



## 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, Mr Bowkett and Miss Hutton.  
Child Protection policy available at [www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk)

October 2020



Dear Parents / Carers,

October is when Pope Francis asks every member of the Catholic community around the world to recognise themselves as a missionary disciple, working and praying together to share the joy peace, hope and love of God with everyone, everywhere. Schools are invited to join us in this worldwide celebration. They can join on any day of the month and for however long they want. All resources for the month are available to download from the **Mission Together** website: <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/missionmonth/>

Half term has round quicker than ever and the children break up today Friday 23rd October at 3pm. The school reopens to children on Monday 2nd November at 8:40am.

I would like to thank all parents and carers who participated in our Parents Evenings this week, via Zoom. We were delighted that so many of you took part in these online meetings, especially in these unprecedented times.

Class teachers are contactable by email, please ask if you need a reminder of their email addresses.

### **Our Values and Virtues next half term is: Intentional and Prophetic.**

***Your child will be learning about every action we make has an impact on other people and the world around us. Being prophetic by spreading the word of God through how we live our lives.***

Wishing you all a very happy and safe half term!

*Ms O'Beirne*

### **PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL**

#### **ADMISSIONS 2021/22**

A reminder for parents of Year 6 children, Secondary School admissions for 2021/22 are open from 1st September 2020—31st October 2020

Primary School admissions for September 2021 intake are open from 1st October 2020-15th January 2021

Please contact the school office for a supplementary form to support your child's 2021 Primary application.

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/school-information/school-admissions/>



### **NO NUTS IN SCHOOL**

Just a reminder that our school is a nut-free school, this includes sesame seeds.

We have quite a number of students in school who have severe nut allergies and can be seriously affected by someone else who is eating – or may have recently eaten – nuts. Even if you eat a product containing nuts, this can have a serious effect on a student later on in the classroom.

Thank you for your support in this matter .



## FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT

All pupils, for Reception to Year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. In addition to this entitlement, the DfE use a formula for allocating money to schools and the % of children entitled to free school meals significantly increases a school's budget.

Details regarding entitlement to free school meals are available on our school website, or by calling Dudley MBC on 01384 814988 for more information.

### Updating School Information

Can you please ensure you have provided us with an up to date email address and most update contact telephone numbers for your child.

We require at least two current phone numbers in case school needs to contact you urgently.

At the beginning of the academic year, we sent out consent forms for completion. If you haven't already done so, can you please ensure these are returned by Friday 6th November 2020.

If you require further copies, please contact the school office.



### ***Black County Health Care 24-7 Support Line for Adults and Young People***

*Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust have just launched a 24-7 support line for adults, older adults, children and young people who require urgent mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please don't suffer in silence.*

*If you are experiencing increased distress or anxiety during these uncertain times, then pick up the phone and speak to one of the specialist mental health professionals who will be able to support you.*

*For further details, please call 0345 6460827, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week*

### Samaritans Purse

#### Operation Christmas Child

We are supporting Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal again this year.

Leaflets have been sent home with the children.

The deadline for the return of the Shoeboxes or donations is **Monday 9th November.**

We really hope you can help us and support this wonderful cause.

If you need any further information, please contact the school office or look on the following website:

[www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

**HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX**

- 1. SHOEBOX:** Get a standard-size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Preprinted shoeboxes are available on our website.
- 2. SPECIAL ITEM:** Select a quality toy such as a doll, football with pump, or stuffed animal.
- 3. OTHER GIFTS:** Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies.
- 4. PERSONALISE & PRAY:** Including a personal note and photo makes a big impact. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.
- 5. INCLUDE £5 DONATION:** A donation of £5 is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. Give online through **Follow Your Box** and include a barcode in your shoebox to discover its destination.
- 6. DROP OFF:** Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location **11-18 November**. Visit our website to find one near you.

