



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



February 2015



The stations of the Cross tell the story of Jesus' Crucifixion. When we think about the Stations of the Cross, we think about the last steps Jesus made before he died. What is he trying to tell us on his last journey? We think about the people Jesus met on his journey to the cross and how they felt. The Stations of the Cross are a way of remembering and thinking about Jesus and how he



died for us, so that one day we can all be together in Heaven with him.

Easter is the oldest and the most holy Christian Festival. It is both a sad and a happy time because we remember Jesus died on the cross but we know that on the third day Jesus rose again and appeared to His friends and disciples.

We call the day Jesus was crucified 'Good Friday'. There are no flowers in church on this day, just a simple cross to remind us how Jesus died. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to show that we too can have everlasting life. Holy Saturday is the day that Jesus was laid in the tomb. It is the last day of Holy Week. On Holy Saturday a service is held in church called 'The Easter Vigil'. Sometimes a service is held in darkness with candles being lit symbolising Jesus is the light of the world.

Easter Sunday is a happy time for Christians all around the world. It is a day of celebration for it is the day Jesus rose from the dead. Churches are filled with flowers and songs are sung.

Attendance

Well done to our top 3 classes for attendance for the Spring term:

1st	Year 6	98.08%
2nd	Year 4	97.08%
3rd	Year 1	96.34%

Weekly attendance for each class is now displayed in the entrance hall, and the class with the best attendance for the week are presented with the attendance trophy which they display proudly in their classroom for the week.

We have 24 children who have managed to achieve 100% attendance for the Autumn and Spring Terms. They are:

Reception: Sophie, Oliver T

Year 1: Ruby, Lena, Mollie, Chloe, Melanie

Year 2: Aaliyah, Myenna

Year 4: Rowan, Isabel B, Alexis, Jacob, Mollie, Liam, Jaimee, Han Lan

Year 5: Kirsten, Joshua, Linda, Jena

Year 6: Oliver, Alyssa, Kory

World Book Day

Thank you to all who came to school dressed as their favourite book character for World Book Day, and for the donations given to the SMA Trust. £92.00 was raised on the day. Two children were chosen from each class to receive a Waterstones book voucher. The winners were:

Pre-School....Jack and Zane

Reception..... Taliyah and Oliver T

Year 1 Chloe and Mollie

Year 2 Colby and Earon

Year 3 Martha and Seth

Year 4 Hollie and Rowan

Year 5 Christopher and Joseph B

Year 6 Bernadette and Jack D



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are collecting the Active Kids vouchers again this year. They can be collected from Sainsbury's stores and petrol stations until May 5th. The more vouchers we receive, the more active and cooking equipment we will be able to gain for the school. There is a collecting box in the school entrance where you can place any vouchers that you collect. Please ask friends and family to collect vouchers too.



Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall



I hope the parents and families who attended the Hagley Pyramid Concert at Birmingham Town Hall enjoyed the event, especially our own children's performance of 'Electricity'. It was a great experience for the children to perform with children from other schools to such a large audience. The members of staff who accompanied the children were incredibly proud of the children for both their behaviour and their performance.

Father Hudson's Society Good Shepherd Appeal

We are very grateful to all who have filled their collection boxes for the Good Shepherd Appeal. If you have not yet sent this back to school, it can be returned on the first day of the Summer Term, Monday 13th April. Many thanks for continuing to support this Diocesan charity to help those less fortunate than ourselves across the Midlands.

Lepra Fundraising

Over the past few weeks the children have been supporting Lepra who are a UK registered international charity focusing on people who find themselves trapped by disease, poverty and prejudice. They help to improve the health, lives and livelihoods of these people.

We are very grateful to all those who took part in the activities in school. Well done to Erin, Hamish and Fabian who decided to organise a cake sale to raise more funds for Lepra at the weekend. The cake sale alone raised £44.33. This has been added to the money raised in school to make a grand total of £594.34. Julie, the Community Fundraiser for Lepra is delighted with the amount raised.



PTA



The PTA have three forthcoming events:

22nd May: Sponsored Bounce. Sponsor forms will be given out after Easter.

19th June: Mufti Day—Bring a bottle for the Summer Fair.

