



St Mary's C of E Primary School

Parent Newsletter

December 2016



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Christmas Events

Thank you to everybody who attended one of our performances this week - we hope they have got you all into a festive mood. Many thanks to all of you who supported the Christmas Fair earlier this month. It raised a total of £1,248 which is a wonderful achievement. The money raised will be used for a variety of purposes including the purchase of games for wet playtimes, PE resources, musical instruments and library books. We would like to say particular thanks to all of the parent volunteers who gave up their time and worked so hard to make all of this term's events such a success.

Attendance

Our attendance figure to date is 96.8%. A reminder that any late children are to report to the office and not the classroom doors as office staff must have an accurate picture of attendance each day. The current figures for each class are below:

Zebras:	93.8%	Elephants:	96.4%
Foxes:	96.1%	Hedgehogs:	98.0%
Robins:	95.5%	Bluebirds:	97.4%
Dolphins:	97.2%	Starfish:	97.6%
Giraffes:	98.0%	Lions:	95.6%
Tigers:	98.4%	Monkeys:	97.4%

Winter Weather

As we head into January (which often brings snow and ice), a reminder of our procedures. **The first step is to assume that school is open unless you are informed otherwise.** In the event of a closure we will inform you through text message, the school website, Twitter and e-mail by 7.15 at the latest. These are the quickest methods of communication and would advise you to access one of these sources in the first instance. We will also inform local radio stations and leave a message on the school's main telephone number (option 3).

Prayer Garden

Hopefully most of you have now seen our new prayer garden in the Lodge Hill playground. This is a space that all children can use for quiet reflection amidst the noise of the playground. Many thanks to all staff who were involved in the development and particular thanks to Mr Dyhouse, a parent, who gave his own time freely to produce the lovely artwork for the garden. This now completes the much-needed redevelopment of this part of the site and many thanks for the great feedback we've received about it over the past couple of months.

Reception Admissions – September 2016

If you have a child who was born between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013, it is important that you apply online for your child's Reception place by 16th January 2017. For further information and to apply online please visit https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/590/apply_for_reception_primary_school
Alternatively contact a member of the Children's Information and Advice Service on 0121 303 1888.

A Christmas Prayer



Thank you, God for the wonderful gift of your son, Jesus, as we celebrate His birthday. Help us to remember Him as we give and receive gifts, taking time to pray for each person and for those who have nothing. Help us, Lord, to fill this Christmas with you and with your love, peace and joy.

Key Stage Two Standards (2016)

We have had final confirmation of our results for this year's KS2 assessments. These assessments were significantly harder than in previous years. The results are below with the 2016 national average in brackets for comparison.

Children achieving the expected and higher standard in each of Reading, EGPS*, Writing and Maths:

1) Reading - 93% (66%) and 33% (19%)

Our average performance in Reading was the 4th highest in Birmingham.

2) Writing: 80% (74%) and 10% (15%)

3) EGPS: 100% (72%) and 67% (22%)

Our average performance was the highest in Birmingham and the 4th highest in England.

4) Maths: 100% (70%) and 60% (17%)

Our average performance in Maths was the highest in Birmingham and the 5th highest in England.

*English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Children achieving the expected or higher standard in all of Reading, Writing and Maths:

5) Expected: 77% (53%)

Our performance on this measure was the 10th highest in Birmingham.

6) Higher: 10% (5%)

Our performance was on this measure was the 7th highest in Birmingham

These are great achievements of which we can be extremely proud, once again well done to all!

New Website

We have a brand new website which is much easier to access and navigate than the previous one. It can be accessed via: www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk. Please let us know your thoughts and what you would like to see us develop in the future!

