

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

Autumn Term 2 2012



Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to another new half-term at St Mary's. I hope that you all had a very restful half-term break and that you are refreshed and ready for all the numerous events that will be happening at St Mary's between now and Friday 21st December when we finish for Christmas.

Already shops are selling Christmas presents and, with Merry Hill so close to our school, it is impossible to forget that Christmas will soon be here. As Advent approaches, it is important for us to remember to try to prepare our hearts also for the best Christmas gift of all: Baby Jesus who brought joy to the world. The image of a tiny baby in a simple stable helps us to remember that gifts don't have to be the biggest to be the best and that often the best gift of all is time to listen and to be there for each other just as Jesus is always there for us.

Best wishes to you all for the new half-term at school.

Ms. A. Maher

It was fantastic to be able to welcome so many parents to our CIL assembly on Friday 2nd November. The children had worked very hard to produce wonderful work and I'm sure you will agree that there were many ingenious and inventive ideas on display. Thank you for coming to celebrate your children's work with us.

PLEASE NOTE
YEAR 3 ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN MOVED TO
FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 9.15am.
We apologise for any inconvenience caused.
Thank you

New Pre-School; hooray!!

Thanks to all the donations which we have received in the little envelopes attached with each newsletter, we are finally able to finance the replacement of the Pre-School mobile. Preliminary work has already begun in preparation for the main work to start once planning permission is granted-any day soon. Watch out for the plans which will be displayed in the school notice board once work begins. All additional donations received this half-term will be used to make this new provision the best that it can be for your children.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during November and December. 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:

Joshua Y6	Joseph Y5	Luke REC
Rhys Y2	Isaac REC	Cori Y1
Naqeeb Y1	Shaylee Y5	Chloe Presch
Graciela Y2	Nathaniel Y3	Kory Y4
Alexander Presch	Natasha Y4	Danny Y3
Shreyan Y4	Kiara Y5	Kian REC
Elliana Presch	Iwan Y5	Filip REC
Harrison Y2	Mary Y1	Jena Y3
Gianna Presch	Kirsten Y3	Molly Y6
Reece Y6	Shelbie Y5	Nathan Y2
Han Lan Y2	James Y3	Jason Y5
Joshua Y6	Cute Y1	Lewis Y6
Joanna Y1		

THE YEAR OF FAITH

October 2012-November 2013 has been assigned as a year of faith by the Catholic Church. In support of this, the children at school will be taking it in turns to prepare acts of collective worship for their class based on a weekly theme and linking to The Wednesday Word. From January, we will be inviting parents/carers to join their child's class to pray with them during these times.

Uniform

We are very pleased to see the children looking so smart 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



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

We also stock Fair Trade uniform which is available to purchase from school.

Don't forget-you can earn house points for having your name in your uniform and for having your hair tied back. Your House Captains are on the look out!

Whole School Mass List

Fr Cecil will be celebrating Mass in school on the following dates:

Tuesday 13th November	Year 1	9.15am
Tuesday 27th November	Year 4	9.15am
Tuesday 11th December	Year 5	9.15am
Tuesday 18th December	Year 6	9.15am

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

Diary Dates

Mon 5th Nov	Year 2 visit to cinema
Tues 6th Nov	Year 3,4,6 visit to cinema Year 1 & 2 visit to Wyre Forest
Weds 7th Nov	Toy & Cake Sale
Thurs 15th Nov	INSET Day—police elections
Fri 16th Nov	Whole school visit to Birmingham Rep Theatre
Weds 21st Nov	Bishop McGough visit to school 2.00pm Confirmation, St Mary's Church, Brierley Hill—7.00pm
Sun 25th Nov	First Confession and First Holy Communion Mass of Commitment, St Mary's Church, 11.00am.
Mon 26th Nov	Merry Hill Choir Competition 10.00am
Thurs 29th Nov	PTA meeting 1.00pm—all welcome
Thurs 6th Dec	Brierley Hill Cluster Carol Concert—6.30pm
Thurs 13th Dec	KS1 Christmas Production 1.45pm and 6.30pm
Fri 14th Dec	Christmas Confessions Y3 visit to Botanical Gardens Christmas Fair 3.00pm
Sat 15th Dec	Breakfast with Santa
Mon 17th Dec	Choir to The Mount Nursing Home
Tues 18th Dec	PS/FS Christmas Production 1.45pm
Weds 19th Dec	PS/FS Christmas Production 10.30am
Thurs 20th Dec	Christmas Disco/parties Christmas Hunt 9.30am
Fri 21st Dec	Christmas Carols 9.15am
	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS
Tues 8th Jan	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL



