

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 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*

Autumn Term 1 2012



Dear Parents and Children

Welcome back to St Mary's. Thank you for all the lovely gifts received by myself and the staff at the end of last term. I hope that you all had a really great Summer break and that you are now looking forward to another wonderful year together. As the new school year begins we welcome many new children and families into our school community. Congratulations to Miss Bal who got married during the holidays and is now Mrs Hounslow. Welcome to Mrs Berry (Year 1) and Mrs Walters, our new Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Welcome also to all the new children who have joined us this year. I hope that all of you will find joy and success at St Mary's and I wish you every happiness for the future.

I look forward to working with you this school year.

Yours sincerely

Ms A Maher

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The following children have birthdays during September and October. 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:

Harry Presch	Talitha Rec	Alyssa Y4
Seth Y1	Oliver Y4	Jaimee Y2
Adriana Y1	Callum Y2	Erin Rec
Mollie Y2	Daniel Y2	Kallum Y1
Alan Y3	Mikail Rec	Amelia Rec
Rayya Rec	Martha Y1	Joe Y5
Stephen Y5	Archie Y2	Ellie Rec
Ash Presch	Sophie Y5	Samantha Y4
Linda Y3	Sean Y5	Leon Y3
Melanie Presch	Justine Y5	Joshua Y4
Pierre Presch	Samuel Rec	Joseph Y5
Harvey Presch	Rio Rec	Stuart Y4
Han Yu Y6	Joseph Y3	Amour Y1

GENERAL REMINDERS

P.E. Kit

Children should have a P.E. Kit available, in school, every day during term time. It is only used for a short time each week and will need washing only once or twice during the term. P.E. kit consists of white t-shirt, black shorts, pumps for indoor P.E. and trainers for P.E. on the field.

Contact Details

As it is the start of a new year, we need all parents to complete/check new contact forms as changes can occur during the holidays. We will be sending "test texts" periodically throughout the term to check that all parents can be contacted in case of emergency. We urge that you keep us up to date with contact details in case your child is ill at school or needs urgent medical attention. Can the forms provided with this newsletter please be returned to the school office as soon as possible, even if no changes are required, to ensure our records are up to date.

Uniform

We are very pleased to see the children looking so smart on their return to St. Mary's after the Summer Holidays and following the dress code which is:

- Navy Sweatshirt
- Blue polo shirt
- Grey or navy trousers or skirts
- Sensible black school shoes, no trainers
- No jewellery except stud earrings or watches
- Sensible haircuts (ie. No shavings) and no hair dye

Please label all uniform with your child's name.

Uniform is available to order online at
www.yourschooluniform.com
www.tesco.com



Whole School Mass List

We are very pleased to welcome Fr Cecil Rogerson into our school community. Fr Cecil will be celebrating Mass in school on the following dates:

Tuesday 25th September	Year 2	9.15am
Tuesday 9th October	Year 3	9.15am
Tuesday 30th October	School Council	9.15am
Tuesday 13th November	Year 1	9.15am
Tuesday 27th November	Year 4	9.15am
Tuesday 11th December	Year 5	9.15am
Tuesday 18th December	Year 6	9.15am

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

Diary Dates

Mon 24th Sept	Year 5 visit to Severn Valley Railway
Fri 28th Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Tues 2nd Oct	Whole School Photos
Weds 3rd Oct	Year 6 INSPIRE 9.15am-10.30am
Tues 9th Oct	Parents Evening 3.10—5.00pm
Tues 16th Oct	Parents Evening 5.00-7.00pm
Fri 19th Oct	Harvest Assembly 9.15am
22nd—26th Oct	HALF TERM
Weds 31st Oct	Confirmation Meeting, St Mary's Parish Centre—7.00pm
Thurs 1st Nov	Year 4 visit to Black Country Museum
	Year 5 visit to cinema
Mon 5th Nov	Year 2 visit to cinema
Tues 6th Nov	Toy and Cake Sale 9.00-10.30am;
	Year 3,4,6 visit to cinema
Thurs 15th Nov	INSET Day—police elections
Fri 16th Nov	Whole school visit to Birmingham Rep Theatre
Weds 21st Nov	Bishop McGough visit to school 2.00pm
	Confirmation, St Mary's Church, Brierley Hill—7.00pm
Sun 25th Nov	First Confession and First Holy Communion Mass of Commitment, St Mary's Church, 11.00am.
Thurs 13th Dec	KS1 Christmas Production 1.45pm and 6.30pm
Fri 14th Dec	Christmas Confessions
Tues 18th Dec	PS/FS Christmas Production 1.45pm
Weds 19th Dec	PS/FS Christmas Production 10.30am
Thurs 20th Dec	Christmas Disco/parties
Fri 21st Dec	Christmas Carols 9.15am
	BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS



