



## 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)

September 2015



Welcome back to a new school year at St Mary's. It is lovely to see the children looking smart and eager to learn. I would especially like to welcome all of our new children and their families.

Our prayers are with last year's Year 6 children who have started their new High Schools this week. We hope that they will soon settle in to their new schools and make many new friends.

### A Prayer for the New School Year

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year.  
Amen

### Our Lady's Birthday

On Tuesday 8th September we celebrated Our Lady's birthday. She is very important to us and we invited children to bring in a few flowers from the garden as an offering. They have been displayed by the statues of St Mary and on class prayer tables. Many thanks to everyone who sent in some flowers. Please see our school blog for a photograph of the display.



### School Information and Procedures



With this newsletter we are sending out Student Update Forms so that you can let us know about any changes of address or telephone numbers. It is very important to make sure that contact information is kept up to date in case we need to contact you urgently. Please return this form as soon as possible, even if there are no changes to be made. In this way, we can be certain that we have the most up-to-date information from you. We will also be sending consent forms for offsite visits, internet use, photograph use etc. **Please return these to school as soon as possible to ensure your child does not miss out on any activities.**

### Medication, inhalers and epipens

If your child has an inhaler or epipen, please make sure that it is back in school after the holiday and that the 'use by' date will last for the whole term. First Aiders may only give **prescribed** medicines and a school consent form needs to be completed by parents before this can happen. These can be filled in at the office.

### Matters Arising

If you have a concern about your child, please book an appointment to discuss with your child's class teacher via at the Office. In the first instance - the class teacher is the first port of call. If an issue arises and it is not resolved, the next step is to see a member of the Leadership Team: Mrs Broomfield for EYFS and Key Stage 1, Mrs Addis for Key Stage 2 and Mrs Walters SENDCO.



### Uniform

Please make sure your child's name is sewn, or written in permanent pen, inside their uniform and P.E. kit. We have lots of clothing placed in lost property and it can be returned to children if their name is in it. Please remember that earrings, jewellery and nail varnish are not permitted.

## Attendance and Punctuality



Our target for attendance is currently 97.4% for all pupils. We also place importance on the punctuality of all children as this makes a good start to the day.

The entrance gates will be open from 8:40 am to allow the children to arrive in their classrooms by 8:50 am.

If your child's attendance falls below 90% we will contact you to arrange an appointment to discuss how we can work together to improve attendance. If your child has an absence of more than two or three days, we would ask parents to provide details of doctors' appointments and prescribed medication for our records.

That said, we would ask parents to be mindful of the spread of illness within school. If a child suffers from sickness, vomiting or diarrhoea they should be kept away from school for **48 hours** after the last bout of sickness. If you believe your child has anything which may be contagious such as chicken pox, please seek advice from your GP or school regarding the length of time your child needs to stay at home.



## School Meals



From September Dudley Catering Services will be increasing the price of school meals to £2.10. Cartons of juice and milkshake are also available. Milk shakes are 23p, small cartons of juice are 26p and large cartons of juice are 32p. Please make sure that any money is sent into school in an envelope with your child's name on and include details of which days are being paid for. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals for your child, please contact the benefit office on 01384 814988.

If your child has any special dietary requirements for religious reasons or due to allergies, please make sure that the school is informed as soon as possible and add it to the student update form when it is sent out. Your child will then be given a badge in the dining hall to make sure that they are not given any food that they should not have.

## Money

Please make sure that any money sent into school is in an envelope with your child's name and the purpose of the money written on the front. Money that is not labelled can get lost and it is very difficult to return it to the correct person.



## School Building Fund



In Catholic schools there is a legal liability to pay 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work. To ensure that we are able to meet this legal liability, (which will ensure that our schools are properly maintained and necessary building work is undertaken), we invite parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5 per child per half-term or where more than one child attends St Mary's School, £7.50 per half-term, (there are six half-terms in the school year). This equates to 58p per child per week.

Collections are made via envelopes, which are issued, one envelope per half term period. These will be sent out within the next week or so. All monies raised are used exclusively for St. Mary's School. The money does not go into a large fund for the Archdiocese, so St. Mary's benefits directly from the monies which are raised. For each £1.00 we raise for the School Building Fund, the Government will give us £9.00 for St. Mary's. Therefore, every £1.00 that is donated has tremendous buying power to improve our school for your children and, as you can see, no donation is too small. If you are worried that you may not be able to afford the contributions to the fund, please give what you can.

### Weight Watchers

A new Weight Watchers Club began on Tuesday 8th September at St Mary's. Classes run from 6:30-7:30pm. For more information please speak to Mrs Paula Flatman.



### MacMillan Coffee Morning



On Friday 25th September we will be holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning in school to help raise money for cancer support. This is being organised by Year 5 and the PTA. This is a particularly special event for us this year, following the very sad news that Mrs Mooney, deputy head of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Stourbridge, passed away at the beginning of term. Our thoughts and prayers are with the staff and families of St Josephs at this time.

