



## 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, Miss Mosley, Mrs Brereton and Mrs Berry.  
Child Protection policy available at [www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk)

April 2019

Principal: Ms O. O'Beirne

### Our Journey through Lent to Easter

Thank you for supporting the children in so many ways on their Lenten journey. Dudley Foodbank have thanked us for our generous donations to them– we collected a grand total of 510 food and toiletry items and the winning class was Year 5, with a fabulous total of 182! Well over the "80 Can" aim. Well done to Year 5! I will let you know after Easter the total amount raised for our other charity collections.

As part of our Lenten activities in preparing ourselves for Easter, KS2 children have received the Sacrament of Confession with Father Des and all children have been encouraged to think about the importance of Mercy and Forgiveness through our weekly Gospel assemblies.

We are called to remember the three important aspects of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving and children have been encouraged to consider these throughout Lent. Please support and encourage your child to link their 'fasting' to 'giving'- perhaps giving up their time to share with someone in need. We hope that the remaining activities that the children will engage in help them on their Lenten faith journey.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter

Ms O'Beirne  
Principal

### Parents' Evening

We had excellent attendance at the mid-year consultation meetings. This was an important opportunity for you as parents to gain an update about your child's progress and well-being.

Thank you for the support that you offer; by working in partnership we ensure that we offer each child the very best education, personalised to their needs.

### Communication

We aim to keep parents well informed of all events happening in school. News and events can be found in monthly newsletters, letters issued, regular texts via the school life app, flyers, the school's website, reminder notes in homework books and verbal messages through the children. Book bags need to be regularly emptied so that all correspondence is removed and noted. Please make a note of any events that directly affect or involve your child(ren) so that you can plan accordingly. Thank you.

### School Closure

Please note that school will be **CLOSED** on Friday 28th June 2019 to enable the six schools in our Academy to access teacher training together. A letter has been issued by the Chair of the MAC Board. Thank you.

## Holiday Club

**This Easter we will be hosting 2 weeks of Multi Sports & Arts Coaching during the summer break.**

Week 1      Monday 15th April to Thursday 18th April

Week 2      Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 26th April

Sessions start at 08:45am and finish at 3.00pm. £12.00 per day or £40.00 for the full week.

Children will need to bring a packed lunch, change of footwear, plenty to drink and any medication needed including inhalers.

If you haven't returned your form but would still like to book a place, please call Mr Bird on 07834 629 580.



### Holidays in term time

We do not authorise holidays during term time. In line with legislation, we refer unauthorised absence to the Education Investigation Service who have the power to issue penalty fines and in some cases, prosecutions.

Our attendance policy and a link to the government legislation is on our website. Please do not be offended because a request for holiday is refused – it is our clear policy and has been for several years – it is not fair to make exceptions and we are only complying with the law of the land.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**WE STILL HAVE SOME PLACES AVAILABLE!**

## CALENDAR DATES

Date	Event	Time
Monday 29th April	School Re-Opens to Children	8.40am
Thursday 2nd May	<b>Enforced School Closure due to Elections (Except Year 6)</b>	All Day
Friday 3rd May	Mufti Day—Bring a Jar of Sweets for Summer Fair	All Day
Friday 3rd May	Whole School Mass - Staff	9.00am—9.30am
Monday 6th May	<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b>	All Day
Wednesday 15th May	Y3 Communion Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Friday 10th May	Class Mass—Year 5	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 17th May	Whole School Mass—Year 3	9.00am—9.30am
Wednesday 22nd May	Y6 Confirmation Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Friday 24th May	May Procession	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 24th May	Sponsored Bounce	All Day
Friday 24th May	Children Break up for Half Term	3.00pm
Monday 3rd June	<b>Inset Day</b>	All Day
Tuesday 4th June	Children Return to School	8.40am
Friday 7th June	Whole School Mass—School Council	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 7th June	Y1 & Y2 Trip to Botanical Gardens	All Day
Monday 10th June	Y6 Confirmation Mass	7.00pm
Friday 14th June	<b>Class Mass—Year 6</b>	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 14th June	Y5 Trip to Wild Zoological Gardens	All Day
Wednesday 19th June	Y3 Communion Meeting with Parents & Children at School	3.20pm—4.20pm
Thursday 20th June	Y3 Trip to Sea Life Centre	All Day
Friday 21st June	Whole School Mass—Year 1	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 21st June	Y6 Trip to Safari Park	All Day
Saturday 22nd June	Y3 First Holy Communion	10.00pm
Mon& Tues 24th/25th June	Y3 & Y5 Bikability	AM & PM
Thursday 27th June	Y4 Trip to Botanical Gardens	All Day
Friday 28th June	<b>SNOMAC INSET DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS</b>	All Day
Friday 5th July	Whole School Mass—Year 3	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 5th July	Summer Fair	3.00pm—5.00pm
Friday 12th July	Whole School Mass—Year 5	9.00am—9.30am
15th - 17th July	Y6 Residential to Astley Burf	All Day
Thursday 11th July	<b>Pre-School &amp; Reception Trip to Wild Zoological Park</b>	All Day
Thursday 18th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly	9.00am
Thursday 18th July	School Disco	
Friday 19th July	Children Break up for Summer	2.00pm
Friday 19th July	Whole School Mass—Y6 Leavers	9.00am—9.30am
Friday 19th July	Children break up for Summer	3.00pm
Monday 22nd July	Inset Day	All Day
Monday 2nd September	Inset Day	All Day
Tuesday 3rd September	Inset Day	All Day

