



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, Miss Mosley, Mrs Brereton and Mrs Berry.

Child Protection policy available at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

November 2018



Principal: Ms O. O'Beirne

Spring term is well underway now and this newsletter gives you lots of important information about what is happening in school this term. Along with this newsletter you will find the Diary Dates for Spring Term – this tells you all of the important dates and times of various special events taking place this term. We are also sending you our term dates from January 2019 to July 2020. We are all very much looking forward to working with you again this term and look forward to seeing you in school.

Our Values this half term: Eloquent and Truthful

Our Catholic Schools Pupil Profile Values this term are Eloquent and Truthful. ELOQUENT means being able to talk about our faith and beliefs in a confident and articulate way that helps others to be inspired by our faith. TRUTHFUL refers not only to telling the truth and being honest, but also being true to the teachings of Christ, doing the right thing even when it's the hardest thing to do and not seeking to 'bend the rules' to avoid making Christ-like choices. It means being true to our faith and beliefs no matter what we face in life.

Thank you for your kind words, cards and gifts at Christmas

Everyone at the school would like to send home a massive 'thank you' for the kind words, cards and gifts you shared with us at Christmas. It is extremely moving, touching and rewarding to hear kind words from parents and family members and it is equally moving to receive cards and gifts – which are by no means ever expected. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for taking the trouble to be so kind. We cannot emphasise enough how much we appreciate it.

School and Parish Mass on Sunday 10th February and March at 9:45 am in Church (Brierley Hill)

Everyone is very welcome at this important event and we would really appreciate your support. Being part of the Parish is a fundamental part of life at St Mary's – please come to Mass if you possibly can.

We are pleased to announce that from Tuesday 26th February we will **ONLY** be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and break time snacks. We will be using a secure website called ParentPay and you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay will be our **ONLY** method of making payments to school.

We will be sending you your account activation details before half term, once you receive these please visit www.parentpay.com

Enter your Activation username and password in the account login section of the homepage (you will then be able to choose your own username and password).

Provide all the required information, registering your email address will enable us to send you receipts and reminders. Once activation is complete you can go straight to the payment items, select which item you want to add and proceed to bookings and payments.

All lunches **will have to be booked in advance**. The closing time for lunches will be midnight each Sunday for meals the following week. Break—time snacks can be purchased up to 8.30am each morning.

For more information, visit www.parentpay.com/parents/what-parentpay-does



ParentPay

Hand Washing is Important!

At this time of year a lot of children are off school with coughs, colds and sickness bugs.



As a school we try our best to encourage children to wash their hands especially after using the toilet. This is a major step in helping to stop the spread of infection.

Please can you speak to your child to remind them the Importance of washing their hands.

School Procedures for Bad Weather

At St Mary's we open the school if it is safe to do so and if we can make sure we can get enough staff into the school to look after the children.

The decision to close is never taken lightly and we consider the safety of you and your children walking or driving to school and also the weather forecast for later in the day.

We try to give you plenty of notice and will normally decide to close the school well before the day starts. Very rarely we may be forced to close the school even after the children have come in – for example if we lose heat, power or water supplies, or if the weather worsens after school has started.

- We will send you a text message via the School Life App
- We will post a message on the school website

If we know school won't be open at all we will message you and put the information on the website by 7:30am in the morning.

If the weather is bad but we are opening, we will also put a message on the website and send messages by 7:30am in the morning to keep you updated.

Bear in mind if the weather worsens, we may have to close the school part way through the day and you will need to collect your child early. We seek to avoid this happening wherever possible.

In any case – check the school website (in the noticeboard section) for the latest info in any bad weather. You should also receive a message via the school life app.



Reporting Illness

If your child is unwell, you need to report your child's absence to the school office by no later than

9.00am either in person or by telephoning us on: **01384 818435.**

Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation

If you are the parent of a child in Year 2, 3, 5 or Year 6 who is intending for your child to receive a Sacrament, you should have received a letter detailing all of the parent/ children meetings, and Masses for your child. **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THIS LETTER.** In addition, please remember that Fr Stephen expects to see all families of First Holy Communion and Confirmation children at Mass each Saturday evening or Sunday morning. **If you and your child are not attending Mass, Father may refuse to offer the Sacraments** – so it is very, very important that you contact him if you need to discuss the matter.

Please remember this is a Church matter and will need to be discussed with the Parish Priest, not the school.



Mr Mallinson from Hagley Catholic High School is working with Year 5 in preparation for the Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday 14th February. The theme for this year is 'Disco'. Tickets are still available at the school office. We look forward to seeing you there!



