

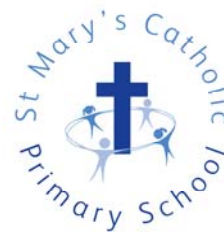
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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*

Spring 1 2013



Dear Parents and Children

Happy New Year! Welcome back to another new term at St Mary's. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for your most generous Christmas wishes and gifts and I hope that you all had a peaceful Christmas. As the new year begins we welcome Mrs E Harris into FS and Miss J Vickers into Y2; we also look forward to the future and start to make plans for the days ahead. As you will see by our diary dates, there are many things planned for St Mary's community over the next term.

I hope that you will enjoy what we have got planned and I wish you all the best for 2013.

Happy New Year!

Ms A Maher
Headteacher

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during January and February. 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:

Aldren Y3	Naishe Y1
Anthony Y2	Kate Y4
Samuel Y4	Zoe Y3
Piper Y5	Hannah Y1
Rayne Y1	Ethan REC
Colbie Y4	Ellie-May REC
Bernadette Y4	Savanna Y5
Isabel Y2	Poppy Y1
Wiktorja Y2	Isabell Y2
Yash Y2	Joseph Y3
Zachariah REC	Jacob Y2
Jordan Y6	Rona REC
James Y2	Joe Y3
Myenna REC	Klaudia Y5
Timothy Y3	Rosie Y4
Darci Y4	Thomas REC
Amie Y4	Gian Preschool
Alfie Preschool	Shihaam Preschool

Thank You

A big thank you from Father Christmas to all the children who met him for breakfast in December. £1000 was raised for school fund through 'Breakfast with Santa' and the Christmas Fair.

The PTA would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year and hope you will continue to support them in the future.

Absences during term time

In cases of emergency and extenuating circumstances, written requests for authorised leave can be made to The Governing Body of St Mary's. All requests will be given careful consideration and, if it is appropriate, authorised leave might be granted. However, no more than 10 days in any one academic year will be granted. Holidays in term time **do not** fall into the category of emergency/extenuating circumstances, and are therefore unauthorised. The government is adopting a most rigorous response to this practice. Please see the attached notification which explains the consequences of taking holidays during term time. Please safeguard yourself against such fines. Thank you.

Uniform Sales

School uniform will be available to purchase from school on Friday afternoons. Alternatively you can buy uniform from our online suppliers. Details are available on the school website www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk.

School Building Fund

Thanks to all of you who regularly donate to our school building fund. As you can see your contributions have made a huge difference to our school building as work to our new PreSchool is under way. It is now possible to pay your donations by direct debit if you wish. Just pick up a form from the school office.

Willow Tunnels

During February we will be having a visitor in school working with the children to plant willow tunnels on the field. These will provide some much needed shade in the Summer months.

Whole School Mass List

Tues 29th Jan	Year 3 Mass	9.15am
Weds 13th Feb	School Council Mass	9.15am
Tues 5th March	Year 5 Mass	9.15am
Tuesday 19th March	Year 6 Mass	9.15am

Diary Dates



16th-18th Jan	Residential Trip to Alton Castle
Mon 21st Jan	Sacramental preparation meeting for Y2 & Y3 parents—St Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm
Weds 23rd Jan	Preschool INSPIRE morning
Thurs 31st Jan	PTA Meeting 1.15pm
Tues 5th Feb	Y1 INSPIRE morning
Tues 12th Feb	Y6 to Mass of Anointing at St. Mary's Church, 11.00am
Thurs 14th Feb	Y5 Hagley Pyramid Concert, Birmingham Town Hall
Fri 15th Feb	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
Tues 26th Feb	Foundation Stage INSPIRE morning
Mon 4th Mar	First Holy Communion Meeting, St Mary's Parish Centre, 7.00pm
Weds 17th Mar	Parents Evening 5.00-7.30pm
Mon 18th Mar	Reconciliation Meeting, St Mary's Parish Centre, 7.00pm
Tues 19th Mar	KS2 Production 1.30pm and 6.30pm
Thurs 21st Mar	Y5 Safer Cycling Course day 1 Y3 Safer Cycling Course
Fri 22nd Mar	Y5 Safer Cycling Course day 2
Mon 25th Mar	Y6 Safer Cycling Course day 1
Tues 26th Mar	Y6 to St. Mary's Church 11.00am—Stations of the Cross
Weds 27th Mar	Y6 Safer Cycling Course day 2 Parents Evening 3.10—5.00pm
Thurs 28th Mar	Charity Mufti Day BREAK UP FOR EASTER