## CALENDAR DATES CONTINUED

### Dudley Term Dates 2019/2020

**2019 Autumn Term—Term Starts:** Monday 2 September 2019 **Half Term:** Monday 28 October 2019 to Friday 1 November 2019 **Term Ends:** Friday 20 December 2019

**2020 Spring Term—Term Starts:** Monday 6 January 2020 **Half Term:** Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020 **Term Ends:** Friday 3 April 2020

**2020 Summer Term—Term Starts:** Monday 20 April 2020 **Half Term:** Monday 25 May 2020 to Friday 29 May 2020 **Term Ends:** Monday 20 July 2020

### **Academy Committee Representatives**

We have an exciting opportunity for you to get involved in the life of St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

- **There is currently one vacancy for a Parent Representative.** Therefore, you are invited to take part in the election of this role. The Articles of Association and Scheme of Delegation requires that the Academy Committee must include two parent Academy Committee members who have been elected by the parents/carers of registered students of the school and who themselves are parents/carers of registered students of the school at the time of their election. However, any parent who is an elected member of the local authority or employed to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve consecutive months is not eligible to be a Parent Academy Committee Member.

The position consists of serving on the Academy Committee for four years. Nomination forms are available from the school website or office and must be returned to the school no later than 12 noon on Monday 20th June 2019. Should one nomination be received by the official closing date, the candidate will be duly elected unopposed. In the event of there being two or more nominations, an election will take place on Friday 25th June 2019. Information on voting arrangements will be sent to you at a later date.

Please note that you should not participate in more nominations than there are vacancies. Each nomination requires two proposers.

- **The Academy Committee is also looking to fill the vacancies for the role of Foundation Academy Representative.** The term for this role is also four years. **Academy Foundation Representatives must be Catholic** and are appointed to the position of Academy Foundation Representative by the Director of Education of the Diocesan Education Service, on behalf of the Archbishop and Trustees of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

If you wish to discuss any of these roles or find out more information please contact Mrs Caroline Beech, Chair of the Academy Committee via email: [cbeech@st-mary-bh.dudley.sc.uk](mailto:cbeech@st-mary-bh.dudley.sc.uk)

#### **Inset Days**

Monday 3rd June 2019

Friday 28th June

Monday 22nd July

#### **Enforced Closure (Polling Station)**

Thursday 2nd May

#### **Important Dates During Easter**

Palm Sunday: 14<sup>th</sup> April

Holy Thursday: 18<sup>th</sup> April

Good Friday: 19<sup>th</sup> April

Holy Saturday: 20<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Sunday: 21<sup>st</sup> April

## Support we can offer you

Our school nurse, Amy Emery, is available for appointments and runs regular drop-in sessions. Just ask at the office if you'd like to see Amy (she is excellent!). In addition, if you have any concerns about your child's learning, progress or emotional health and well-being our SENDCO, Miss Mosley, is here most Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and can offer a range of help and support as well as arranging appointments wherever necessary. If you feel you need any help or support just let us know – come and see Ms O' Beirne or Mrs Borriello and we will do our best to arrange the best support we can.



If you would like any further information on Digital Parenting, please see our website for the link to "A guide to help your family live a better digital life".

### Let's be sure to treat each other with respect

It's very important that the school looks after families with the highest level of respect. We are very grateful to you for treating us with respect and care too. Even when you are upset about something – please remember we will do our best to sort it out for you.

Treating each other respectfully is an important part of life at St Mary's and it's important we look after each other well. A big thank you for your ongoing support. Please pass this message on to anybody who comes to the school on your behalf e.g. grandparents, uncles and aunts – it's very important that everyone treats each other respectfully at school.

### Congratulations to Jack in Year 4!

Jack recently was the only pupil from St Mary's to perform in the guitar concert Dudley Performing Arts concert!

Well done Jack, we are all very proud of you!

### Polite Reminder

Please be reminded that when we release your child to you at the end of the school day, they immediately become your responsibility. Please do not allow your child to run off onto the field or out of the playground unaccompanied.

### Potential Enforced Closure

We have been informed (on the 11th April) that if there is a European Parliamentary Election, we will be used as a polling station on Thursday 23rd May.

Unfortunately this is beyond our control and comes as a directive from Dudley MBC. As soon as we have received confirmation that the election is going ahead, we will of course inform you.

Thank you for your understanding.

### Mass Times

#### Saturday 13th April

10am Mass, Brierley Hill

10:30 - 11:30am Adoration and Confessions, Brierley Hill

5pm Mass, Kingswinford (Nicholas Southall)

#### Sunday 14th April, Palm Sunday

Sunday 9:45am Mass, Brierley Hill (Bill Webb)

Sunday 11:30am Mass, Old Hill (People of the Parish)

Please visit [www.stmaryladyoflourdes.co.uk](http://www.stmaryladyoflourdes.co.uk) for further mass times over Easter.