

# 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)*

Summer 1 14



Dear Parents and Children

Welcome back to the Summer term which is the last term of the school year. The school year is going by very quickly! I hope that you all had a very restful Easter.

As you will see from the newsletter, we have many events planned for this term and we look forward to seeing you at them. Remember, all parents and parishioners are invited to all school Masses and Assemblies. Please do not feel that you cannot attend if your child's class is not directly involved.

This year, during May, we will be inviting parents to join us in our classes during the week beginning May 20th from 2.45-3pm each day to pray The Angelus with us in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus, the patron saint of our school. May is the month when we honour Mary. The Angelus (the prayer which was included on our last newsletter) tells how Mary accepted the will of God. I do hope that as many parents/carers as possible will join us.

Later this term, in July, we will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Mary's School being built on this site. On July 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop McGough will be celebrating Mass for this occasion and we are planning to have a day of celebration in school. More details will follow nearer the time. In the meantime, if you are a past pupil of St Mary's and have any photos or memories of your time here, we'd love to see/hear of your experiences. Written memories/photos can be sent to the school office so that we can photocopy them to make a memory book. Please add your name to enable us to return them safely to you.

Best wishes for the new term.

**(Please remember that we are closed for voting on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>.)**

**Ms A Maher  
Headteacher**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



The following children have birthdays during May and June. 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:

Alfie Y5	Alexis Y3	Lucy-Leigh Y6
Georgia Y3	Tommy Y2	Christopher Y4
Emma Y2	Sam Y2	Hamish REC
Naomi Y2	Martin Y5	Michaiah Y3
Chanai Y6	Shirley Y4	Jacob Y2
Genna REC	Megan Y6	Jack Y4
Dexter Y5	Hamish Y2	Rayeanne Y1
Lindsay Y4	Jack Y1	Liam Y3
Hrithik Y2	Uwais Y6	Earon Y1
Logan Y3	Renee Y6	Ivan Y5
Rose Y5	Sherelle Y4	Adam Y6
Sepideh Y5	Aira Y4	

### **Attendance Return**

**24th February 2014—11th April 2014**

Rec— 95.71%  
Yr 1— 93.00 %  
Yr 2— 93.99%  
Yr 3— 97.43%  
Yr 4— 96.10%  
Yr 5— 96.11%  
Yr 6— 96.36%

Well done Year 3. You are this half term's winners.

Our overall absences were:  
3.94% authorised  
0.53% unauthorised  
Our overall attendance was 95.53%

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.

## Diary Dates



Thursday 8th May	Fr Cecil visit to Y3 re. First Holy Communion
Mon 12th-Fri 16th May	KS2 SATs
Weds 14th May	KS1 Positive Parent Group 9.00-10.30am
Thurs 15th May	Fire Service visit to Y4 and Y5
Sat 17th May	First Holy Communion, St Mary's Church 10am
Sun 18th May	First Holy Communion Celebration Mass, St Mary's Church 11am
Tues 20th May	Y6 Leavers photos
Weds 21st May	KS1 Positive Parents Group 9.00-10.30am
Fri 23rd May	Sports Day
	<b>BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM</b>
Weds 4th June	KS1 Positive Parent Group 9.00-10.30am
Thurs 5th June	Ten-Ten Theatre visit to school
Fri 6th June	Mufti for Summer Fair—Bring a bottle
Sun 8th June	Pentecost: Confirmation Mass of Commitment, 11.00am
Mon 9th June	Reconciliation Meeting for Y2 parents—St Mary's Parish Centre 7pm
Weds 11th June	Foundation Stage visit to Rays Farm
	KS1 Positive Parent Group 9.00-10.30am
Thurs 12th June	Mass of Anointing— Y6 St Mary's Church 11am
Fri 13th June	Mufti for Summer Fair—Bring a cuddly toy
	Preschool induction for parents/children attending in Sept 2014 9.15am
Weds 18th June	Y4 INSPIRE morning 9.15-10.30am
	Y6 Life After Birth Presentation
Fri 20th June	Preschool induction for parents/children attending in Sept 2014 1.30pm
	Summer Fair 3.15pm
23rd-27th June	National Sports Week
	Vocations Week Y6
Mon 23rd June	Reconciliation Meeting for Y2 parents—St Mary's Parish Centre 7pm
Weds 25th June	Y5 INSPIRE 9.15-10.30am
Fri 27th June	Preschool induction for parents/children attending in Sept 2014 1.30pm
	Onesie Fun Run for PTA
Sun 29th June	School Choir to sing at St. Mary's Church Mass of St Peter and Paul 11.00am
30th June-4th July	Local History Week
Mon 30th June	Y3 & Y4 visit to Black Country Museum
	Foundation Stage Induction Meeting 6.30pm
Tues 1st July	Y5 visit to Scarehole Mill
Weds 2nd July	Y1 visit to Dudley Zoo
	Y3 INSPIRE 9.15-10.30am
Thurs 3rd July	Y2 visit to Wordsley Glass Cone
Mon 7th July	New children and parents to Foundation Stage 1.30pm-2.30pm
Tues 8th July	Hagley Glamrock Band in school
	SVP/School Council Afternoon Tea
Weds 9th July	Y6 Big Bash 6.30pm
Thurs 10th July	First Reconciliation St Mary's Church 11.00am
Fri 11th July	50th Anniversary Celebrations
Mon 14th July	Parents Evening 3-5pm (only need to book an appointment if unhappy with report)
Tues 15th July	Leavers Mass 9.15am
Weds 16th July	Y6 visit to Safari Park
Fri 18th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly 9.15am
	<b>BREAK UP FOR SUMMER</b>
Tues 2nd Sept	<b>CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL</b>

