



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

November 2015

Advent

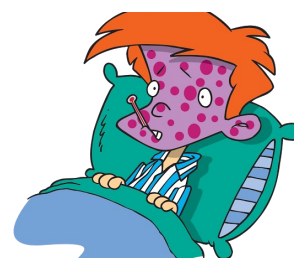


Sunday 29th November was Advent Sunday. This Sunday marks the start of the liturgical year and it begins the preparations to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a busy time in school with plays, a Christmas Mass and a special carol service on the last day of term where children can bring in their own baby Jesus to be blessed by Fr Cecil. Please check the list of dates at the end of this newsletter to find out what will be happening and when.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our overall attendance for the first half of the Autumn Term was 96.49%. The top three classes for the first half-term are:

1st:	Year 5	98.28%
2nd:	Year 3	97.83%
3rd:	Year 2	97.35%



During the first half of the term there were more than 80 days of unauthorised absences. Many of these are because we have not been informed of the reason for a child's absence by their parents. Please ensure that the school is informed of the reason for your child being absent from school. If leaving a recorded message please include details of the nature of any illness, eg sickness, and an indication of how long you expect your child to be away from school.

The Friends of St Mary's - your school's Parent/Teacher Association



Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair on Friday, by sending donations, helping out on stalls or coming along to buy our Christmas goodies. We are delighted to have raised a total of £700 for the school. The following people have won prizes in the Christmas Raffle and have not yet claimed them: Myenna (Y3), Naomi (Y4), Olivia (Y1), Sophie (Y1), and Holy(Y3) . Please contact Bridget Mauldridge on 07599 080634 to claim your prize.

Breakfast With Santa will be taking place on Saturday 5th December. You should have received your tickets for this by now if you have ordered any. No more bookings can now be taken as food has been ordered.

Thank you from Ms Maher

We have received a postcard from Ms Maher from her travels to Denmark, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden. She said that her cruise took her to places that she thought she would never be able to see. She asked that her thanks should be passed on to the people who contributed to her leaving gift which enabled her to enjoy such a great experience.



Special Mention



A special mention goes to Mr and Mrs Connolly who have been coming to St Mary's for 50 years. Their daughter started coming to St Mary's in April 1988 and they are still coming on a regular basis to bring their grandchildren. Their latest entry to the school is now in Pre-School so we look forward to many more years' association with the school.

School Admissions September 2016

Applications for Reception in September 2016 should be made to the local authority by 15th January 2016. If you have a sibling starting next September remember that you need to provide the school with a copy of their baptismal certificate in order for them to apply as a Catholic.

For full details of Dudley's scheme and to apply online for a school place, please go to www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions or call 01384 814223 if you need further assistance.

Year 6 Confirmation

Congratulations to all of the children in Year 6 who made their confirmation on 23rd November. This is an important step for these children on their journey of faith. Thank you to everyone who came along to support these children on this special occasion.



Jesse Tree at Parish Centre



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) will be at the Parish Centre on 5th December from 12pm to 2.30pm. This will be a great opportunity for children to meet out of school in a parish setting and further their spiritual journey whilst being in a friendly and fun environment.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who sent in a Christmas Parcel for Operation Christmas Child. We received a large number of gifts which were gratefully received by the two gentlemen who came to collect them. Thank you for your generosity.



Anti Bullying Week



The week beginning Monday 16th November, was Anti Bullying Week. Every class took part in activities which focused on what bullying is, how it makes people feel and how we can support each other to stop bullying from happening.

On Friday we had a special assembly to which parents were invited. Each class shared the work that they had been doing during the week and what they had learnt about bullying. Our Anti Bullying Ambassadors reminded us

that we should not just think about bullying for one week of the year, but be looking out for it all year round. For advice on dealing with bullying, have a look at the links on our website for useful links, or go to www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk.

Wear a Christmas Jumper

One of our anti bullying ambassadors has suggested that pupils and staff could pay £1 to wear a Christmas jumper to school. The money raised will be used to buy a buddy bench for in the playground.



Microsoft Office to use at home



We have now secured a licence for children who currently attend St Mary's to be able to download a free copy of Microsoft Office to use on a computer at home. You can download this up to 5 times on to Windows or Apple computers / tablets. Details of how to download this will be on the school website in the new year. This will help them to continue their learning at home.

Ms O' Beirne - Principal

Mass and Class Assemblies

Tuesday 15th December	9:15am	Mass	Year 6	Christmas
Friday 18th December	9:15am	Carol service and Baby Jesus blessing with Fr Cecil		

2016

Friday 22nd January	2:30pm	Reception Class Assembly		
Tuesday 26th January	9:15am	Mass	Year 2	

Important Dates

Saturday 5th December	Breakfast With Santa
Thursday 10th December	Key Stage 1 Production 1:30pm and 6:30pm
Friday 11th December	Wear a Christmas Jumper
Thursday 17th December	Christmas lunch
Friday 18th December	Children break up for Christmas

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Monday 4th January 2016	INSET day for staff. School closed to children
Tuesday 5th January	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.