



## 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)



October 2016

### Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has written a letter addressed to every person on this planet asking us all to protect our common home... The Earth.

"The earth is God's gift to us, full of beauty and wonder. And it belongs to everyone. But what we see today is that our common home has never been so hurt and mistreated. We have developed at a greater speed than we could have ever imagined, and have treated the earth like it has an unlimited supply of resources. We have taken more than our fair share from most people on the planet as well as future generations. We have cut down the earth's natural forests, polluted the earth's waters, its land and its air. The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. We are using more and more polluting fossil fuels which contribute to climate change. Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face today. It will affect us all, but it will be the poorest communities who will suffer the most. Despite these problems we are not slowing down on how much we consume and throw away; leaving a trail of waste and destruction. We cannot continue like this.



"We can change and we can make a new start. The whole human family needs to work together to care for our planet earth so that we sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. So let's put love for the world and love for our neighbours into action by living together in harmony, and caring for nature. Will you play your part to look after our common home? Can you take simple everyday eco-actions to care for the earth, like turning off lights, reducing water waste and

recycling? And will you live more simply, reducing the amount of things we buy and throw away, so that we don't take more than our fair share? The world can't wait! So let's make a start today. Play your part to protect our common home."

### Harvest

On Friday 14th October we held our Harvest Festival. We are very grateful for the donations that were sent into school to make our harvest display. Year 6 led the assembly in which they told the story of a group of church mice who were learning about sharing food with those less fortunate than themselves. After the assembly parents were given the opportunity to buy the produce which had been donated. This raised a total of £45.19 which will be donated to CAFOD, and any left over food was donated to the SVP food bank.



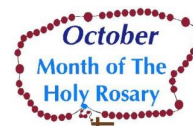
### Year of Mercy Pilgrimage



On Wednesday 19th October Year 6 were invited to take part in a Children's Year of Mercy Pilgrimage at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham. During this visit the children were given an opportunity to walk around the Cathedral and learn about it from a Cathedral guide. The morning ended with a Pilgrimage Mass during which the children took part in a procession towards the altar with our school banner.

### Month of the Rosary and Rosary Week

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is mainly due to the fact that the liturgical Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was started to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. As part of this special celebration, we have held a Rosary Week this week, when each class has taken their rosaries into the Marian Garden.



### Macmillan Coffee Morning



On Friday 30th September Year 5 organised a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. They had a lot of fun on Thursday making cakes and biscuits to offer to children and their families. We also had a large number of cakes and biscuits donated. We were very grateful to the Friends of St Mary's for coming into school to serve the tea and coffee for us. So far we have raised £259.99 with some donations still to come in. Year 5 would like to thank everyone who supported this worthwhile cause.

### Sporting Activities



This month has been a very busy time for Mr Bird, Our new PE teacher at St Mary's. We have several football matches organised with other schools within Dudley; a cross country event; and a tag rugby tournament. On Monday 17th October our football team played their first match against Netherbrook Primary School. The opposing team were a challenge for the team's first match, but St Mary's team fought hard throughout the match and, although they did not manage a win, they worked incredibly well as a team and showed that they have great potential for the future.

The Cross Country event was held at Hagley Catholic High School and gave children from Years 3-6 to compete against children from other St Nicholas Owen Academy schools. The tag rugby tournament will be held at Coseley School and will involve 12 Year 5 and 6 children. Take a look at our school blog after half term to find out how everyone got on.



### Changes To Child Car Seat Law: Booster Seats



Current UK law states that all children must use the correct seat when travelling in a car until they are 12 years old or 135cm tall. New regulations are expected to come into effect in December 2016 which will change that, meaning backless booster seats will only be approved for older children.

**WHAT ARE THE NEW RULES?** - Under the new rules, backless booster seats or booster cushions will only be approved for use by children taller than 125cm and weighing more than 22kg. Currently children as young as 3, or 15kg, are able to use a backless booster seat. The new rules that are expected to come into effect later this year mean backless booster seats will no longer be approved for young children. High backed booster seats for children aged 4-12 (group 2/3) are recommended by experts as offering a safer alternative to a backless booster seat until your little one reaches 125cm tall or 22kg. Which? child car seat expert, Lisa Galliers says: "A decent high-backed booster seat provides better protection in a front crash, as they're designed to guide the adult seat-belt across the child's body properly, and our crash tests prove they offer much more protection in a side-impact crash than a backless booster seat alone."

### Catering Inspection

Mrs Buckley and her team of catering staff were recently inspected by Dudley Catering Services. The results of the inspection were excellent with a score of nearly 98%. The only area which was marked down was connected with paperwork which should have been sent from Dudley Council. I would like to congratulate Mrs Buckley and thank her for continuing to provide delicious and healthy school dinners.