### INSET DAYS

<b>Thurs 22nd May</b>	<b>Local Elections—school closed to children</b>
<b>Mon 1st Sept</b>	<b>School closed to children</b>

### Class Assemblies

Fri 6th June	KS2 CIL Assembly	9.15am
Fri 18th July	Leavers Assembly	9.15am

### Whole School Mass List

Tues 20th May	School Council Mass	9.15am
Tues 10th June	Staff Mass	9.15am
Tues 1st July	Foundation Stage Mass	9.15am
<b>Fri 11th July</b>	<b>St Mary's 50th Anniversary Celebration Mass</b>	<b>9.15am</b>
	<b>St Mary's Church, Brierley Hill</b>	
Tues 15th July	Leavers Mass	9.15am



### Parent Calendar

Thank you to those parents who have given positive feedback for our online parent calendar. It is constantly updated to keep you aware of all the events happening in school including school visits, after school clubs, masses, assemblies and term dates. If you haven't already subscribed to this calendar and would like to do so, just scan the code on the right from your phone or tablet and you should be able to subscribe to the calendar.



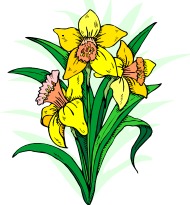
### New School Website



We hope by now you have all taken the time to view our new school website. This new site is much more informative as it includes policies and documents for you to download if you wish, a link to the parent portal where you will find, amongst other things, our parent calendar, curriculum plans so you can see what your child is learning each term and a blog which keeps you updated of events and any changes which may occur. There is also a useful links section which includes weblinks to our online payments system, our parents evening booking system and links to local Catholic Secondary schools amongst others. Please leave comments about our website or any suggestions/ideas you may have about what you would like to see on our site on our guestbook. There is also a facility to view the website in different languages! The address is the same as our current address:  
[www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk)

### Marie Curie Cancer Care Mini Pots of Care

Many thanks to those of you who supported our fundraising for Marie Curie Cancer Care. We hope you are enjoying the daffodils that the children planted. With your help we managed to raise £130.50 for this very worthwhile cause.



### School Meals and Drinks

Just a reminder that school meals are currently £2 per day. Drinks prices vary as detailed below:

Milk shake 22p  
Small Juice 24p  
Large Juice 28p

Please remember that school lunches cannot be paid for at the school office. Cheques need to be made out to **DMBC**

## **Schools Benefit Fund**

The Archdiocese provides 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.

Yet this education comes at a price. We pay for the privilege of having and controlling our Catholic schools. In return for this privilege, there is a legal liability to pay 10% of the cost of external buildings and maintenance work.

Up to now, this money has come from just one source. A 16.5% levy on the Offertory collections taken at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses, from each parish in the Archdiocese, throughout the year. Because of falling Mass attendances and inflation, the amount raised is no longer sufficient to cover our liability.

So, to ensure that we continue to meet this legal liability, which will ensure that our schools are properly maintained and necessary building work is undertaken. For the first time in the history of the Archdiocese, we are inviting all parents of children who attend our Catholic schools to contribute to these costs, rather than just parents and parishioners who attend Mass regularly.

This fund, which is named the School Building Fund, was launched in September 2004 to enable this money to be raised.

We are inviting parents to make a voluntary contribution of £10 per child per term or where more than one child attends St Mary's School, £15 per term, (there are three terms in the school year). This equates to 58p per child per week.

Collections will be made via envelopes, which will be issued, twice per term ie. One envelope per half term period.

All monies raised will be used exclusively for St. Mary's School. The money will not go into a large fund for the Archdiocese, so St. Mary's will benefit directly from the monies raised.

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, so it is vitally important that we achieve success with St. Mary's School Building Fund, otherwise we will lose the contribution the Government makes, in direct proportion to the amount we fall below our target.

The amount of money St. Mary's School must raise each year is £6000. With your help and support we are confident we can achieve this figure, so please help us.

Every other school in the Archdiocese is also establishing a School Building Fund, so every school is affected in the same way.

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

**Donations can also be made by direct debit. Please ask at the school office for a form.**

Recently your donations have enabled us to extend Year 2 and Year 3 classrooms, to build a new outdoor classroom and to refurbish our front entrance hall so a HUGE THANK YOU.