

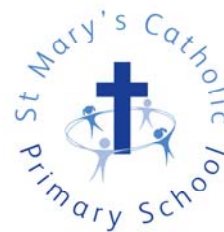
# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

St Mary's is 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 A Maher  
Child Protection policy available at [www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk)

Autumn Term 2 2011



Dear Parents and Children

We break up for Christmas on **Friday 16th December** and, already, shops are selling Christmas presents. With Merry Hill so close to our school, it is impossible to forget that Christmas will soon be here. As Advent approaches, it is important for us to remember to try to prepare our hearts also for the best Christmas gift of all: Baby Jesus who brought joy to the world. The image of a tiny baby in a simple stable helps us to remember that gifts don't have to be the biggest to be the best and that often the best gift of all is time to listen and to be there for each other just as Jesus is always there for us.

We are delighted that our building work is progressing well. Mrs Finucane, Mrs Hambridge and Mrs Beese have moved into their new rooms. Although Mrs Hambridge's office and Mrs Finucane's room are now completely decorated, Mrs Beese's office will not be refurbished until nearer the end of the building work in February as this will be undertaken during phase 3 of the work. The new staffroom, new management offices, new meeting rooms, group rooms and corridors are currently under construction. When they are completed they will have the flexibility to be used as teaching areas for group work, 1-1 support, parent meetings etc. and this will be a huge advantage for our children.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity shown by the donations made in the little envelopes attached to the newsletters. Every £1 that you donate gives us a buying power of £10 with the diocese and every penny is spent on improving St. Mary's for your children. Please continue to give as generously as you can so that we can make the new extension the best that it can possibly be for your children.

Yours sincerely

Ms A Maher

### Lunchtime Drinks Price Increase

Please note that Dudley Catering have increased the price of lunchtime drinks with immediate effect. Prices are as follows:

Milkshakes 20p  
Juices 20p  
Cartons of milk 15p

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during November and December. If your name is not on the list please let us know so that we can check we have the correct date of birth on our records:

Joshua Yr 5	Saam Yr 3
Joseph Yr 4	Michael Yr 6
Rhys Yr 1	Frances Yr 6
Naqeeb REC	Katie Yr 6
Shaylee Yr 3	Cori REC
Graciela Yr 1	Nathaniel Yr 2
Kory Yr 3	Natasha Yr 3
Danny Yr 2	Kiara Yr 4
Connor Yr 6	Iwan Yr 4
Harrison Yr 1	Kirsten Yr 2
Jena Yr 2	Molly Yr 5
Reece Yr 5	Shelbie Yr 4
Nathan Yr 1	Jenny Yr 1
James Yr 2	Jason Yr 4
Joshua Yr 5	Cute REC
Joanna REC	Lewis Yr 5

### Attendance Return

#### 5th September 2011—21st October 2011

Rec—96.54%  
Yr 1—96.51%  
Yr 2—97.96%  
Yr 3—97.79%  
Yr 4—97.55%  
Yr 5—97.85%  
Yr 6—97.58%

Well done Year 2. You are this half term's winners.

Our overall absences were:  
2.19% authorised  
0.41% unauthorised  
Our overall attendance was 97.41%

Please note that unauthorised absences count as truancy so if we have not heard from you by 10am we have to keep a record for our Education Welfare Officer. **Please remember that holidays in school time are also unauthorised.**

Please also note that if your child arrives late, after registers are closed, this is counted as an absence so please try to be on time.

### Whole School Mass List

Mon 7th Nov	Prepared by Year 2	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Mon 14th Nov	Prepared by Year 4	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Sun 20th Nov	Mass of Commitment Y2 & Y3	St Mary's Church 11.00am
Tues 22nd Nov	Year 6 Confirmation	Kingswinford 7.00pm
Mon 28th Nov	Prepared by school house captains	Fr Darley 2.00pm
Mon 12th Dec	Christmas Mass—school council	Fr Darley 2.00pm

We look forward to seeing as many parents and parishioners as possible at our whole school Masses.