### Anti Bullying Ambassadors

On Tuesday 8th September we were visited by Paul from The Diana Awards who came to train our new team of Anti Bullying Ambassadors. This group was chosen to represent Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 and they will raise awareness of bullying at St Mary's. They learnt how to work as a team; what bullying actually means and how to spot a person who is being bullied. They will now work together to help people who are being bullied, and help the bullies to see that what they are doing is wrong. More information on this day will be available on the events page of our website very soon.



### Music in School



This term we will be enjoying the sound of music throughout the school. Years One and Two will be having singing lesson, Years Three and Four will be learning to play the recorder, and Years Five and Six will be taught to play the guitar. All of these are provided free of charge by Dudley Performing Arts. A letter to parents regarding the instruments that are being provided will be coming out soon. Choir will also continue to run this year and will take place during the lunch break.

### Congratulations

We were delighted to hear that Hannah from Year 4 has won a place with the Elmhurst School, which is associated with the Birmingham Royal Ballet. She has been attending ballet lessons for four years and has worked very hard to reach this standard. We are very proud of Hannah. If your child has any interests outside of school then we would very much like to hear about them so that we can celebrate their achievements in our newsletter.



### Secondary Schools Transfer

Year Six pupils and their families will shortly be asked to express their preference for Secondary School places for next September. Information for this will be sent through the post from Dudley. I would strongly advise all families to go to look around schools that they are considering for next year. Hagley RC will be holding an open day on Saturday 17th October from 9:00am until 12:00 noon. Bishop Milner will have an open evening on Thursday 17th September from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Ms O' Beirne - Principal

## Catholic School Pupil Profile

From September all Catholic schools will be implementing the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile which is made up of a set of eight statements with two virtues associated with each statement. The Gospel values are integrated within these virtues and will allow schools to encourage and guide children to live a happy and virtuous life. In essence, develop all children's skills of learning and living.



At St. Mary's we strive to ensure that the children are growing to be....

- ◆ **Grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.
- ◆ **Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.
- ◆ **Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words.
- ◆ **Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.
- ◆ **Eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world.
- ◆ **Learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good.
- ◆ **Curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.
- ◆ **Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

The focus for this half term is *Grateful* and *Generous*. Helping the children to be grateful for their own gifts, for the gifts of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with their gifts, now and in the future.

Why not try creating some new prayers for grace before and after meals? Children can give these to Ms O'Beirne. Here is an example:

*For good food and those who prepare it,  
for good friends with whom we share it,  
we thank you Lord.*

The Gospel Values, which are fundamental to all Catholic education, are embodied within these virtues for living and learning.

### Mass and Class Assemblies for the Autumn Term

Tuesday 15th September	9:15am	Mass		New School Year
Friday 18th September	2:25pm	Welcome Assembly for Reception children		
Friday 25th September	9:00am	Year 5 MacMillan Coffee Morning		
Tuesday 6th October	9:15am	Mass	Year 5	Rosary Mass
Friday 2nd October	2:25pm	Class Assembly	Year 1	Shoe Box Appeal
Friday 16th October	9:00am	Class Assembly	Year 6	Harvest. Produce may be bought
Tuesday 20th October	9:15am	Mass	Year 4	
Tuesday 10th November	9:15am	Mass	Year 3	Remembrance
Friday 13th November	2:25pm	Class Assembly	Year 4	Children in Need
Friday 20th November	2:25pm	Anti-Bullying Assembly— Parents welcome		
Tuesday 24th November	9:15am	Mass	School Council	
Tuesday 15th December	9:15am	Mass	Year 6	Christmas
Friday 18th December	9:15am	Carol service and Baby Jesus blessing		

### Autumn Term Important Dates

Tuesday 8th September	Our Lady's birthday
Thursday 17th September	School photographer
Thursday 24th September	Confirmation meeting for Y6 parents in school 7:00pm
Friday 25th September	McMillan Coffee morning organised by Year 5 and the PTA
Friday 2nd October	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
<b>Thursday 22nd October</b>	<b>Parents' Evening 3:15pm —8:35 pm</b>
Friday 23rd October	Children break up for half term
<b>Monday 2nd November</b>	<b>INSET day for staff. School closed to children</b>
Friday 13th November	Children in Need (More details to follow)
Monday 23rd November	Confirmation at St Mary's Church
Friday 27th November	PTA Christmas Fair
Monday 1st December	EYFS Production pm
Tuesday 2nd December	EYFS Production am
Thursday 10th December	Key Stage 1 Production
Thursday 17th December	Christmas lunch
Friday 18th December	Children break up for Christmas
<b>Monday 4th January 2016</b>	<b>INSET day for staff. School closed to children</b>
Tuesday 5th January	Children return to school