**EVERY BOX NEEDS A SPECIAL ITEM!**

For additional gift suggestions and more, visit [samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ)

**DO NOT INCLUDE** used or damaged items; clothing other than hat, gloves or scarves; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; sweets, chocolate or food items; toothpaste, lotions or liquids including bubbles; medicines; hand-made stuffed toys; playing cards of the 4-suit variety; religious or political literature; sharp or fragile items; books with mainly words.

**DUE TO IMPORT REGULATIONS, TOOTHPASTE AND SWEETS CAN NO LONGER BE INCLUDED IN SHOEBOXES.**

# ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

As a school we have a duty to monitor all pupils' attendance. 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. We understand that children cannot help being ill, but we would urge parents to do their best to ensure that medical and dental appointments are made for outside of school hours. Below is a table showing how time off affects our child's learning.

**Coronavirus related absence:** We understand that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is a difficult time for everyone. Whilst we review attendance across the whole school, we will **not** consider any absences related to Covid-19. Please be reassured that you will not be penalised in any way for Covid-19 related absence. These absences are recorded with a special code.

Parent's are requested not to take their children on holiday during term time. Holidays taken during term time are classed as unauthorised. The school may legally authorise a request for leave where there are "exceptional circumstances". Please send a written request to the Governing Body who will consider the request and reply in writing so that the leave can then be authorised and taken.

<b>97% and above</b>	<b>Less than 6 days absence a year – Less than 30 hours of learning lost</b> Excellent attendance. Your child is giving his/herself the best chance of achieving their full potential at school.
<b>95%</b>	<b>10 days absence a year – 50 hours of learning lost</b> Your child may start to find it difficult to maintain their target levels/grades Pupils who take a 2 week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.
<b>93%</b>	<b>13 days absence a year – 70 hours of learning Lost</b> Missing this much time is putting your child in an unfair position when it comes to achieving their potential.
<b>90% and below</b>	<b>19 days absence – 95 hours of learning lost</b> Your child is now classified by the Government as "Persistently Absent". Missing so much time means it will almost be impossible for your child to learn effectively. Parents of young people in this group could also face the possibility of legal action being taken by Dudley Council, including the issuing of Penalty Notices and Fines.

## Early Help

An Early Help Assessment is a great way of getting your family some support whether it be with your child's behaviour, their sleeping pattern or social and emotional well-being as well as something that effects the whole family, for example, housing and finances.

It will involve a meeting with professionals from different agencies depending on your family's individual needs and a plan will be put in place to show the different support you will receive and who is responsible for getting it done.

It is not input from Social Services; it is there as a support tool only for a variety of different reasons.

If you have any questions or feel you may benefit from this please feel free to contact Ms Mosley on 01384 818435 or arrange an appointment to see her via the school office.

## INSET DAYS 2020-21

Monday 4th January

Friday 28th May

Wednesday 21st July

*All other term dates can be found on our website and Dudley MBC*

THANK YOU

*Thank you to everyone who donated for our Harvest. All donations have been gratefully received by Giving Hands, in Brierley hill.*

A massive thank you too for all donations made for

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

“Macmillan day” last week.

We raised over £125.00!!



### **Inhalers, Epipens and Medication:**

If your child has an inhaler or epipen please make sure that it is labelled and that the use by date will last for the whole term.

If your child needs to take medication whilst at school, please complete a form available from the school office. Only prescribed medication will be administered.

All medication must be provided in the original pharmacists' packaging or container with your child's name, dosage and date clearly visible.

### **No parking on Zig Zag and double yellow lines outside school**

Unfortunately a small number of parents and carers are still parking illegally outside our school when dropping off and collecting children.

Please ensure you do not park on the zig zags or double yellow lines.



### **Christmas Card Competition!**



**Mike Wood MP Dudley South is running his annual Christmas Card Competition. The best entries will each receive a very special prize. The overall winner will have their design on the front of Mike Wood's Christmas card and there will be runners up whose entries will appear on the rear. Entries can be posted to 111A High Street, Wordsley, DY8 5QR, no later than Thursday 12th November. Please ensure all entries show your child's name, school and age on the back of their picture.**