



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*

April 2018



The Feast Day of St George and the Pope's Name Day

April 23rd marks the feast day of St George and the name day of Jorge (George) Mario Bergoglio. But who is the Saint behind the legend?

The Saint and the Legend

According to an 11th century legend, St George is the saint who killed the dragon, a symbol that iconography associates with the Devil himself. Born in Cappadocia, St George is believed to have been an officer in the army of the Emperor Diocletian. He died a martyr's death in the year AD303. The episode of the dragon slaying relates how St George, protected by the Cross, killed a people-eating dragon, thus ensuring that Faith triumphed over evil.

Pope Francis and the question of evil

In his homilies, Pope Francis has often stressed that evil is not something abstract. It is a person with a name: Satan. At his Mass in the Santa Marta Chapel on April 11th 2014, the Pope said: "The life of Jesus was a struggle. He came to overcome evil, to defeat the Prince of this world, to defeat the Devil". This is a struggle every Christian must face, continued the Pope on that occasion. And those who want to follow Jesus must "recognize this truth".

Attendance League

We have introduced a new incentive at St Mary's to encourage all children to achieve the best attendance that they possibly can. A bit like the football league, our attendance league is a points based system. Points are awarded for overall class attendance each week as follows:

Overall Attendance %	Points
99-100%	3
97.6-98.9%	2
96-97.5%	1
Below 96%	0

At the end of each half term/term the team with the most points will receive an extra special treat! Our Attendance League board is on display in reception!



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Mufti Day and donated a £1.00! You managed to raise a massive £XXX for "The Friends of Alfie Johnson" which will go directly to helping children with disabilities in and around the Black Country.

Well Done Chloe Wood!

Chloe recently took part in the "Walk all over Cancer" challenge, by completing 10,000 steps everyday in March! Chloe raised a wonderful £566.20 for Cancer Research UK!



Triathlon

Pierre Savary (C4) is taking part in a triathlon on the 6th May 2018 in aid of the RSPCA.

In order to complete his triathlon, Pierre will have to Swim 138m, Cycle 2km and then Run 1.2km! Any donations towards Pierre's target of £60.00 would be gratefully received!

Good luck from all of us Pierre, we're sure you'll smash it!

St George's Day Shield Competition

Thank you and well done to all of the children who entered the St. George's Day competition by making a shield. There were lots of fantastic shields and the decision was very difficult.

The following children have been chosen as the winners:

Reception - Dhilan

Year 1 - Klara

Year 2 - Theo

Year 3 - Ashley

Year 4 - Mollie

Year 5 - Rayeane

PTA NEWS

Sponsored Bounce – Friday 18th May. This will take place during the day- we will have two trampolines in school. This year there will be one sponsor form per family. Please return your sponsor forms to school by Wednesday 2nd May.



Summer Fayre –5th July

Any help that you are able to give for this event would be 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.

Drop In Sessions

Our school nurse will be visiting school on the following dates:



Tuesday 1st May 2.00pm

Tuesday 5th June 2.00pm

Please feel free to pop in and chat to the nurse with any concerns you may have.

Forced School Closure

We have been notified that St Mary's will once again be used as a polling station for the Local Election which will be taking place on Thursday 3rd May. For this reason we are forced to close the school for children on that day. We realise that this can cause child care issues for parents and children will lose a day's learning, but it is out of our control. All staff will still be working on that day.



Summer Weather

Now the good weather is on it's way, please can you ensure that your child comes to school with a sun hat and a bottle of water each day. Also please ensure that you apply sun cream at home before your child comes to school. We are happy for your children to apply additional sun cream in school, however you must complete and return the Parental Consent Form which is being sent home with all children today.



IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Date	Time
Whole School Mass led by Y5	Friday 27th April	9.00 am
Commitment Mass (Reconciliation)	Sunday 29th April	9.00 am
School Nurse—Drop in	Tuesday 1st May	2.00 pm
Y4 Assembly	Wednesday 2nd May	9.00 am
School Closure—INSET	Thursday 3rd May	
Reception class Mass	Friday 4th May	9.00 am
Bank Holiday	Monday 7th May	
Y3 Assembly	Wednesday 9th May	9.00 am
Whole School Mass led by School Council	Thursday 10th May	9.00 am
Walk to School Week	Monday 14th May onwards	
SATS week	Monday 14th May onwards	
Class Mass led by Y5	Friday 18th May	9.00 am
Sponsored Bounce	Friday 18th May	
First Holy Communion Parents' Evening 2 Church Hall	Wednesday 23rd May	7.30 pm
Year 1 Assembly	Wednesday 23rd May	9.00 am
Children break up for Half Term	Thursday 24th May	3.00 pm
INSET DAY	Friday 25th May	
School Re-opens for Children	Monday 4th June	8.50 am
School Nurse—Drop in	Tuesday 5th June	2.00 pm
Sports Day	Thursday 5th July	To be confirmed
Summer Fayre	Thursday 5th July	3.00 pm

To find future term dates for planning holidays, please see the Parents' Information section on our school website.



Please ensure you have downloaded the app 'School Life Official' to your phone as this is the only way you will be able to receive messages. If you need help with login details please contact Mrs Beese via the school office.



Leave of Absence requests

Some parents have asked for leave to take their child out of school. Can I please remind you that school does not authorise leave for any child unless the circumstances are exceptional. Any child with unauthorised leave of absence can be referred to Dudley and a fine may be issued.

As you know, good attendance is very important to us here at St Mary's and we are working hard to make sure that all children attend school as often as possible. I understand that children cannot help being ill, but I would urge parents to do their best to ensure that medical and dental appointments are made for outside of school hours. I am no longer able to authorise holidays taken during term time. Please see our Attendance Policy on our website for details of fixed penalty notices which are now being issued by Dudley for holiday absences. Mr Paul Weston, our Attendance Support Officer, will continue to monitor attendance and will issue letters to parents to alert them when their child's attendance falls below 95%, 93% and 90%.