CALENDAR DATES

Date	Event	Time
Friday 25th January	Whole School Mass—Year 4	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 1st February	Whole School Mass—Year 5	9.00am—9.30am
Wednesday 6th February	Y3 Communion Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Friday 8th February	Whole School Mass—School Council	9.00am—9.30am
Sunday 10th February	Y3 Mass of Commitment at St Mary's Church B. Hill	9.45am
Thursday 14th February	Pyramid Concert	7.00pm—9.00pm
Friday 15th February	Class Mass—Year 2	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 15th February	Children break up for half term	3.00pm
Monday 25th February	Inset Day	All Day
Tuesday 26th February	School Re-Opens to Children	8.40am
Wednesday 27th February	Y2 Reconciliation Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Friday 1st March	Class Mass—Year 1	9.00am—9.30am
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day	All Day
Friday 8th March	Whole School Mass	9.00am—9.30am
Sunday 10th March	Y2 Mass of Commitment at St Mary's Church B. Hill	9.45am
Wednesday 13th March	Y6 Confirmation Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Friday 15th March	Class Mass—Year 6	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 22nd March	Whole School Mass—Year 5	9.00am—9.30am
Sunday 24th March	Y5 & Y6 Mass of Commitment at St Mary's Church, B. Hill	9.45am
Friday 29th March	Class Mass—Year 4	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 29th March	Y6 Transition day to Hagley RC	All Day
Friday 5th April	Whole School Mass—Year 2	9.00am—9.30am
Tuesday 9th April	Parents Evening	5.00pm—7.30pm
Thursday 11th April	Parents Evening	3.15pm—5.45pm
Friday 12th April	Mufti Day—Bring a Bottle for Summer Fair	All Day
Friday 12th April	Holy Week Service—Veneration of the Cross	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 12th April	Children Break up for Easter	3.00pm
Monday 29th April	School Re-Opens to Children	8.40am
Thursday 2nd May	Enforced School Closure due to Elections (Polling Station)	All Day
Friday 3rd May	Mufti Day—Bring a Jar of Sweets for Summer Fair	All Day
Friday 3rd May	Whole School Mass - Staff	9.00am—9.30am
Monday 6th May	May Day Bank Holiday	All Day
Wednesday 8th May	Y3 Communion Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Friday 10th May	Class Mass—Year 5	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 17th May	Whole School Mass—Year 3	9.00am—9.30am
Wednesday 22nd May	Y6 Confirmation Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Friday 24th May	May Procession	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 24th May	Sponsored Bounce	All Day
Friday 24th May	Children Break up for Half Term	3.00pm
Friday 31st May	Whole School Mass	9.00am—9.30am

CALENDAR DATES CONTINUED

Date	Event	Time
Monday 3rd June	Inset Day	All Day
Tuesday 4th June	Children Return to School	8.40am
Friday 7th June	Whole School Mass—School Council	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 7th June	Y1 & Y2 Trip to Botanical Gardens	All Day
Monday 10th June	Y6 Confirmation	7.00pm
Friday 14th June	Class Mass—Year 6	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 14th June	Y5 Trip to Wild Zoological Gardens	All Day
Wednesday 19th June	Y2 Reconciliation Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Thursday 20th June	Y3 Trip to Sea Life Centre	All Day
Friday 21st June	Whole School Mass—Year 1	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 21st June	Y6 Trip to Safari Park	All Day
Saturday 22nd June	Y3 First Holy Communion	12.00pm
Mon& Tues 24th/25th June	Y3 & Y5 Bikability	AM & PM
Thursday 27th June	Y4 Trip to Botanical Gardens	All Day
Friday 28th June	Whole School Mass—Year 4	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 28th June	Pre-School & Reception Trip to Wild Zoological Gardens	All Day
Friday 5th July	Whole School Mass—Year 3	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 5th July	Summer Fair	3.00pm—5.00pm
Saturday 6th July	Y2 Reconciliation at St Mary's Church B. Hill	10.00am
Friday 12th July	Whole School Mass—Year 5	9.00am—9.30am
15th - 17th July	Y6 Residential to Astley Burf	All Day
Thursday 18th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly	9.00am
Thursday 18th July	School Disco	
Friday 19th July	Children Break up for Summer	2.00pm
Friday 19th July	Whole School Mass—Y6 Leavers	9.00am—9.30am
Monday 22nd July	Inset Day	All Day
Monday 2nd September	Inset Day	All Day

Dudley Term Dates 2019/2020

2019 Autumn Term—Term Starts: Monday 2 September 2019 **Half Term:** Monday 28 October 2019 to Friday 1 November 2019
Term Ends: Friday 20 December 2019

2020 Spring Term—Term Starts: Monday 6 January 2020 **Half Term:** Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020 **Term Ends:** Friday 3 April 2020

2020 Summer Term—Term Starts: Monday 20 April 2020 **Half Term:** Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020 **Term Ends:** Monday 20 July 2020

Polite Notice

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we will do everything we can to treat you with kindness and courtesy, and to give you a polite and effective response should you contact us.

We therefore ask that all parents and visitors respond to this by showing polite, respectful behaviour when in contact with our staff. Please see the parental code of conduct for further information.

Every kind wish,


 Ms O'Beirne

Principal



Attendance

As you know, good attendance is very important to us here at St Mary's and we are working hard to make sure that all children attend school as often as possible. I understand that children cannot help being ill, but I would urge parents to do their best to ensure that medical and dental appointments are made for outside of school hours.

I am no longer able to authorise holidays taken during term time. Please see our Attendance Policy on our website for details of fixed penalty notices which are now being issued by Dudley for holiday absences.

Mr Paul Weston, our Attendance Support Officer, will continue to monitor attendance and will issue letters to parents to alert them when their child's attendance falls below 95%, 93% and 90%. He will also be visiting homes of children whose attendance has dropped significantly.



Before the end of this term Mr Weston will be holding an attendance clinic. Invitation letters will be issued in due course.

Testing the School Life App Messaging – let us know if you did not receive your test message

We sent a 'test message' to everyone on Thursday 31st January 2019. If you did not receive this, please contact the office and let us know. We will check we have your up to date number and also contact our service provider if there are any issues. We will then text you again to check the system is working.

Let us know if you change your number!

If you change your number/s please be sure to let us know straight away!



Do you receive some benefits? If you do you could help us get extra funding for the school!

In order for the school to receive pupil premium funding, you need to complete a simple online form. If your child is eligible, pupil premium funding brings thousands of pounds into the school for up to 6 years – with major budget cuts and redundancies in the past, we need this precious funding to spend on the children. PLEASE take a moment to apply. If you qualify, your child will also be entitled to free school meals every day.

If you get **ANY** of the following support payments your child may be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Applying online is quick and easy and you don't have to produce any documents. Please visit this website and apply – there is nothing to be lost by applying and you could help us to access precious extra funding for the children.

<https://customer.dudley.gov.uk/free-school-meals/create/>



Are you entitled?