### The Pope App



The Pope now has a website, created and designed to keep in touch with what Pope Francis does and to listen to what he has to say. Go to: <http://www.news.va/en/source/vatican.va>

Please take a look at and listen to Pope Francis' inspiring words of wisdom. This link is also available on the school's website. Pope Francis also has a Twitter account and his daily messages are most poignant: PopeFrancis@Pontifex.

### Date Change

Please note that we have unfortunately had to change the date for the two performances of the Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity Play. They were originally planned for Thursday 8th December. They have now both been moved to **Wednesday 7th December at 1:30pm and 6:30pm**. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.



### Mass



A reminder that everyone is welcome to join us for Mass in school. These are usually held every other Tuesday at 9:15am. Please check the calendar for dates.

### Rosy Apples

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their rosy apples which share ways in which the children have demonstrated the Catholic values and virtues. I would like to have as many of these back as possible after the half term holiday so that we can display them in school.



## Half Term Activities



A list of activities and holiday schemes for October half term is available to view in the school office for anyone who is looking for child care or ideas for things to do during the holiday. This can also be found on the Dudley website by clicking on the "Things to see and do" tab and choosing "Events".

## Alton Castle

Between 21st and 23rd of September many of our Year 5 and 6 children visited Alton Castle for a three day residential retreat. They were very lucky with the weather and gained a great deal from the experience. I am very grateful to Mrs Brereton, Mrs Broomfield, Mrs Young and Mrs Stanley who accompanied the children.



## Secondary admissions



one click makes it quick  
[www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions)

Hopefully, children in Year 6 and their parents have now had an opportunity to visit any secondary schools that they are considering for September next year. I would like to remind all year 6 parents that the deadline for submitting applications is 31st October 2016. If you fail to submit your preferences on time then this may affect the outcome of your application. Applications may be made by completing the form on paper, or submitting the online form. More details can be found at

[www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions)

## Read write inc parents workshop

On Friday 14th October all the staff at St Mary's took part in a very useful training day on Read Write, Inc. which is a new phonics scheme in which we have invested. We will shortly be holding a parents' workshop to explain how this works which should enable parents to support their children's learning at home.

**Read Write Inc.**

## Newsletter Survey



As you know, we produce a newsletter for parents and friends of St Mary's every month. This is currently sent home in paper form as well as being published on the school website. Any important dates are also posted on the notice board just inside the playground. We are always looking at ways to improve communication, and to work in the most cost effective way possible, and reduce unnecessary waste. We will shortly be writing to you to ask for your preferences regarding how you receive your monthly newsletter. We are looking into sending it by email to those who would prefer that, but will also print paper copies which can be collected from the school office if you would prefer this.

## Half Term Sports Club

Thank you to everyone who has returned their slips to show interest in the half term holiday club. There are still places available for this, whether your children would like to attend for just one day, or for the full week. Please contact the school office if you are interested. If you would like to add your child / children then please call Matt on **07834 629580**.



## Parents' Evening

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Parents' Evenings last week. These 'meet and greet' meetings are so important so that you can be reassured of how well your child has settled into their new class.

**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
Year 3 Rosary – Marian Garden	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	2.45pm
Year 1 Assembly – shoe box appeal	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	9.15am
All Saints Mass led by Faith Leaders	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	9.15pm
Confirmation Meeting for Parents, school	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	7pm
<b>Confirmation</b> – Our Lady Of Lourdes Church, Kingswinford	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	7pm
Confirmation Thanksgiving Mass at St Mary's Church	Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	11.30am
Year 4 Remembrance assembly	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	9.15am
Anti – Bullying Week	14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> November	
School Mass led by Year 5	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	9.15am
Anti-Bullying Assembly – Anti Bullying Ambassadors	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	9.15am
Mass at St Mary's Brierley Hill led by Archbishop Bernard	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	
School Mass led by School Council	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	9.15am
Pre-School and Reception Christmas production (2 performances)	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	1.30pm 9.30am
Christmas Fair – Friends of St. Mary's	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	3.15pm
<b>Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas production (2 performances)</b>	<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>1.30pm 6.30pm</b>
Breakfast with Santa - school	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	To be confirmed
School led Mass at St Mary's Brierley Hill	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	11am
Christmas Mass led by Year 6	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am
Christmas Lunch	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	12.00pm
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	
Carol Service and crib blessing	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am
<b>Future important dates</b>		
Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Concert, Birmingham Town Hall	Thursday February 16 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
<b>First Holy Communion</b> , St. Mary's Church (Year 3)	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	11am
First Holy Communion Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2017	11am
First Reconciliation (Year 2)	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	11am
First Reconciliation Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	11am

### 2016-2017 Term Dates

Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	Break up for half term
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	School re-opens
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2017	INSET day. School closed to pupils
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	School opens for Spring Term
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Break up for half term
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	School re-opens
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	School closes for Easter break
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Start of term—School opens
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Enforced closure for local elections
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Break up for Half Term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	School re-opens
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	End of term—School closes for summer

### Teacher Training Days for 2016-2017

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May (enforced closure- voting station) 2017  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2017  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2017

