

Thank you

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another school year. I would like to thank you all for your continued support for St Mary's. Without us working together we could not have achieved as much as we have. I would like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the year, and the representatives of the Academy Committee for the support that they have given to me and the school.

Finally I would like to thank all of the children for making us all so proud of them, both with their work in the classroom and the way they have represented the school at sporting and music events, and on offsite visits. It is lovely to receive compliments about the behaviour of our children.

Farewell



I would like to offer my best wishes to our Year 6 children who will be leaving us at the end of term to move to their chosen secondary schools. This will be a very exciting time for them all and a great opportunity to make new friends and enjoy new experiences. I hope that they will keep in touch with us and let us know how they are getting on. I am sure that their futures are bright.

We have to say goodbye to three members of staff at the end of this school year: Mrs Scotney is leaving after helping us out for the past two terms in Year 1. We are grateful to her for this. Mrs Harris is leaving Year 2 as she will be moving out of the area. I hope that she will be very happy in her lovely new home. We are also very sad to be losing Mrs Addis who has taught at St Mary's for nearly 15 years, with 8 years as Assistant Principal. Her dedication and sense of humour will be greatly missed.

Father Cecil will also be leaving the parish to take up a new role in Northfield. I would like to thank him for all the support that he has given the school during his time in Brierley Hill.

Attendance

Attendance for each class for the school year 2016/2017 can be seen below.

Reception	90.35%	Year 4	96.69%
Year 1	93.10%	Year 5	94.82%
Year 2	94.68%	Year 6	97.22%
Year 3	96.70%		

You will see that several classes have failed to reach our attendance target of 96%. A significant factor which has contributed to this is the number of parents who are taking their children out of school for holidays. It clearly states in our attendance policy that term-time holidays cannot be authorised. From September, the local authority will begin issuing fixed penalty notices to parents who take their children out of school. These penalties will be per parent per child.

On a much more positive note, we have 20 children who have achieved a fantastic 100% attendance, and 9 children who have improved their attendance by 5% or more on last year's attendance. All of these will receive a £5 Merry Hill gift voucher.

You will also remember that we have introduced a lottery for children with 100% attendance for each half term. 92 names went into this draw for the second half of the summer term 2017 and the winner is Iqra in Year 5. She will also be given a £5 Merry Hill voucher.



Sacrament of Reconciliation



On Thursday 7th July Year 2 went to St Mary's Catholic Church for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This was a lovely service and was followed by a thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 9th July. Year 2 would like to thank everyone who came to support them at this special service and Father Cecil who celebrated the service.

Phonics testing and SATs

Well done to Years One, Two and Six for all the hard work that they put into their Phonics Screening and SATs assessments. We are very pleased with this year's results.

Year Six Enterprise Project

Since completing their SATs work, Year Six have set up their own business called Simply Snacks. Everyone in the class had a role including business managers, accountants, researchers, chefs and marketing and retail staff. They made and sold a range of snacks including cookies and pizzas and have raised enough money for them to have an end of year treat.



Summer Fair



Thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Fair on Thursday 13th July, either making a donation, helping with a stall or coming on the day to spend your money.

This event raised a total of £690.00 which will be added to the money that we have already raised towards our new stage. There are a few raffle prizes that remain unclaimed. Mrs Hambridge has a list of these and will try to contact winners during

the next couple of days.

New Stage Fund

We have recently been fund raising to replace our school stage. Thanks to Mrs Buckley who has been selling tip tops and ice creams after school and at Sports Day. Year 4 held a Fair Trade cake sale and donated their takings to the fund. We also have a Just Giving page and Mr Bird and Mr Savary will be running the Birmingham Marathon.

Many thanks also go to Ellie and Poppy who held their own fund raising event at home, selling tea and cakes and doing face paints. They raised a fantastic £120.03.

Our total so far is roughly £2,000, which was reached yesterday due to a generous donation of £40 from Mr Gary Homer. Thank you to everyone who has supported us with this venture.



Sports week and Sports Day



This year's Sports Week was a great success. I am very grateful to everyone who came into school to offer taster sessions to the children from a wide range of sports. Thanks to Hagley Golf Club, Mr Carter from Hagley Catholic High School, Paul Cambell who led a karate session, Miss Skett who led a tennis session and the coaches from Academy Martial Arts.

Thank you to everyone who came to cheer the children on at Sports Day. We were very lucky with the weather. Many thanks to Mrs Berry and Mr Bird for organising these events.

Summer holiday club

Mr Bird will be running our Holiday Sports Club again during the six week break. The charge is £10 per day or £35 for a full week. This will run for three weeks: 24th–28th July, 31st July–4th August and 7th–11th August. For more information or to book places, please contact Mr Bird on 07834 629580.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing those who are returning for the new school year on Wednesday 6th September between 8:40am and 8:50am.



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.

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

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

Wednesday 3rd January 2018	School opens for children
Friday 16th February 2018	School closes for half term
19th—23rd February	Half term week
Monday 26th February	School re-opens
Thursday 29th March 2018	Last day of term

Monday 16th April 2018	School opens for children
Thursday 24th May 2018	School closes for half term
28th May—1st June 2018	Half term week
Tuesday 5th June 2018	School re-opens
Friday 20th July 2018	Last day of term

Teacher Training Dates for 2017—2018

Monday 4th September 2017
Tuesday 5th September 2017
Tuesday 2nd January 2018
Friday 25th May 2018
Monday 4th June 2018

Other Important Dates

Thursday 23rd November 2017	Confirmation
Thursday 3rd May 2018	Enforced closure due to local elections

Mass Dates

As Father Cecil is leaving the parish and a new priest has not yet been allocated, I am unable to give you any dates for Masses at present. I will give you these dates as soon as possible.