### Diary Dates



Tues 8th Nov	Mobile Planetarium
Weds 9th Nov	Y6 INSPIRE Morning 9.15-10.15am
Fri 11th Nov	School Nurse Drop in 2.00-3.00pm
Mon 21st Nov	Y4 Haden Hill Visit
Fri 25th Nov	PTA Christmas Sale—playground 2.45pm
Weds 30th Nov	Merry Hill Christmas Choir competition 1.40pm
Fri 2nd Dec	KS2 CIL Assembly 9.15am
	School Nurse Drop in 2.00-3.00pm
	PTA Christmas Sale—playground 2.45pm
Tues 6th Dec	Stour Valley Network Carol Concert, Brierley Hill Civic Hall 6.30pm
Thurs 8th Dec	KS1 Nativity 1.45pm matinee
	KS1 Nativity 6.30pm evening performance
Fri 9th Dec	Christmas Confessions
	Y3 visit to Botanical Gardens
	PTA Christmas Sale—playground 2.45pm
Tues 13th Dec	Pre-school/FS Christmas Production 1.45pm
Weds 14th Dec	Pre-school/FS Christmas Production 10.30am
Thurs 15th Dec	Christmas Disco
Fri 16th Dec	KS2 Christmas Carol Service 9.15am
	<b>BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS</b>
Tues 3rd Jan	INSET—school closed to children
Weds 4th Jan	Children return to school

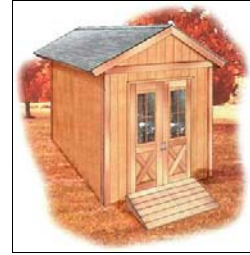
### Class Assemblies

Fri 11th Nov	Year 5 Assembly	9.10am
Fri 25th Nov	Year 3 Assembly	9.10am

### **AFTERSCHOOL CLUB**

There is an after school facility provided for St Mary's pupils at Brierley Hill Primary School. We operate a 'walking bus' and pupils are escorted by St. Mary's staff to the after school club at 3.00pm. If you would like to use this facility please call 01384 816980.

A Big Thank You to the PTA who have provided a new shed to house sports equipment for the children to use at lunchtimes. Thank you to one of our Governors, Mr Andy Field, who gave freely of his time to construct the shed one very wet day during half term!



### **Hospital/Dental Appointments**

Please remember to bring hospital and dental appointment cards into school so a copy can be kept with your child's records. Please endeavour to make dental appointments out of school hours whenever possible.

### **Ofsted Inspection**

As you know, Ofsted inspectors visited St. Mary's on October 18th and 19th and were very pleased with our school. Their letter to the children is attached with this newsletter and the report is now available to read on [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). Our school URN is 103843.

I am sure that you will agree that the report is very positive and we are delighted that our provision is good with outstanding features. However, we are disappointed that the inspectors judged attendance as only satisfactory since many of our pupils have excellent attendance. Unfortunately, because of the number of children who miss school due to holidays in term time, and who therefore miss many lessons, our overall school attendance rate could not be judged as good. You will see that the inspectors have made reference to this in their letter to the children. Nevertheless, we will continue striving to improve all aspects of our provision at St. Mary's and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, staff, governors, friends of the school, Fr Darley and members of our parishes for your continued support which enables us to work together in partnership for the benefit of all children at St. Mary's school.

### **RE Inspection**

Our RE Inspection dates are November 21st and 22nd and the inspection will be undertaken by Fr Michael Doleman.

I am sure that he will be just as impressed by the children as the Ofsted inspectors were.

### **PTA Raffle**

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets to be in with a chance of winning £500 in our Christmas raffle.

Tickets are available from Mrs Hambridge in the school office.

Draw will take place on 16th December.



## Extra-Curricular Activities

To begin Week Beginning 7th November

	8.00-8.50am	Lunchtime	3.15-4.15pm
Monday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Zumbatomics Miss Whitehouse KS2  Football Mr Turner KS1  Art Club KS2 (now full)
Tuesday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Multisports Top Score UK KS1 & 2
Wednesday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2		Irish Dancing Una Rollinson KS1 & KS2 (Now full)
Thursday	Top Score UK KS1 & KS2	Gardening Club Mrs Brereton KS2	Ballet Mrs Portman FS, KS1 & KS2
Friday		Football Mr Turner KS2	Football Mr Turner KS2  Disco Dancing Mrs Portman FS, KS1 & KS2