

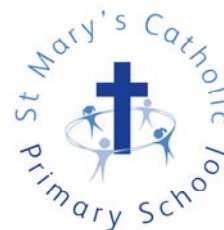
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*

Autumn Term 1 2011



Dear Parents and Children

Welcome back to St Mary's. Thank you for all the lovely gifts received by myself and the staff at the end of last term. I hope that you all had a really great Summer break and that you are now looking forward to another wonderful year together. As the new school year begins we welcome many new children and families into our school community.

Congratulations to Miss Richards who got married during the holidays and is now Mrs Broomfield. I hope that all those who have joined our school this year will find joy and success at St Mary's and I wish you every happiness for the future.

I am delighted to tell you that our building work has begun **and this is all thanks to yourselves**. Every donation that you make in the little envelopes attached to our newsletters gives us a buying power of 10% with the Diocese so if you send £1 that can secure £10. Without your generosity we would not have been able to afford our new extension. All donations received this term will help towards the cost of furnishing the new extension so it can be the best it possibly can for your children.

I look forward to working with you this school year.

Yours sincerely

Ms A Maher

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during September and October. 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:

Jay Yr 6	Alyssa Yr 3
Kelsie Yr 6	Jaimee Yr 1
Seth REC	Oliver Yr 3
Adriana REC	Callum Yr 1
Mollie Yr 1	Daniel Yr 1
Kiera Yr 6	Ruby REC
Kallum REC	Adam Yr 6
Faith REC	Rebekah Yr 6
Martha REC	Joe Yr 4
Stephen Yr 4	Archie Yr 1
Sophie Yr 4	Samantha Yr 3
Linda Yr 2	Safire Yr 1
Emily Yr 6	Sean Yr 4
Leon Yr 2	Phebe Yr 6
Justine Yr 4	Joshua Yr 3
Dylan Yr 6	Joseph Yr 4
Jibin Yr 6	Stuart Yr 3
Han Yu Yr 5	Joseph Yr 2
Amour REC	

GENERAL REMINDERS

School begins at...

The bell rings for the start of the school day at 8.50am and children should be in the playground before this. Latecomers disrupt the class and cause delays for the staff, but it is the children who miss the start of their lessons and have to try to catch up so please get your children to school on time.

P.E. Kit

Children should have a P.E. Kit available, in school, every day during term time. It is only used for a short time each week and will need washing only once or twice during the term. P.E. kit consists of white t-shirt, black shorts, pumps for indoor P.E. and trainers for P.E. on the field.

Absences

Please contact school by 10am if your child is absent for any reason. It is important you contact us so that both school and yourselves know the whereabouts of your child. If we haven't heard from you by 10am we will contact you so please can you ensure that emergency contact numbers are up to date. I'm sure you will appreciate how important this is. Education Welfare Officers are now requesting that written confirmation of your child's absence is sent into school with your child on their return. Thank you.

Uniform

We are very pleased to see the children looking so smart on their return to St. Mary's after the Summer Holidays and following the dress code which is:

- Navy Sweatshirt
- Blue polo shirt
- Grey or navy trousers or skirts
- Sensible black school shoes, no trainers
- No jewellery except stud earrings or watches
- Sensible haircuts (ie. No shavings) and no hair dye

Please label all uniform with your child's name.

Uniform is available to order online at www.yourschooluniform.com
www.tesco.com



Whole School Mass List

Mon 3rd Oct	Prepared by Year 1	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Mon 10th Oct	Prepared by Year 3	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Mon 17th Oct	Prepared by Year 5	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Tues 1st Nov	Prepared by staff—All Saints	Fr Darley 9.15am
Mon 7th Nov	Prepared by Year 2	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Mon 14th Nov	Prepared by Year 4	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Sun 20th Nov	Mass of Commitment Y2 & Y3	St Mary's Church 11.00am
Tues 22nd Nov	Year 6 Confirmation	Kingswinford 7.00pm
Mon 28th Nov	Prepared by school house captains	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Mon 12th Dec	Christmas Mass—school council	Fr Darley 2.00pm

We look forward to seeing as many parents and parishioners as possible at our whole school Masses.

