

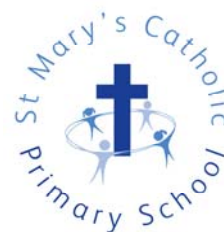
# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

*St Mary's is 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 Officer: Ms A Maher  
Child Protection policy available at [www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk)*

Summer 1 13



Dear Parents and Children

Welcome back to the Summer term at St Mary's. The school year is going by very quickly! I hope that you all had a very restful Easter break.

As you will see from the newsletter, we have many events planned for this term and we look forward to seeing you at them. Remember, all parents and parishioners are invited to all school Masses and Assemblies. Please do not feel that you cannot attend if your child's class is not directly involved.

This year, during May, we will be inviting parents to join us in our Prayer Garden during the week beginning May 20th from 2.45-3pm to pray The Angelus with us in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus, the patron saint of our school. May is the month when we honour Mary. The Angelus prayer tells of how Mary accepted the will of God. I do hope that as many parents/carers as possible will join us when they receive the invitation which will follow later.

On Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Father Cecil is hoping to celebrate 11am Mass in the school hall and this will be followed by a school/parishes picnic on the field-weather permitting! More details about this will follow in our next newsletter. Also in our next newsletter, we will be able to give you more details of the Y6 leavers' Mass planned for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. We are hoping that Bishop McGough will be able to con-celebrate this Mass with Father Cecil and that, afterwards, he will bless all of our new building work which has been made possible by your generous donations received in the little envelopes attached to the newsletters. Thank you for every penny that you have given.

Best wishes

**Ms A Maher**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during May and June. If your name is not on the list please let us know so that we can check we have the correct date of birth on our records:

Alfie Y4	Alexis Y2	Lucy-Leigh Y5
Georgia Y2	Tommy Y1	Robyn REC
Christopher Y3	Emma Y1	Sam Y1
Amy Y3	Naomi Y1	Martin Y4
Michaiah Y2	Grace Y6	Abbey Y6
Chanai Y5	Shirley Y3	Jacob Y1
Megan Y5	Aditi REC	Jack Y3
Jennifer Y6	Hamish Y1	Rayeanne REC
Lindsay Y3	Katie Y6	Jack REC
Liam Y2	Sophie Y6	Abby Y6
Hrithik Y1	Uwais Y5	Earon REC
Liam Y5	Logan Y2	Martin Y1
Renee Y5	Ivan Y4	Rose Y4
Sherelle Y3	Gemma Y6	Adam Y5
Sepidah Y4	Hibah Y6	Abbey Y6
Aira Mae Y3	Pawel Y3	David Y5
Humayun Y4	Charlie Y1	Ashton REC
Ibrahim Y3	Molly Y6	Brayden Y3
Kieran Y6	Jude Y2	Kudzai Y5
Matthew Y2		

### Good Friday

Well done to St Mary's School Choir who sang so beautifully at the opening of DFS, Merryhill on Good Friday making it a very good day for all. Thank you to the staff who prepared and supported the children and to parents for their participation.

### Summer Fair

#### Saturday 6th July 12.00 noon onwards

Keep your fingers crossed for sunshine! The Friends are working very hard to make our Summer Fair a success for your children. All donations of bottles etc will be gratefully received. We would be especially grateful if you could also donate a little bit of time to help the Friends to set up or run a stall on the day. If you are able to help us please contact Mrs Hambridge at the school office. Thank you.

### Building Work

Despite the bad weather this year, the building work continues to progress and should be completed by May half-term. Year 1 have already moved into their new room and the staff and children are very excited by their new surroundings. The next step is the refurbishment of the old Year 1 classroom which will eventually become the new Pre-School. Look out for details of a school tour in our next newsletter.

## Diary Dates



Mon 22nd April 7.00pm	First Holy Communion Meeting for Y3 parents Parish Centre
Weds 24th April	Leavers Photos
Thurs 25th April	Eye Tests for Reception Children
Mon 29th April	Health assessments for Reception
Tues 30th April	Y5 INSPIRE Morning 9.00am
Thurs 2nd May	First Holy Communion Catechists Meeting for Y3 parents 7.00pm Parish Centre
<b>Mon 6th May</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
Thurs 9th May	Family Quiz Night with Fish and Chip Supper 7.00pm
Saturday 11th May	First Holy Communion 10.00am St Mary's Church, Brierley Hill
13th-17th May	SATs week for Y6
Fri 24th May	Whole School Sports Morning 'Heroes' Day sale 1.00pm
<b>27th-31st May</b>	<b>HALF TERM SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
Sun 9th June	Immaculate Heart of St Mary Mass and Barbecue 11.00am
Mon 10th June	Foundation Stage INSPIRE Morning 9.00am
	Reconciliation Meeting for Y2 parents 7.00pm Parish Centre
Thurs 13th June	Reconciliation Catechists Meeting for Y2 parents 7.00pm Parish Centre
Fri 14th June	Induction for new Preschool children 9.15am
17th-21st June	Y6 Vocations Week
Weds 19th June	Y4 INSPIRE Morning 9.00am
Thurs 20th June	Reconciliation Catechists Meeting for Y2 parents 7.00pm Parish Centre
Fri 21st June	PTA Mufti Day—Bring a bottle Vocations Roadshow (Y6) 9.15-10.30am
	Induction for new Preschool children 1.30pm
Weds 26th June	Y3 INSPIRE Morning 9.00am
Fri 28th June	Induction for new Preschool children 1.30pm 'Talent' Show 6.30pm
Tues 2nd July	Humanities 'World Tour' Day
Thurs 4th July	Y6 Safer Cycling
Fri 5th July	Y6 Safer Cycling
Sat 6th July	Summer Fair 12.00
Tues 9th July	Induction for new Foundation Stage Parents 6.30pm
Weds 10th July	Y6 Big Bash
Thurs 11th July	First Reconciliation Y2 St Mary's Church 11.00am
Weds 17th July	Parents Evening
Thurs 18th July	Foundation Stage Induction 1.30pm
Tuesday 23rd July	<b>BREAK UP FOR SUMMER</b>