3rd July: Summer Fair after school. Any parents who would like to help or have any ideas for stalls, please see Mrs Hambridge.

The PTA are always looking for volunteers to help organise and run fund raising events. If you can spare any time at all, even if it only an hour here and there, please speak to Mrs Hambridge. If we do not get any support then the PTA may not be able to continue in the future for the benefit of the children of St Mary's.

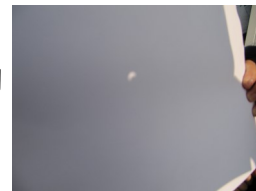
Key Stage 2 Production

Well done to everyone in Key Stage 2 for all the hard work that went into making our Key Stage Two production of Pirates of the Curry Bean such a success.

Solar Eclipse



There was great excitement at St Mary's on Friday as the children gathered in the playground with their pin-hole cameras to try to see the partial eclipse of the sun. Some of the children could see several eclipses through the holes of a colander. The maximum eclipse happened at 9:30 and most of us were able to see it. This was a great opportunity as an eclipse will not happen again until 2026!



Dudley Inter Schools Maths Challenge

Well done to both year 3/4 and 5/6 teams that took part in the Maths Challenge recently. Congratulations to Year 3/4 who qualified for the finals of the event at Saltwells on Wednesday 3rd June.

Got 2 Sing Youth Choir



Got 2 Sing Youth choir is a fun, friendly contemporary choir for 9-16 year olds. They rehearse on Thursday evenings at Gigmill Primary School in Stourbridge from 6pm—7:30pm (term time only). There are no auditions and you do not need any previous experience, just a love of singing. Now is a perfect time to join as they prepare for an amazing performance alongside 400 members of the adult choir at Birmingham Symphony Hall in September. For more details check www.got2sing.co.uk or email youthhoir@got2sing.co.uk

Fun Let's feel good event in Dudley

Dudley Council is hosting a **Let's Feel Good! Entertainment Day** at the **Churchill Shopping Centre** (by Dudley bus station) on **Friday April 10**, giving people the chance to have fun while they shop. Drop-in activity classes for all ages will take place from **10am to 3pm**. Taster sessions will range from adult and junior bootcamps to volleyball, kettlebell workouts and rowing machine challenges. As well as getting active, children can enjoy free face painting. Meanwhile, adults can access healthy living information and advice while finding out more about Dudley Leisure Centre and the parks and green spaces in the borough. There will also be competitions for adults and children, with fabulous prizes for all ages.

Welcome Back

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Berridge to Year 1 following her maternity leave. She will be returning to school in the Summer Term.

Easter Holiday Activities

Dudley Family Information Service has collected information on activities and events happening in and around Dudley over the Easter holidays for children and young people. Visit the What's On page on:

<https://fis.dudley.gov.uk/fsd>

I would like to wish all our children, families and friends of St Mary's a very happy and holy Easter break and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 13th April for the first day of our Summer term.

Ms O' Beirne - Principal



Masses

Tuesday 5th May 9.30 Year 3

Tuesday 19th May 9.30 Year 2

Tuesday 2nd June 9.30 Year 1 and Reception

Tuesday 16th June 9.30 Year 6

Tuesday 30th June 9.30 Year 5

Tuesday 14th July 9.30 Year 4

Class assemblies

Friday 24th April 2.30 Year 5

Friday 1st May 2.30 Year 4

Friday 29th May 2.30 Year 3

Friday 5th June 2.30 Year 2

Friday 19th June 2.30 Year 1

Friday 10th July 2.30 Reception

Friday 17th July TBC Year 6

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

Training Days (School closed for children but open for staff)

Thursday May 7th 2015

Monday July 20th 2015

Wednesday September 2nd 2015

Term Dates

Easter Holiday Break up on Thursday 26th March, return on Monday 13th April

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 4th May

Summer Half Term Holiday Break up on Friday 22nd May, return on Monday 1st June

Summer Holiday Break up on Friday 17th July (20th July: Staff Training)

Autumn Term Children return to school on Thursday 3rd September

October Half Term Holiday Break up on Friday 23rd October, return Monday 2nd November.