Diary Dates



Mon 12th—Fri 16th Sept	Year 5 & 6 Residential, Astley Burf
Fri 23rd Sept	Year 6 trip to Llandudno
	PTA Meeting in school 2.00pm
Weds 28th Sept	FS INSPIRE Morning 9.15-10.15am
Fri 7th Oct	School Nurse Drop In 2.00-3.00pm Rainbow Room
Mon 3rd—Fri 7th Oct	Year 6 Rosary Week 2.45pm, Prayer Garden
Mon 10th—14th Oct	Year 5 Rosary Week 2.45pm, Prayer Garden
Weds 12th Oct	Parent's Evening 3.10- -5.00pm
Thurs 13th Oct	Confirmation Meeting, Parish Centre, 7.00pm for parents of baptised Catholic children in Year 6
Mon 17th—Fri 21st Oct	Y3 & Y4 Rosary Week 2.45pm, Prayer Garden
Tues 18th Oct	Year 5 & Year 6 to visit St. Chad's
	Sacramental Enrolment Meeting for Y2 & Y3 parents (FH Communion & Reconciliation) 7.00pm, Parish centre
Weds 19th Oct	Parent's Evening 5.00-7.00pm
Weds 9th Nov	Y6 INSPIRE Morning 9.15-10.15am
Thurs 8th Dec	KS1 Nativity 1.45pm matinee
	KS1 Nativity 6.30pm evening performance
Tues 13th Dec	Pre-school/FS Christmas Production 1.45pm
Weds 14th Dec	Pre-school/FS Christmas Production 10.30am
Fri 16th Dec	KS2 Christmas Carol Service 9.15am

Class Assemblies

Fri 30th September	Year 4 Assembly/Macmillan	9.10am
	Fair trade Coffee Morning	
Fri 21st October	Harvest Assembly—Year 6	9.10am
Fri 18th Nov	Year 5 Assembly	9.10am
Fri 25th Nov	Year 3 Assembly	9.10am

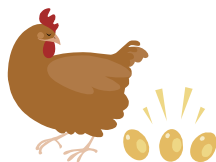
AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

There is an after school facility provided for St Mary's pupils at Brierley Hill Primary School. We operate a 'walking bus' and pupils are escorted by St. Mary's staff to the after school club at 3.00pm. If you would like to use this facility please call 01384 816980.

Hospital/Dental Appointments

Please remember to bring hospital and dental appointment cards into school so a copy can be kept with your child's records. Please endeavour to make dental appointments out of school hours whenever possible.

Free Range Eggs For Sale



Eggs laid by our very own chickens are now available for purchase 20p each on a first come first served basis. Eggs are available from the school office.

I hope that by now your children have settled into the routine of the new school year at St Mary's and that they are getting to know their teachers.

Your child may have mentioned, or may mention in future, that sometimes they have been taught by a different teacher. This is because all class teachers are entitled to time away from the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA time). During this time your child will be taught by Mr Millett who covers PPA throughout the school. On other occasions your child's class teacher may be ill or called to attend a course and a supply teacher (who is a very experienced teacher and known to St Mary's) may cover the class. By employing teachers known to St Mary's we strive to keep changes to a minimum for yourself and your child.

2011/12	Autumn Term 2011	Spring Term 2012	Summer Term 2012
Term start	Monday 5th September	Tuesday 3rd January	Monday 16th April
Half term	Mon 24 th – Fri 28 th Oct	Mon 13th- Fri 17 th Feb	Mon 4th June-Fri 8th June
Term end	Friday 16 th December	Friday 30th March	Monday 23rd July

Attendance **For the Academic Year 2010-2011**

Our overall attendance for 2010-2011 was 95.74%

It is really pleasing to see that a great percentage of our pupils attend for at least 95% of the time which is the government national target for attendance. Absences have a major impact on progress. For example one week's absence equates to a child missing about 25 lessons. Understandably sometimes absences are unavoidable through sickness but we would urge that all parents ensure that their child attends as frequently as possible so that they make good progress in their learning.

As a school we have a statutory duty to ensure that we enable all children in our care to make as much progress as they should. This is the reason why we cannot authorise any other absence apart from illness which is unavoidable. It is crucial that '*parents, carers and pupils understand that attendance and punctuality are important*' (Ofsted)

Inset Days

Mon 5th Sept
Tues 3rd Jan
Fri 4th May
Two other inset to be confirmed by the Governing Body

Extra-Curricular Activities

To begin Week Beginning 12th September

	8.00-8.50am	Lunchtime	3.15-4.15pm
Monday			Zumbatomics Miss Whitehouse KS2 Football Mr Turner KS1
Tuesday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Multisports Top Score UK KS1
Wednesday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Irish Dancing Una Rollinson KS1 & KS2 (Now full)
Thursday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2	Gardening Club Mrs Brereton KS2	Ballet Mrs Portman FS, KS1 & KS2
Friday		Football Mr Turner Y5 & Y6	Football Mr Turner KS2