

## Difficult Times



During the last few weeks there have been a number of extremely sad stories in the news: The Manchester bombing; the attack at Borough Market in London; and the tragic fire in Grenfell Tower. Events like these often cause people to question why God allows such terrible suffering and sadness.

In his Angelus address on Sunday, Pope Francis reminded the faithful that following Christ does not mean our lives will be free from all earthly troubles. "There is no Christian mission in the name of tranquillity," the Pope said, speaking to those gathered in St. Peter's Square on June 25. "Difficulties and tribulations are part and parcel of evangelization." Pope Francis reflected on the day's Gospel, in which Jesus instructs his followers not to be afraid. "Jesus' mission did not guarantee the disciples success, nor did it shield them from failure or suffering," the Holy Father said. But Christ did promise that he would always be with them as they faced the trials that were ahead. The same is true for us today, the Pope said. We should expect suffering and even persecution if we follow in the path of the crucified Christ, but at the same time, we can take comfort knowing that God does not abandon his children during the storm."

## Code Blue policy

I know that many of you are very concerned about the safety of your children whilst in our care in the light of the recent terror attacks in Manchester and London. I would like to reassure you that we have rigorous procedures in place to ensure that your children are as safe as they can possibly be. There is fencing around the entire perimeter of the school and the only way into the building is through the main entrance where there is a security system on the door. We have a lockdown policy which sets out the procedure for placing the school into lockdown if the need should ever arise. This procedure is practiced regularly to ensure the staff and children know what they should do if such a situation should arise. Every door has a key stored in a safe place, out of reach of the children, so that teachers can lock themselves and the children into the classroom if somebody was able to access the school. A copy of this policy is available for you to read on our website.



## Congratulations



Congratulations to Isaac in Year 4 who recently took part in the Lorraine Barson Cup at Worcester Gymnastics Club. Isaac competed for Dudley Gymnastics Club in the Under 11s Boys Advanced category. He competed on vault, PPP, bar and beam and finished in second place. He did really well having only just moved into this age category and after losing a few weeks training beforehand due to an injury.

## Well done to Lena

I was very proud to hear that Lena has had her beautiful long hair cut and has donated it to the Little Princess Trust who provide real hair wigs to children suffering with hair loss. In 2016 this charity gave away over 1,000 free real hair wigs to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland. Lena intends to let her hair grow long again so she can do the same again in the future. It is lovely to know that the children of St Mary's think of children less fortunate than themselves.

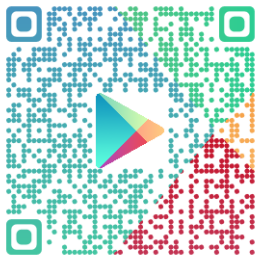


## Summer Fair



This year's Summer Fair will take place on Thursday 13th July at 3:15. Any help that you are able to give for this event would be greatly appreciated. There are many ways in which you can support us on the day including helping to set up the stalls during the afternoon, running a stall or helping to serve tea and coffee. If you are not available to help on the day then you could send in donations of toys and books, bottles (unopened) and cakes.

## School Life Apps



These QR coded will help you to gain access to the apps for our school website. The one on the left is the QR code for android phones, the one on the right is for Apple products.



## Birmingham Marathon



On 15th October 2017 Mr Bird and Mr Savary will be taking part in the Birmingham Marathon to raise money towards our new school stage. If you would like to sponsor them for this huge challenge, you can use the QR code here to access their Just Giving page. Thank you in advance for your support.



## How do our children travel to school?



Dudley Council would like to gain a greater understanding of how children and young people travel to school and the reasons behind their travel choices. The Council has appointed an independent company, Public Knowledge to undertake this research and would like to invite you to participate in an online survey.

Your feedback will feed into the development of Dudley Council's future work to increase the number of children walking and cycling to school. To complete the survey please go to: [www.publicknowledge.eu/dudleytravel](http://www.publicknowledge.eu/dudleytravel) The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and will be open to complete from 26<sup>th</sup> June until 9am on 7<sup>th</sup>

July. You do not have to complete the survey all at once; just use the link to go back to where you left off. All of your answers will remain confidential and anonymous and will be dealt with in accordance with the MRS Code of Conduct. If you have any questions about the survey please contact [support@publicknowledge.eu](mailto:support@publicknowledge.eu)

## Black Country Food Bank

The Black Country Food Bank have sent a message to thank everyone who has sent donations recently. They have asked us to keep up the good work because as fast as the donations are coming in they are loaded onto a van and sent off to one of their centres. Current shortages include tinned fruit, UHT milk, breakfast cereal, nappies size 5 and 6 and washing up liquid.



**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
<b>Masses</b>		
Staff Mass	Tuesday 4th July	9:15am
Year 4 Mass—Leavers	Tuesday 18th July	9:15am
<b>Class Assemblies</b>		
Reception and Pre-School	Friday 7th July	9:15am
Year 6 (Graduation assembly)	Friday 21st July	9:15am
<b>Future important dates</b>		
Sport day EYFS & KS1 9:15am KS2 10:30– 12:00	Monday 3rd July (weather permitting)	9:15 am start 12noon finish
First Reconciliation (Year 2), St Mary's Church	Friday 7th July 2017	11am
First Reconciliation Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 9th July 2017	11am
<b>Summer Fair</b>	<b>Thursday 13th July 2017</b>	<b>3:15pm</b>

**This list of dates may be subject to changes or additions. If this is the case we will let you know as soon as possible. All dates are also available on our website.**

#### **2016-2017 Term Dates**

Friday 21st July 2017                      End of term—School closes for summer  
 Wednesday 6th September 2017    Start of term—School opens

#### **Teacher Training Days for 2016-2017**

Monday 23rd July 2017  
 Tuesday 24th July 2017

#### **2017-2018 Term Dates**

Wednesday 6th September 2017    School opens for children  
 Friday 20th October 2017            School closes for half term  
 23rd—27th October 2017            Half term week  
 Monday 30th October                  School re-opens  
 Wednesday 20th December          Last day of term

#### **Teacher Training Dates for 2017—2018**

Monday 4th September 2017  
 Tuesday 5th September 2017  
 Tuesday 2nd January 2018

