

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

June 2016

Year of Mercy



The month of June is dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus. This month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical colour green. This symbol of hope is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our pilgrimage to heaven during which we hope for reward.



Our Values and Virtues focus for this half term is 'Learned and Wise'.

Attendance

Please remember to give the nature of your child's illness when leaving a telephone message, along with an indication of how long you expect your child to be absent from school so that we can authorise the absence.

Sports week

Last week the children had the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of sporting activities as part of our annual Sports Week. We are grateful to everyone who came into school to lead sporting activities. It is unfortunate that the weather spoilt our Sports Day on Monday 20th June, but the weather has been much kinder to us today and the children had a lovely morning. Thank you to everyone who came to cheer the children on.

We ended Sports Week with a special Olympic Day which looked forward to the Summer Olympic Games which will be taking place in Rio. Each class has a go at dances from different countries following an 'Opening Ceremony' assembly. The day finished with a workshop for children and parents and a closing ceremony.



Vocation day

We are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to come to support Year 6's Vocation Day on Wednesday 22nd June. We had a wide range of careers present including fire and police services, nursing, teaching, carpentry, accountancy and recruitment. The children were very interested to hear about the different types of work and were hopefully given some ideas for their future careers.

Well done

It was lovely to receive a letter from the Birmingham Botanical Gardens following the visit made by Years 3 and 4 on Friday 10th June. The letter, which was sent by the Education Manager, said that he was very impressed with the behaviour and attitude of the pupils. He said, "They were all so excited and enthusiastic about the teaching session and their behaviour and attitude were impeccable as they remained engaged throughout.

Furthermore, they were all extremely polite and courteous to members of the public, gardens staff and other school children as they undertook activities around the site." We are thrilled when the good behaviour of St Mary's children is recognised and we are very proud of the children who represented their school so well.



Briony has been competing again and has a variety of rosettes that she won with her horse and her dogs. She has been to the South Staffs Show with her horse, Mary, and her dogs, Flora, Bluebell and Elsa have won rosettes at Worcester Animal Rescue Centre and Kings Heath Dog show. Meanwhile Wiktorina has been working hard at gymnastic classes and has achieved levels 6, 7 and 8 in the British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards.



On Wednesday 29th June Year 6 won The Mill Street Challenge. This involved competing in football, netball and rounders against Brierley Hill Primary School. We take part in this challenge every year and it is lovely to be able to meet up with children from another school for a morning of sports fun. It is great to see that they children of St Mary's are so active.

Sun Protection

This has not turned out to be the scorching summer that we were promised a few months ago. Even so, we must be mindful of the fact that we may see the sun again between now and the end of term if we are lucky. You should have received a letter earlier this week about sun cream. If you have not yet seen it then please check your child's bag or ask Mrs Hambridge for another copy.



Parents Forum



This month's Parent Forum meeting was held on Friday 10th June and was led by Mrs Brereton. The focus of the meeting was the school library and the discussion focussed on how we can get the most out of this fantastic resource. Thanks you to everyone who came. The next meeting will now be held in September as the last month of term is such a busy time for everyone.

Mass of Anointing

On Thursday 16th June Year 6 attended a Mass of Anointing at St Mary's Catholic Church in Brierley Hill. Learning about this special Mass for those who are unwell is part of the Year 6 curriculum and the children's preparation for confirmation. They sang during the Mass then enjoyed lunch with the congregation at the Parish Centre.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Friday 15th July Year 2 will be going to St Mary's Church for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is part of their preparation for making their first confession and Holy Communion.

New Intake for September

It has been lovely to welcome the children who will be joining us in Reception in September and their parents. It has been good to see some familiar faces, but it is also nice to welcome some new families to St Mary's. We hope that you will enjoy being part of the St Mary's community.



Friends of St Mary's Summer Fair



We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come along and support our summer fair on Friday 1st July at 3:15pm. There will be raffle tickets on sale on the gate. Details of prizes for the raffle were on a flyer sent out earlier this week. Stalls include cakes, refreshments, 'Guess the name of the Teddy', 'Guess how many sweets are in the jar' along with lots of fun and games. Bring your friends and family along. Everyone is welcome.

Building fund money

We are now able to accept Building Fund money direct from your bank account. Please see Mrs Hambridge for details of the account that the money needs to be paid into. You may continue to send cash or cheques into school if you prefer.

Big Board Game Day

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Big Board Game Day in aid of the NSPCC. We raised £54.00 for this worthy cause.



School Closure

Due to industrial action being taken by the National Union of Teachers, school will be closed to pupils on Tuesday 5th July. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause, but this is beyond our control. Pre-School will be open as usual.

School Dinners



As from September the price of school meals will be increasing to £2.20 per day. May we remind parents that if you receive certain benefits then you may be entitled to free school meals for your child. Details of how to apply online can be found on the Dudley MBC website. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 it is still worthwhile applying as this increases the amount of Pupil Premium Funding that is allocated to the school.

After School Clubs

We continue to have a wide range of after school clubs running at the moment, including a new drama club which is starting today. It will be on every Thursday after school. If you have a budding thespian in the family who would like to join, then please see Mrs Hambridge for a letter.



Ms O'Beirne
Principal

Mass and Class Assemblies

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 1st July	Friends of St Mary's Summer Fair 3:15pm
Tuesday 5th July	School closed
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.