Class Assemblies

Friday 28th September	Year 4	9.15am
Friday 19th October	Year 6	9.15am
Friday 2nd November	KS2 Child Initiated Learning	9.15am
Friday 9th November	Year 5	9.15am
Friday 23rd November	Year 3	9.15am

New Absence Reporting Procedures

We are aware that our phone lines become very busy in the mornings when parents are trying to let us know of any absences, so this year we have set up an email box to make it easier for you to let us know if your child will be absent. Simply email us at admin@st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk by 9.30am with the **name of your child**, their **class** and the **reason** for the absence.

We will continue to check on children's safety if they are not in school and we have not heard from you by this time so it is really important that we have up to date contact details for all children.

New guidelines regarding earrings

Unfortunately we are not allowed to remove your child's earrings for PE, nor are we allowed to put plasters over earrings, so we ask that children who cannot remove their own earrings leave them at home on PE days. Similarly, children can no longer wear earrings when swimming in case they get caught and rip the child's earlobes. If your child has got pierced ears, we ask that they wear only small studs to lessen the chances of injury during playtimes.

Thank you.

School Money

From this term we are able to offer parents the facility to pay online for school trips, music tuition etc. A user guide to School Money is included with this newsletter.

Unfortunately we are unable to use this facility to pay for school dinners as this is paid directly to the local authority. If paying by credit card please be aware you may incur a 1.65% transaction charge. This is a charge added by the bank and not by school. This facility is an alternative to paying at the school office, you may continue to pay for trips at school if you wish.

Asthma register

If you haven't already done so, please can you return the asthma register form ASAP so that our records are up to date. We need a return for ALL children including those who are not diagnosed as asthmatic. If your child is asthmatic we need their inhaler in school at all times so that it can be taken on trips (including the swimming baths). Unfortunately, if a child did not have their inhaler on the day of an offsite visit, they would have to stay in school as we cannot take the emergency inhaler offsite.

Thank you

Punctuality

Please remember that school starts at 8.50am. Any children arriving after the bell have to enter through the front office and MUST be signed in by parents. Some children arriving late are being dropped off at the top of the drive. Please, please, please bring your child into school. A lot can happen to a child between the top of the drive and the school office.

The Wednesday Word

I hope you are enjoying receiving The Wednesday Word. This term, there will be a weekly prize for completing the competitions in the Wednesday Word so make sure that you hand your entries to Ms Maher by Friday every week.

Lunchtime Drinks Price Increase

Please note the new prices below for lunchtime drinks:

Milk cartons 15p
Milk shakes 22p
Orange and Apple juices 22p

Unclaimed Raffle Prize

Winning raffle ticket number 67 from the Summer Fair is still unclaimed. If this is your ticket please contact the school office as soon as possible.

School Building Fund

The Archdiocese provides a distinctive Catholic education for parents who seek a real alternative to other schools within the maintained sector.

80,000 children attend 252 Catholic schools across the Archdiocese.

In Catholic schools there is a legal liability to pay 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work.

To ensure that we are able to meet this legal liability,(which will ensure that our schools are properly maintained and necessary building work is undertaken), we invite parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5 per child per half-term or where more than one child attends St Mary's School, £7.50 per half-term, (there are six half-terms in the school year). This equates to 58p per child per week.

Collections are made via envelopes, which are issued, one envelope per half term period with our newsletter.

All monies raised are used exclusively for St. Mary's School. The money does not go into a large fund for the Archdiocese, so St. Mary's benefits directly from the monies which are raised and this year we are hoping to have enough money to rebuild Preschool and improve KS1 classrooms.

We have a legal obligation to raise 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work for St. Mary's School, but for each £1.00 we raise for the School Building Fund, the Government will give us £9.00 for St. Mary's. Therefore, every £1 that is donated has tremendous buying power to improve our school for your children and, as you can see, no donation is too small.

If you are worried that you may not be able to afford the contributions to the fund, please contribute what you can.

A form is included with this newsletter if you would like to make a regular contribution by direct debit. However, you can still make a cash/cheque donation at the school office if you prefer. Could cheques please be made payable to **St Mary's Catholic Primary School (332 3303) S B Fund A/C.**

For further information, please visit the noticeboard area of our website at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk where you will find a booklet produced by the Diocesan Schools Commission explaining the fund in greater detail.