## Whole School Mass List

Tues 7th May	Year 1 Mass	9.15am
Tues 21st May	School Council Mass	9.15am
Tues 11th June	Y3 & Y6 Sacramental Celebration Mass	9.15am
Tues 25th June	School Mass (prepared by staff)	9.15am
Tues 9th July	Foundation Stage Mass	9.15am
Tues 23rd July	Leavers Mass/Blessing of School	9.15am

## Class Assemblies

Fri 3rd May	Year 4 Assembly	9.15am
Fri 19th July	Leavers Assembly	9.15am
Fri 7th June	Barnados Assembly (plus KS2 CIL work on display)	9.15am
Tues 2nd July	World Tour Assembly—Whole School	2.15pm

### **PARKING**

We are delighted to tell you that we now have seven disabled parking spaces very clearly signposted on our driveway. Unlike many other primary schools, we are extremely fortunate to be able to offer this provision to disabled members of our school community. Drivers/key passenger must be in possession of a blue disabled pass in order to be eligible to park in these spaces and the blue badge holder must be the person who will be coming onto the playground to collect the pupil. Blue badges must be shown to the school office where a permit will be granted. Permits can also be granted by the school office (on sight of a medical certificate) for temporary passes due to temporary incapacity. Please remember that these spaces are limited and please do not park there if you are able to walk without assistance. Thank you.



### **8.50am start**

School starts at 8.50am so all children need to be in the playground by the time the school bell rings. After this time, late marks are issued which have an impact on overall attendance. If you are running late and are able to do so safely, please telephone the school office so that we know your child is on their way and then park as usual on Mill Street/KFC/Next Home. Please **do not** drive onto the school staff car park as this endangers the lives of other children who are arriving late.

### **School Uniform**

It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their school uniform and particularly the girls who make sure that hairbands and ribbons are in school colours. Remember, house points will be awarded for correct school uniform and school uniform, which is named.



We have several suppliers of school uniform which can be bought online. Details are available on the school website and portal. Uniform can also be purchased from school on Friday afternoons.

### **Attendance Return**

**25th February 2013—28th March 2013**

Rec— 89.78%  
Yr 1— 91.10 %  
Yr 2— 94.99%  
Yr 3— 94.35%  
Yr 4— 95.68%  
Yr 5— 93.15%  
Yr 6— 97.02%

Well done Year 6. You are this half term's winners.

Our overall absences were:

5.28% authorised

1.11% unauthorised

Our overall attendance was 93.61%

Please note that unauthorised absences count as truancy so if we have not heard from you by 10am we have to keep a record for our Education Welfare Officer. **Please remember that holidays in school time are also unauthorised.**

Please also note that if your child arrives late, after registers are closed, this is counted as an absence so please try to be on time.

### **E-safety**

Does your child have a computer in their bedroom where you cannot see what they are doing?

Does your child contact friends through Facebook even though the legal age for a Facebook account is 13yrs old?

Does your child chat to others on-line?

Can you prove that the person contacting your child is really who they say they are?

If you have answered no to the last question, please look on our school portal for links to websites and also a parents guide to Facebook which help parents to ensure that their children are safe from on line predators.

If you did not collect your parent portal login during parent's evening this can be collected from the school office. Please bring ID with you when coming to collect it.



### **Schools Benefit Fund**

The Archdiocese provides distinctive Catholic education for parents who seek a real alternative to other schools within the maintained sector.

80,000 children attend 252 Catholic schools across the Archdiocese.

Yet this education comes at a price. We pay for the privilege of having and controlling our Catholic schools. In return for this privilege, there is a legal liability to pay 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work.

Up to now, this money has come from just one source. A 16.5% levy on the Offertory collections taken at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses, from each parish in the Archdiocese, throughout the year. Because of falling Mass attendances and inflation, the amount raised is no longer sufficient to cover our liability.

So, to ensure that we continue to meet this legal liability, which will ensure that our schools are properly maintained and necessary building work is undertaken. For the first time in the history of the Archdiocese, we are inviting all parents of children who attend our Catholic schools to contribute to these costs, rather than just parents and parishioners who attend Mass regularly.

This fund, which is named the School Building Fund, was launched in September 2004 to enable this money to be raised.

We are inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution of £10 per child per term or where more than one child attends St Mary's School, £15 per term, (there are three terms in the school year). This equates to 58p per child per week.

Collections will be made via envelopes, which will be issued, twice per term ie. One envelope per half term period.

All monies raised will be used exclusively for St. Mary's School. The money will not go into a large fund for the Archdiocese, so St. Mary's will benefit directly from the monies raised.

We have a legal obligation to raise 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work for St. Mary's School, but for each £1.00 we raise for the School Building Fund, the Government will give us £9.00 for St. Mary's, so it is vitally important that we achieve success with St. Mary's School Building Fund, otherwise we will lose the contribution the Government makes, in direct proportion to the amount we fall below our target.

The amount of money St. Mary's School must raise each year is £6000. With your help and support we are confident we can achieve this figure, so please help us.

Every other school in the Archdiocese is also establishing a School Building Fund, so every school is affected in the same way.

If you are worried that you may not be able to afford the contributions to the fund, please contribute what you can.

**Donations can also be made by direct debit. Please ask at the school office for a form.**