



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, Mrs Addis and Mrs Broomfield.
Child Protection policy available at www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

January 2017



Happy New Year

I would like to welcome everyone back to school and wish you all a healthy and happy new year.

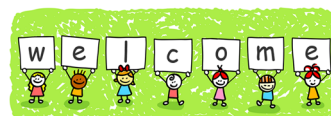
At his last public appearance of 2016, Pope Francis urged leaders to open their minds for young people "so that they can be capable of dreaming and fighting for their dreams".

"Looking at the manger challenges us to help our young people not to become disillusioned by our own immaturity, and to spur them on so that they can be capable of dreaming and fighting for their dreams, capable of growing and becoming fathers and mothers of our people," the pope said. I am sure that a message that we would all want to take on board with our children at St Mary's.

Welcome

We have a few staff changes this term. Welcome to Ms Scotney who will be replacing Mrs Berridge in Year 1; Miss Mosley who will be our new SENDCo; Miss Healy who will be supporting the work done in Year 6 and Mrs Cree who will be teaching Year 6 Booster sessions.

We are sorry to have to say goodbye to Mrs Sheldon-Wilson who is leaving us this month to begin a new career. She has been a huge support to Mrs Brereton and Year 6 and will be greatly missed.



Attendance



There have been a few nasty cold and sickness bugs doing the rounds on the run up to Christmas, but we still have 76 children who managed to achieve 100% attendance for the Autumn Term of 2016. Each of these children was presented with a certificate in assembly on the first day of term and their names or photographs are on display in the entrance. Well done to all of these children.

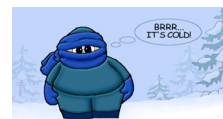
Congratulations to the following classes, who achieved the best attendance for the Autumn

Term:		
1st	Year 3	97.54%
2nd	Year 6	97.21%
3rd	Year 4	96.54%

Could we remind parents and carers that we should be notified of the reason for a child's absence by 10am on the first day of absence. If we do not receive this information then your child's absence will be classed as unauthorised.

Extreme Weather Conditions

As an academy, the Local Authority does not have the power to oblige academies to close, but may come to an agreement with the Academy Committee. At a recent Committee of Principals' meeting it was agreed that all SNOMAC schools would inform parents via the school's texting service and an alert notice on the homepage of each school's website. Radio stations will not be informed as this can cause greater confusion to parents. The deadline for any decisions to be made would be 7am in advance of the school day. We would ask you to make sure that you inform a member of the school office team if your mobile telephone number has changed recently.



School Uniform Policy



I would like to draw your attention to our school uniform and dress policy which is available to view on our website. I would particularly like to remind you about hair styles as we are getting one or two which do not fit in with the policy.

Also, if your child is coming to school in warm boots during the colder weather, please send them with a pair of indoor shoes to change into when they get here as snow boots can become very hot for children in a heated building.

After School Clubs

The following after school clubs are available this term. All clubs run from 3:00pm until 4:15pm:

Strike Sports

Monday -	Football (KS1/2)	£1.00
Tuesday -	Team sports eg basketball, netball (KS1/2)	£1.00
Wednesday -	Dodgeball (KS2)	£1.00
Thursday -	Multi sports (KS1/2)	£1.00
Friday -	Handball / Indoor activities (KS2)	£1.00



Other providers

Wednesday -	Irish Dancing	£3.00
Thursday -	Art	£3.00
Friday -	Drama	£3.00

School Nurse Drop-ins



Our school nurse will be holding monthly drop-in sessions on the following **Wednesdays** between **9am and 10am**. If you have any health concerns for your child, eg asthma, diet, sleep, recurring illness, then you can come along at any time to speak with her and she will advise you of any support available.:

18th January, 15th February, 15th March, 26th April.

Congratulations

Well done to Harry in Year 6 who has been offered a scholarship at Old Swinford Hospital School for September. Places at this renowned school are hard to come by and around 800 children sat the 11 plus entrance exam. Harry came 4th in the test which is an excellent achievement.



Holiday Requests



Please can I remind you that if you decide to go on holiday during school time, then you **MUST** complete a Holiday Request Form 15 working days before the holiday. This will then be reviewed at the next meeting with the Education Investigation Service. As stated in our Attendance Policy - no holidays in Term Time will be authorised by the Principal. If a child is absent for more than 4 days then on the fifth day a penalty notice may be issued.

Email Addresses

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their email address or mobile number to receive our monthly newsletter. We are still waiting for some to come in. If you have not yet let us have your email address, then please let us know as soon as possible. In the mean time, all newsletters are available to view on the school website.



Ms O'Beirne
Principal

Academy Prayer

Lord, fill our hearts and minds as we move forwards together. Enable us to work with one another to ensure that our community continues to develop and grow, for the benefit of all Amen

Academy Motto

In Jesus we live learn and serve.

Event	Date	Time
Masses		
Year 5 Mass	Tuesday 24th January	9:15am
School Council Mass	Tuesday 7th February	9:15am
Mini-Vinnies Mass—Ash Wednesday / St David	Wednesday 1st March	9:15am
Year 1 Mass—Lent	Tuesday 14th March	9:15am
Year 6 Mass— Holy Week	Tuesday 4th April	9:15am
Year 2 Mass—Our Lady	Tuesday 2nd May	9:15am
Reception Mass	Tuesday 16th May	9:15am
Prayer Leaders Mass	Tuesday 6th June	9:15am
Year 3 Mass—Sacred Heart	Tuesday 20th June	9:15am
Staff Mass	Tuesday 4th July	9:15am
Year 4 Mass—Leavers	Tuesday 18th July	9:15am
Class Assemblies		
Year 2	Friday 27th January	9:15am
Year 1	Friday 17th February	9:15am
St Patrick's Day	Friday 17th March	9:15am
Year 4	Friday 5th May	9:15am
Year 5	Friday 16th June	9:15am
Reception and Pre-School	Friday 7th July	9:15am
Year 6 (Graduation assembly)	Friday 21st July	9:15am
Future important dates		
Year 5 Hagley Pyramid Concert, Birmingham Town Hall	Thursday February 16 th 2017	
First Holy Communion, St. Mary's Church (Year 3)	Saturday 20 th May 2017	11am
First Holy Communion Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 21 st May 2017	11am
First Reconciliation (Year 2), St Mary's Church	Friday 7th July 2017	11am
First Reconciliation Thanksgiving Mass, St. Mary's Church	Sunday 9th July 2017	11am

This list of dates may be subject to changes or additions. If this is the case we will let you know as soon as possible.

2016-2017 Term Dates

Friday 17th February 2017	Break up for half term
Monday 27th February 2017	School re-opens
Friday 7th April 2017	School closes for Easter break
Monday 24th April 2017	Start of term—School opens
Monday 1st May 2017	May Day Bank Holiday
Thursday 4th May 2017	Enforced closure for local elections
Friday 26th May 2017	Break up for Half Term
Monday 5th June 2017	School re-opens
Friday 21st July 2017	End of term—School closes for summer

Teacher Training Days for 2016-2017

Thursday 4th May (enforced closure- voting station) 2017
Monday 23rd of July 2017
Tuesday 24th of July 2017