Class Assemblies

Friday 9th November	Year 5	9.15am
Friday 30th November	Year 3	9.15am

New Absence Reporting Procedures

We are aware that our phone lines become very busy in the mornings when parents are trying to let us know of any absences, so this year we have set up an email box to make it easier for you to let us know if your child will be absent. Simply email us at admin@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk by 9.30am with the **name of your child**, their **class** and the **reason** for the absence.

We will continue to check on children's safety if they are not in school and we have not heard from you by this time so it is really important that we have up to date contact details for all children.

New guidelines regarding earrings

Unfortunately we are not allowed to remove your child's earrings for PE, nor are we allowed to put plasters over earrings, so we ask that children who cannot remove their own earrings leave them at home on PE days. Similarly, children can no longer wear earrings when swimming in case they get caught and rip the child's earlobes. If your child has got pierced ears, we ask that they wear only small studs to lessen the chances of injury during playtimes.

Thank you.

School Money

From this term we are able to offer parents the facility to pay online for school trips, music tuition etc.

Unfortunately we are unable to use this facility to pay for school dinners as this is paid directly to the local authority. This facility is an alternative to paying at the school office, you may continue to pay for trips at school if you wish.

Please remember to type directly into the address bar and not use a search engine to access the site to ensure you access the secure website.

Asthma register

If you haven't already done so, please can you return the asthma register form ASAP so that our records are up to date. We need a return for ALL children including those who are not diagnosed as asthmatic. If your child is asthmatic we need their inhaler in school at all times so that it can be taken on trips (including the swimming baths). Unfortunately, if a child does not have their inhaler on the day of an offsite visit, they would have to stay in school as we cannot take the emergency inhaler offsite.

Thank you

Punctuality

Please remember that school starts at 8.50am. Any children arriving after the bell have to enter through the front office and MUST be signed in by parents. Some children arriving late are being dropped off at the top of the drive. Please, please, please bring your child into school. A lot can happen to a child between the top of the drive and the school office.

Parking

Once again we request that parents park safely on NEXT HOME (morning and afternoon) or KFC (mornings only).



A number of distressed parents have been to the school office to report that they have seen children dropped off on the white zig-zags lines at the top of the drive. This is illegal because it blocks the view of other motorists and, more worryingly, puts the lives of all children at risk. On Tuesday 30th October the police came into school because the residents of Woodbury Close are again deeply upset about inconsiderate parking across drives.

At the end of last half-term, a letter was sent from school asking that parents consider the residents when parking. It is very saddening to know that this has been ignored. As a result, the residents are now left with little choice but to report all such incidents to the police.

Extra-Curricular Activities

To begin Week Beginning 5th November

	8.00-8.50am	Lunchtime	3.15-4.15pm
Monday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Basketball Top Score UK KS1 & 2
Tuesday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Dodgeball Top Score UK KS1 & 2
Wednesday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Irish Dancing Una Rollinson KS1 & KS2 (Now full) Street Dance Ace Coaching KS1 & KS2
Thursday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2	Gardening Club Mrs Brereton KS2	Multi Sports Ace Coaching KS1 & 2
Friday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Football Ace Coaching 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.