



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



November 2016

Year of Mercy

As Holy Doors close in churches and basilicas around the world, including in Rome, it is estimated that over 20 million people participated in the Church's Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican - and a billion people may have participated in churches worldwide. The Year of Mercy officially ended on November 20th, the solemnity of Christ the King. Pope Francis said that we must "stand firm in the Lord" and work "to build a better world;" that despite difficulties and sad events, what really matters is how Christians are called "to encounter the 'Lord's Day.'" The Holy Year has urged us, on the one hand, to keep our eyes fixed toward the fulfilment of God's Kingdom and on the other, to build the future of this land, working to evangelize the present, so that it becomes a time of salvation for all."



Advent

Sunday 27th November was the start of the season of Advent, a word which means 'important arrival'. This is a time to think deeply about Jesus' return which we hear in the Gospel on Sunday. It reminds us that there is no time to lose. We should not be put off our good resolutions until the New Year. Advent is the time to think about the way we live our lives and begin to make these changes. The message is clear for us

Harvington Hall

On Thursday 10th November Year 5 went on a retreat day to Harvington Hall. They started their day with a guided tour of the hall with a focus on the work of Nicholas Owen who created the priest holes there. After a picnic lunch the children took part in a Mass led by Father Cecil in the hall's chapel. This was a lovely experience for the children and we are very grateful to Father Cecil for travelling over to Harvington to join Year 5.



Year 6 Confirmation



We were delighted to welcome Bishop David McGough to St Mary's on Thursday 10th November. He is the Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham and he came to speak to our Year 6 children ahead of their Confirmation that evening. He also anointed the children for Confirmation. The children had a very interesting discussion with him and we are very grateful to him for coming to spend time with them. Congratulations to everyone in Year 6 who made their Confirmation.

RE Inspection

On 23rd and 24th November St Mary's underwent an RE inspection which was carried out by the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the special Mass which was led by Year 3, and to all the staff and children of St Mary's who showed the inspector why this is such a lovely school. We should know the findings of the report within the next few weeks.



Attendance

Well done to everyone who has managed to get their photograph or name on the 100% attendance board for the first half of the Autumn Term. We have 110 children who have achieved this which is 53.5%. The classes with the best attendance for the first half term are:

1st	Year 3	98.01%
2nd	Year 6	97.34%
3rd	Year 2	96.99%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Anti bullying week

14th to 18th November 2016 was Anti-bullying Week. During the week each class took part in lessons about bullying with the help of resources from The Anti-bullying Alliance. The theme for this year's Anti-bullying Week was 'Power for Good'. On Friday our Anti-bullying Ambassadors ended the week with an assembly which looked at the different types of bullying that the children might come across including verbal, physical, emotional and cyber. They also reminded children that they should always tell somebody they trust if they are being bullied.



Friends of St Mary's Christmas Fair



The Friends of St Mary's will be holding the Christmas Fair on Friday 2nd December at 3pm. Many thanks for all of the donations that have been sent into school so far including toys, books, filled sweet jars and bottles. If you still have any of these items to donate then it is not too late to send them in. In addition to these items, we would also be grateful for any donations of mince pies, sausage rolls, samosas, cakes etc. to accompany teas and coffees. These can be sent in on Thursday 1st or Friday 2nd. We are also in need

of anything suitable for raffle prizes.

If you could be available to help during the afternoon on December 2nd or to help with a stall, then please let us know by leaving your name and contact details at the school office. Even if you can only spare half an hour, it would really be appreciated. Please come along to the Christmas Fair and bring your family and friends.

Advent Calendars

Thank you for all of the advent calendars that have been sent in for the SVP Food Bank. These were collected on Friday for distribution to those in need. We collected more than 50 calendars. Thank you for your generosity.



Christmas Productions



On Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd December, Pre-School and Reception will be performing the Nativity Story for parents and families. Tickets for these dates are available now from the office.

On Wednesday 7th December there will be two performances by Years 1 and 2 of their Christmas play, "Hosanna Rock". These will be at 1:30pm and 6:30pm. More details of tickets and what the children need to bring in for costumes will follow shortly.

Christmas Lunch

This year Christmas lunch will be on Thursday 15th December. There will be no hot dinners on this day. Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and anyone else entitled to Free School Meals will be given a packed lunch. All other children are asked to bring a packed lunch. Crackers will be provided by school.



Cold Weather



Now we are having colder weather, please make sure that your child comes to school with a warm coat for playtime and dinner time. They may also need a hat, scarf and some gloves, but please make sure that all items are named as they can easily be misplaced in the cloakroom.

Ms O'Beirne
Principal

Academy Prayer

Lord, fill our hearts and minds as we move forwards together. Enable us to work with one another to ensure that our community continues to develop and grow, for the benefit of all Amen

Academy Motto

In Jesus we live learn and serve.

Event	Date	Time
Mass at St Mary's Brierley Hill led by Archbishop Bernard	Sunday 27th November	
School Mass led by School Council	Tuesday 29 th November	9.15am
Pre-School and Reception Christmas production (2 performances)	Thursday 1 st December Friday 2 nd December	1.30pm 9.30am
Christmas Fair – Friends of St. Mary's	Friday 2 nd December	3.15pm
Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas production (2 performances)	Wednesday 7th December	1.30pm 6.30pm
Breakfast with Santa - school	Saturday 10 th December	To be confirmed
School led Mass at St Mary's Brierley Hill	Sunday 11 th December	11am
Christmas Mass led by Year 6	Tuesday 13 th December	9.15am
Christmas Lunch	Thursday 15 th December	12.00pm
Christmas Jumper Day	Friday 16 th December	
Carol Service and crib blessing	Friday 16 th December	9.15am
Future important dates		
Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Concert, Birmingham Town Hall	Thursday February 16 th 2017	
First Holy Communion, St. Mary's Church (Year 3)	Saturday 20 th May 2017	11am
First Holy Communion Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 21 st May 2017	11am
First Reconciliation (Year 2)	Friday 7th July 2017	11am
First Reconciliation Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 9th July 2017	11am

2016-2017 Term Dates

Friday 16th December 2016	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 3rd January 2017	INSET day. School closed to pupils
Wednesday 4th January 2017	School opens for Spring Term
Friday 17th February 2017	Break up for half term
Monday 27th February 2017	School re-opens
Friday 7th April 2017	School closes for Easter break
Monday 24th April 2017	Start of term—School opens
Monday 1st May 2017	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 4th May 2017	Enforced closure for local elections
Friday 26th May 2017	Break up for Half Term
Monday 5th June 2017	School re-opens
Friday 21st July 2017	End of term—School closes for summer

Teacher Training Days for 2016-2017

Tuesday 3rd January 2017
Thursday 4th May (enforced closure- voting station) 2017
Monday 23rd of July 2017
Tuesday 24th of July 2017

