April	9:15am
Year 2 Mass—Our Lady	Tuesday 2nd May	9:15am
Reception Mass	Tuesday 16th May	9:15am
Prayer Leaders Mass	Tuesday 6th June	9:15am
Year 3 Mass—Sacred Heart	Tuesday 20th June	9:15am
Staff Mass	Tuesday 4th July	9:15am
Year 4 Mass—Leavers	Tuesday 18th July	9:15am
Class Assemblies		
Year 1	Friday 17th February	9:15am
St Patrick's Day	Friday 17th March	9:15am
Year 4	Friday 5th May	9:15am
Year 5	Friday 16th June	9:15am
Reception and Pre-School	Friday 7th July	9:15am
Year 6 (Graduation assembly)	Friday 21st July	9:15am
Future important dates		
Parents' consultation meetings	Wednesday 8th March	5pm—8pm
Parents' consultation meetings	Thursday 9th March	3:15pm—5.15pm
Lenten Retreat Day	Friday 10th March	
Vivo Concert for choir at Dyddlet Town Hall	Thursday 16th March	
KS2 Production	Thursday 6th April	Afternoon & evening
First Holy Communion, St. Mary's Church (Year 3)	Saturday 20 th May 2017	11am
First Holy Communion Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 21 st May 2017	11am
First Reconciliation (Year 2), St Mary's Church	Friday 7th July 2017	11am
First Reconciliation Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 9th July 2017	11am

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.

2016-2017 Term Dates

Friday 17th February 2017	Break up for half term
Monday 27th February 2017	School re-opens
Friday 7th April 2017	School closes for Easter break
Monday 24th April 2017	Start of term—School opens
Monday 1st May 2017	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 4th May 2017	Enforced closure for local elections
Friday 26th May 2017	Break up for Half Term
Monday 5th June 2017	School re-opens
Friday 21st July 2017	End of term—School closes for summer

Teacher Training Days for 2016-2017

Thursday 4th May (enforced closure- voting station) 2017
Monday 23rd of July 2017
Tuesday 24th of July 2017

