



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

## Parent Newsletter

### December 2019



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#### Christmas Wishes

Thanks to everybody who has attended concerts, performances and services during the final week of term, we hope you enjoyed them.

We would like to say particular thanks to the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) for their work in planning and organising the Christmas Fair. It raised a total of £1446 – a great effort – and the proceeds will go towards buying an electric piano to replace the old piano we have in the school hall. Thanks to everyone who gave up their time on the day to help and many thanks to all who came along to support the event.

On behalf of all children, staff and governors we wish you a peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in January.

#### Winter Weather Procedures

If severe weather strikes, **please assume that the school is open unless you are informed otherwise.**

If we are closed, you will be informed by text message, the school website, Twitter and e-mail by 7.15 at the latest. Local radio stations will also be contacted. We will use the same methods to inform you of re-opening arrangements.

If snow falls during the day and the forecast is poor, we may begin a 'rolling' closure where you can collect your child earlier and from a specific time. If this does happen, we will let you know through the same methods described above.

#### Important Dates

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

**Spring term begins:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

**Half-term begins:** Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Children return:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Spring term ends:** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**Children return:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

**School closure:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>/Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
(This is for Local Elections and the Spring Bank Holiday)

**Half-term begins:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**Children return:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Summer term ends:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

#### Key Dates – Spring 2020

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens to pupils
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Y3, Y4, Y5&Y6 to theatre
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Viney Hill meeting for Eagles & Falcons 3.30pm
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Viney Hill parent meeting for Penguins & Seals classes 3.30pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	FOSM (Friends of St Marys) DISCO
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Inspire Church Service 2.30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Encourage Church service 9.30am
<b>Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – Fri 21 Feb</b>	<b>Half Term holiday – school closed</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School closed to pupils – Staff training day
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	1 Badgers class assembly 9am
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	1 Moles class assembly 9am
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent consultations 3.30 – 6pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent consultations 3.30-6pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	5Falcons class assembly 9am
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	5 Eagles class assembly 9am
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter service – Encourage group 2.30pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Easter church service – Inspire 9.30am

#### Anti-Bullying and Pupil Safety

We introduced a new Anti-Bullying programme called KiVa last month as part of a pilot project being carried out in schools across Birmingham. This includes lessons and a range of strategies designed to identify and tackle instances of bullying in schools. An information leaflet was emailed to parents at the beginning of the month, please let us know if you didn't receive this.

Continuing the theme of safety, we now have 8 pupils in Years 5 and 6 trained as Junior PCSOs. This is a partnership between the school and West Midlands Police and involves children taking part in Anti-Bullying work, reducing litter, property marking and carrying out parking patrols in local streets. You will be seeing them at work in their high visibility jackets over the coming months!

#### School Standards

Earlier this month we received final confirmation of the standards reached by our Year 6 pupils in July 2019. They are below with the national average in brackets:

##### Pupils reaching the expected standard:

- Reading: 82% (73%)
- Writing: 91% (78%)
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 89% (78%)
- Maths: 88% (79%)
- Reading/Writing/Maths combined: 77% (65%)

##### Pupils reaching the higher standard:

- Reading: 45% (27%)
- Writing: 27% (20%)
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 66% (36%)
- Maths: 52% (27%)
- Reading/Writing/Maths combined: 16% (11%)

These results represent the hard work of the children and all of the staff who supported them during their time at the school – well done to all!

### Term Dates Sept 2020 – Jul 2021

Please find below the confirmed dates for the 2020/21 academic year. We hope that advance notice enables you to arrange holidays and other plans without your child's attendance being affected.

**Aut 1:** Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

**Half-term: Mon 26<sup>th</sup> October – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> October**

**Aut 2:** Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Christmas break: Mon 21<sup>st</sup> December – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> January**

**Spr 1:** Tues 5<sup>th</sup> January – Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Half-term: Mon 15<sup>th</sup> February – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Spr 2:** Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021

**Easter break: Mon 5<sup>th</sup> April - Fri 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**Sum 1:** Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Half-term: Mon 31<sup>st</sup> May – Fri 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**Sum 2:** Tues 8<sup>th</sup> June – Weds 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

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

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020      Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021      Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Contacting School

If you have a concern about any aspect of your child's time at school, please contact the class teacher to discuss this in the first instance.

Should the concern not be resolved at this stage then you must then contact the relevant leader of the school's management team: Miss Domagala for Reception; Mrs Cole for Years 1 and 2; Miss Forrest for Years 3 and 6 and Mr Tromans for Years 4 and 5. If the concern is still not resolved after this point, then a member of the school's senior leadership team will take up the matter. In this way, we aim to resolve your concerns at the earliest possible opportunity.

If you need to relay a message or information to individual teachers, please use the following email address:

[teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk](mailto:teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk) and direct more general enquiries to [enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk). Many thanks for your support.

### Staffing Changes

Mrs Woods will be leaving us to begin her maternity leave early in the new year and we wish her well for the coming weeks and months. Mrs Holmes, who has been with us over the past year as a non-class based teacher, will be taking over Mrs Woods' class for the rest of the academic year and Mr Keating will be joining us as a non-class based teacher.

### Attendance

Our attendance figure to date is 96.5%. The current figures for each class are below:

<b>R Dragonflies</b>	<b>95.1%</b>	<b>R Grasshoppers</b>	<b>93.0%</b>
<b>1 Moles:</b>	<b>94.4 %</b>	<b>1 Badgers:</b>	<b>96.9 %</b>
<b>2 Koalas:</b>	<b>97.0 %</b>	<b>2 Wallabies:</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>3 Seals:</b>	<b>97.0 %</b>	<b>3 Penguins:</b>	<b>97.3 %</b>
<b>4 Turtles:</b>	<b>97.3 %</b>	<b>4 Whales:</b>	<b>98.5 %</b>
<b>5 Eagles:</b>	<b>96.5 %</b>	<b>5 Falcons:</b>	<b>97.5 %</b>
<b>6 Dolphins:</b>	<b>96.5 %</b>	<b>6 Starfish:</b>	<b>96.5 %</b>

### E-Safety and Safeguarding

It is a key responsibility of parents to monitor and manage any online activity that their child may be involved with at home. The effects of not doing this can be very serious. This includes access to social media platforms, games and websites which are not age appropriate.

The school takes its safeguarding duty very seriously and 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 Advice Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence. This number must also be used if you suspect any unlawful or inappropriate contact has taken place with either your child (or other children) online.

### St Mary's Church

A new Vicar has been appointed to the Church, the Reverend Hazel White will be joining St Mary's in the early part of February and we look forward to welcoming her when she arrives.

Christmas services at Church for this year are:

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> December**

-5.00pm Crib Service (a traditional telling of the Christmas story for children)

-11.30pm: Midnight Communion

**Weds 25<sup>th</sup> December**

-10.00am Holy Communion

If you live in the parish, you are entitled to the services of St Mary's Church. There is a monthly Men's Group and Women's Group as well as coffee mornings and social events. For details of baptisms, weddings and funerals, please see the church website at <http://www.stmaryselloak.org.uk>.

### A Christmas Prayer

We thank you, God for the wonderful gift of Jesus.

As we give and receive gifts at this time of year, help us to remember his message of love and to take time to think of and help those who will have little or nothing.

Help us, Lord, to fill this Christmas with your love, peace and joy.

Amen

### Reception Admissions – September 2020

A final reminder that if you have a child who was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016, it is important that you apply online for your child's Reception place by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020. For further information and to apply online please visit: [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions/1786/apply\\_for\\_reception\\_primary\\_school](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school)