Important Dates

A reminder of term dates for the remainder of the year:

Autumn term ends: Friday 16th December

Spring term begins: Wednesday 4th January

Half-term begins: Friday 17th February

Children return: Monday 27th February

Spring term ends: Friday 7th April

Summer term begins: Monday 24th April

Local Elections: Thursday 4th May –closed to pupils

Half-term begins: Friday 26th May

Children return: Monday 5th June

Summer term ends: Friday 21st July

Children return for 2016/17 academic year:

Wednesday 6th September

(Dates for the 2017/18 academic year are in the panel to the right)

Key Dates – Spring 2017 onwards

Friday 6 th January	KS2 Theatre trip
Thursday 12 th January	Y6 SATs prep parent workshop
Tuesday 17 th January	YR height weight & hearing check
Wednesday 18 th January	Y6 height and weight check
Friday 20 th January	Y1 family workshop 9am
Thursday 26 th January	YR family workshop
Friday 27 th January	Y5 fundraising event
Thursday 2 nd February	Bags 4 Rags collection
Friday 10 th February	Non uniform day
Friday 10 th February	3.20 KS1 FOSM Disco
	4.45pm KS2 FOSM Disco
Thursday 16 th February	Y2 fundraising event
Friday 17 th February	NO congrats assembly
Monday 20 th February	Half term break
Monday 27 th February	School reopens
Wednesday 1 st March	parent consultations 3.30pm
Thursday 2 nd March	parent consultations 3.30pm

Punctuality and Parking

You have had letters about the ‘Spotlight’ legal process we are now using to address persistent absenteeism. There is now a clear expectation on schools to take action against families of persistent absentees through these means.

As the number of classes grows, managing the security of the building becomes increasingly challenging with multiple access points now being used. Our main priority is to secure the building quickly with all doors closed at 9.00 and lessons beginning immediately afterwards. **Parents who accompany a child to school must escort them to the classroom door or, if late, to the school office.**

The site is open from 8.40 to help ease congestion and allow a steady flow of people onto it. We know that there is increased traffic in the area due to the expansion of pupil numbers so a further reminder that the school expects parents to park their cars with the safety of our pupils and consideration for our neighbours at the forefront of their minds (this also includes dropping off pupils on yellow zig-zag lines).

Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty very seriously. If you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child, then you must contact the school or the Birmingham Children’s Information and Advice Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

Term Dates 2017 – 2018

Please find below the confirmed dates for the 2017/18 academic year. We trust that advance notice of these will enable holidays and other plans to arranged without your child’s attendance being affected:

Aut 1: Weds 6th September – Fri 20th October

Aut 2: Mon 30th October – Fri 22nd December

Spr 1: Tues 9th January – Fri 16th February

Spr 2: Mon 26th February – Thurs 29th March

Sum 1: Mon 16th April – Fri 25th May

Sum 2: Mon 4th June – Fri 20th July

Staff training days for the year (where school will be closed) are:

Monday 4th September 2017

Tuesday 5th September 2017

Monday 8th January 2018

Monday 23rd July 2018

Tuesday 24th July 2018

Please note it is likely that the school will be closed on Thursday 3rd May 2018 for elections.

Events at St Mary’s Church

-December 18th: Main Carol Service (6.30pm with mince pies and punch)

-December 24th: Crib Service (5pm – a traditional retelling of the Christmas story for children)

-December 24th: Midnight Communion (11.30pm – the first ‘mass’ of Christmas
www.stmaryssellyoak.org

Scooters and Bicycles

We have a number of scooters in our bicycle shelter at the moment that appear to be unclaimed, some of them have been there for a very long time. In order to get best use out of the facility, we ask that families take scooters and bicycles home each night. Scooters that are still unclaimed by the end of January will be removed.

Farewell

We say goodbye to Mrs Burge today as she leaves St Mary’s to take up an advisory teacher role in a neighbouring Local Authority.

We thank her for everything she has brought to the school since she joined us and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Christmas Wishes

This term has passed rapidly and, as always, it has been an extremely busy one. Much has been achieved and children, staff and governors would like to thank all of you for your support. We wish you a very enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in January.

