



## 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](http://www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk)

May 2017

### Whitsun



Whit Sunday or Pentecost Sunday always falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter. Pentecost means "fiftieth day". It is celebrated 50 days from Easter Sunday (including Easter Sunday in the counting), hence its name. It is also the tenth day after Ascension Thursday, which is 40 days after Easter Sunday. In the liturgical year it has become a feast commemorating what is described by some as "the birthday of the Church". Pentecost marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. On Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, they were granted the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those gifts helped them to fulfil their mission to preach the Gospel to all nations. For us, too, those gifts help us to live a Christian life: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

### First Holy Communion

The children of Year 3 received the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday 20th May 2016. The special Mass took place at our Parish Church of St. Mary's in Brierley Hill. The communicants were joined by other children from Year 3 who came to support their friends at the celebration. It was a lovely and very special Mass. After Mass, the children and their families celebrated with a Communion Breakfast back at school.

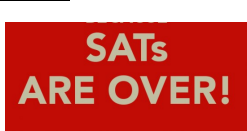


### Sponsored Bounce

Thank you to everyone who gained sponsorship for our recent sponsored bounce which took place on Thursday 18th May. The children who took part had a lovely time with their friends and we raised an amazing £1,200.00. Half of this sum will be donated to Clic Sargent, a charity which supports children with cancer. The other half will be put towards the cost of our new stage.



### SATs



Over the past few weeks Year two and Year six have completed their statutory end of key stage tests. The children have all worked really hard to prepare for these and they all tried their very best for their tests. We are very proud of them for the amount of effort that they have made. They all deserved their treat of a visit from the ice cream van that I provided as a reward for trying their best. We are grateful to the rest of the school who showed such patience and consideration during the tests which allowed them to concentrate fully and do the best that they could.

### Safeguarding request

As you know, the safety of our children is of the utmost importance to us. With this in mind, I need to ask for your help when dropping children off at school. Once you have left your child at the gate, if you need to come back for any reason, eg your child has left something with you that they need, please go to the front office rather than trying to come in through the gates. Thank you for your cooperation.



### Forced Closure

I have been notified that St Mary's will once again be used as a polling station for the General Election which will be taking place on Thursday 8th June. For this reason I am forced to close the school for children on that day. I realise that this can cause child care issues for parents and children will lose a day's learning, but it is out of my control. My staff and I will still be working on that day.



### Holidays

I know that better deals for holidays can be found by booking as early as possible. For this reason, we have posted our term dates in the 'Parents Info' section of our school website up until the end of summer 2019. Please make sure that any holiday that you book is taken during school holidays to avoid missing any time from school.



## School Uniform



There is a trend at the moment for girls to wear very large colourful bows in their hair. The ribbons can look very smart and we know the girls are very much enjoying the fashion. But it's time for us to ask for your support in thinking about the reasonableness of the size, proportion and colour of the ribbons / bows. In many cases, the bows are now so large that they are obscuring the view for children sat behind them in assembly. Large ribbons / bows are not included as part of the school uniform. A *reasonably sized* bow in royal blue school colours or another plain colour that will not obscure the view of someone in assembly is fine - a large, bright or glitter bow - whilst very fashionable and suitable for a party or family meal - is not suitable for school. Please think reasonably about this. Remember that we would not allow a bandana or a hair string from the seaside - nor do we allow any hair colouring, dying or shavings. We don't allow any jewellery or nail varnish. The size, colour, proportion and brightness of bows needs to be reasonable and appropriate for school.

## Sports News

St Mary's have taken part in a variety of sporting activities recently. I am grateful to Mr Bird for organising our participation in these events. On 22nd May a group of children took part in a netball event at Holly Hall School. The children came third and played really well. Year 5 have been taking part in an academy basketball competition organised by Hagley. So far they have played St Ambrose and Our Lady of Fatima. They have won one and lost one so far. The best teams will progress to a final to be held at Hagley.

## Clubs

We currently have places available for the football after school club which takes place on a Monday. This is open to all ages and costs £1. There are also places for dance on a Thursday and cricket on a Friday.

## Half Term Holiday Club

During the May half term our club will be held at **Sixes Football Centre in Kingswinford** and school will not be open. There are places available at £8 per day or £30 for the week (Tuesday to Friday only). For more details contact Mr Bird on 07834 629580.

There will be clubs available during the six weeks summer holiday for some of the weeks. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

There is another football club at Sixes Football Centre on a Monday for 4-6 year olds for £4 per child from 5:30—6:30 and on Wednesday there is another football session for 7-11 year olds at Sixes from 6:00—7:00pm for £4 per child. At scallywags there is a multi sports session for 3-6 year olds on a Tuesday morning from 9:30—11:00, Thursday from 12:00—1:30 and Friday 12:30—2:00. These sessions are £3.



## 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.

**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
<b>Masses</b>		
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
<b>Class Assemblies</b>		
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
<b>Future important dates</b>		
Phonics Screening Check week (Year 1 and Year 2)	12th—16th June	
Sport day EYFS & KS1 9:15am KS2 10:30– 12:00	Monday 3rd July (weather permitting)	9:15 am start 12noon finish
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. All dates are also available on our website.**

#### **2016-2017 Term Dates**

Friday 26th May 2017	Break up for Half Term
Monday 5th June 2017	School re-opens
Thursday 8th June 2017	Enforced closure for general election
Friday 21st July 2017	End of term—School closes for summer
Wednesday 6th September 2017	Start of term—School opens

#### **Teacher Training Days for 2016-2017**

Monday 23rd July 2017  
Tuesday 24th July 2017

#### **2017-2018 Term Dates**

Wednesday 6th September 2017	School opens for children
Friday 20th October 2017	School closes for half term
23rd—27th October 2017	Half term week
Monday 30th October	School re-opens
Wednesday 20th December	Last day of term

#### **Teacher Training Dates for 2017—2018**

Monday 4th September 2017  
Tuesday 5th September 2017

