

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

January 2015



We return to school in 2015 celebrating the Epiphany when we think of the visitors travelling to see the new baby king by following a star. Everybody is a star in God's Heart. God is Superstar. When our star shines we do kind actions, we are grateful for all the good blessings we receive every minute of every day. The Magi Kings found Jesus, the Star, by searching. Lord, help us to keep going, even when the journey is challenging, and help us always to bring our gifts of Thanks to You!

'Happy New Year 2015' and welcome back! I hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas. On behalf of staff, thank you for your kindness and generosity with cards and gifts.

Staffing Update.

We welcome Mrs Harris who joins us as a permanent Year 2 teacher, and Miss Adkins who will be Year 4's teacher for the Spring Term. I know that the whole school community will help our new staff members to settle in well.

Extreme Weather Conditions

Just a reminder about school closures in extreme weather conditions. We do intend to keep the school open throughout the Winter. If it becomes impossible to safely open the school, we will consider the following factors:

- safety and accessibility of the site and surrounding area
- availability of heat, light, power and water
- availability of staff
- availability of meals



We will still use the system of informing parents via the local radio stations, school answering machine and the SMS text messaging system so please do let us know if you have changed your mobile number.

Attendance

Well done to all of the children who managed to achieve 100% attendance during the Autumn Term. There were 54 children in total. I hope that we can get this number even higher for the Spring Term. Please see our new attendance display in the entrance hall.

Hagley Pyramid Concert

On February 12th children from Year 5 will be taking part in the annual Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall. A cluster of local Catholic schools will come together to sing a medley of Christian music combined with a musical theme which this year is the music by Elton John.



Alton Castle

On Wednesday 14th January children from Years 5 and 6 will be heading off for a residential Retreat at Alton Castle in Staffordshire. I am sure that everyone will have a wonderful time, and We all look forward to hearing about it on their return on Friday afternoon. Parents of children taking part in the visit will have daily updates from school by text.



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 with our newsletter. 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.

World Book Day

This year World Book Day falls on Thursday March 5th. There will be more details of activities taking place in school in the next newsletter.



Inspire

This term we will be holding various Inspire Maths sessions where parents will be invited into school to take part in workshops. More details will be sent by letter closer to the time.

Year 6: Thursday 29th January 9.15am

Year 3: Tuesday 10th February 1.45pm

Reception: Wednesday 11th February 9.15am

Year 5: Thursday 12th February 9.15am

PTA

If you have any ideas for how money raised by the PTA could be spent this year, or if you could spare a few hours to help with PTA events, then please speak to Mrs Hambridge in the office.



Training Days

Friday March 27th 2015

Thursday May 7th 2015

Monday July 20th 2015

Masses

Tuesday 13th January

Tuesday 27th January

Tuesday 10th February

Year 3

Year 1

Year 5

Special Events

Saturday 6th June 2015

First Holy Communion 10.00am at St. Mary's Church

Sunday 7th June 2015

Celebration Mass 11.00am at St. Mary's Church

Saturday 4th July

Reconciliation 11.00am at St. Mary's Church

Term Dates

Spring Half Term Holiday

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February

Easter Holiday

Friday 27th March (Training Day) - Friday 10th April

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May

Summer Half Term Holiday

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Summer Holiday begins

Friday 17th July (20th July: Staff Training)