Class Assemblies

Fri 1st Feb	Year 2 Assembly	9.10am
Fri 8th Feb	Foundation Stage Assembly	9.10am
Fri 15th Feb	Fr Hudson's Assembly	9.10am
Fri 1st Mar	Year 1 Assembly	9.10am
Fri 8th Mar	Preschool Assembly	9.10am

The **Education Investigation** Service

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Changes to the Fixed Penalty Notice Scheme

With effect from 1st September 2012 the Government are changing the fines that can be imposed on parents through the fixed penalty notice scheme for the following:

1. Unauthorised absence from school
2. When a child is excluded from school but seen in a public place
3. When a holiday is taken in term time and the absence has not been authorised by the school
4. When a child is identified out of school on a truancy sweep by the police or authorised officers.

The fines are changing as follows:

Payment within 28 days is increasing from £50.00 to £60.00. If the fine is not paid then from day 29 the fine doubles from £100 to £120. There is no right of appeal, and the fine cannot be paid in instalments. If the fine is not paid within 42 days the matter will go before the courts.

Do not leave yourself at risk of a penalty fine. Talk to the school today if you are having difficulties.

Thought for The New Year : Please think...

Are you the parent who pulls in and drops their child off in the school gateway, so that other parents and children are forced to walk into the busy traffic in Mill Street in order to get past your car? Are you the parent who parks on the drive without a disabled permit so that parents and children with physical disabilities are forced to take a longer route into school? Are you the parent who parks across a resident's drive so that they cannot leave for work or for a medical appointment?

OR

Are you the parent who cares about the safety of all of the children at St Mary's; who considers the physical needs of others; who cares about their neighbours and finds a legal place to park on the street or parks on KFC /Next car park? If so, thank you.

The local police have informed us that, following complaints from residents, positive enforcement will now take place.

Some points to consider:

- Parking within 10 metres of a junction will incur a £60 fine.
- Parking on the yellow zig zags outside school will incur a £60 fine and 3 points on your licence.

We have recently been told that parents can also park at Link 51. Please use the car parks available to you and save yourselves from getting a fine.

Attendance Return **29th October 2012—21st** **December 2012**

Rec—89.72%
Yr 1—93.59%
Yr 2—95.48%
Yr 3—95.20%
Yr 4—95.63%
Yr 5—95.26%
Yr 6—96.83%

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

Our overall absences were:
4.45% authorised
1.08% unauthorised
Our overall attendance was
94.46%

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.

Extra-Curricular Activities

To begin Week Beginning 21st January 2013

	8.00-8.50am	Lunchtime	3.15-4.15pm
Monday	Ace Coaching KS1 & KS2		Football Ace Coaching KS2
Tuesday	Ace Coaching KS1 & KS2		Dodgeball Ace Coaching Y1-Y6
Wednesday	Ace Coaching KS1 & KS2		Irish Dancing Una Rollinson KS1 & KS2 Street Dance Ace Coaching KS1 & KS2
Thursday	Ace Coaching KS1 & KS2	Gardening Club Mrs Brereton KS2	Speed, Agility & Quickness Ace Coaching KS2
Friday	Ace Coaching KS1 & KS2		Multi Sports Ace Coaching KS1 & KS2 Disco Dancing Mrs Portman FS, KS1 & KS2

A number of parents have enquired about their pre-school child attending our after school clubs. The pupil : adult ratio, by law, is very different for children who are not yet of statutory school age so if a pre-school child attends an after school club additional adults are needed for supervision. This means that we would require parents to attend the club with their child. As parents will be in a supervisory role they will need to be CRB cleared in order to fulfil all safeguarding guidelines before attending the club. Forms for CRB clearance are available from our school office and clearance usually takes about six weeks. If you do wish your child to attend our after school clubs we would need you to gain CRB clearance first. Once children are older and reach Reception class and are in full time education they will be able to attend after school clubs without additional adult supervision.