



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Parent Newsletter

December 2020



Tel: 0121 675 1729

Email: enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk or teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Web: www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk

Twitter: @stmarysb29

Christmas Wishes

We knew back in September that this term was going to be unlike any other we had experienced and it was very much a step into the unknown. However, the way in which the children responded to being back in school from the outset gave us great optimism that we could begin rebuilding their relationships with school and with one another and make significant progress throughout the autumn despite the challenges that would undoubtedly appear.

It has been a genuine collective effort to help make the first term back a successful one and I want to thank every member of the school community for their contribution to this. On behalf of everyone in school, I wish you a peaceful Christmas and look forward to us joining together again in the new year, Mr Smith.

Thank you

The responses to both our Harvest appeal and the recent non-uniform day for Children in Need were fantastic.

The amount of food donated was far in excess of what we usually have and we raised over £600 for Children in Need – double the usual amount. Thank you for your generosity, it will help those in need both locally and beyond.

The Northfield Food service is providing hot meals to takeaway every Thursday and on weekdays during the Christmas holiday. If you live in that area and think you may be eligible, contact northfieldfoodservice@gmail.com or call 0738592694.

Farewells

We say farewell to Mrs Cole at the end of this week. We thank her for everything she has brought to the school over the past two years and for her work in developing our reading curriculum. We wish her every success in the future. We also say farewell to Mr Keating who has taught classes throughout the school during his time here and we wish him well for the future too.

In January, we welcome Ms Sinha who will be teaching 2 Badgers for the remainder of the year and we welcome Mr Newton who joins us as a Learning Mentor. We will also be welcoming back Mrs Woods following her maternity leave and she will share the teaching of Reception Otters with Mrs Holmes.

Christmas at St Mary's Church

Christmas at church will not be quite the same as usual this year due to Covid restrictions. We have a limited capacity in the building in order to maintain 2m social distancing between individuals and households, and sadly no congregational singing is allowed. We are therefore offering a combination of on-line services and services in the building as follows:

Sunday 20th December

- All-age Communion Service at 10am in church with Junior Church socially distanced nativity.
- On-line Carol Service with pre-recorded readings and music: watch and sing along from 6.30pm via a YouTube video on our website www.stmarys-sellyoak.org.uk

Thursday 24th December

- Crib service at 6pm on Zoom: meeting ID is 3180106329, to register and for password contact vicar@stmarys-sellyoak.org.uk
- Midnight Mass at 11.30pm in church

Friday 25th December

Holy Communion for Christmas Day at 10am in church

Rev. Hazel White

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 to fill this Christmas with your love, peace and joy.
Amen

Competition Winner

Every year Steve McCabe (MP for Selly Oak) holds a Christmas card competition for schools in the constituency.

We were so proud to hear that Isla-Rose Beecroft in Year 4 was chosen as the overall winner for this year. This is a great accolade and her winning design is on the second page of the newsletter.

We are sure you will agree that the message alone makes her a very worthy winner - as we were told, 'Steve thought Isla-Rose's card truly captured the Christmas spirit, despite the difficulties of 2020.'

Christmas may be different this year
but we can still fill our hearts with
joy, love and cheer!



Term dates for the rest of the year:

Spring term begins: Tuesday 5th January

Half-term begins: Monday 15th February

Children return: Tuesday 23rd February

Spring term ends: Thursday 1st April

Children return: Monday 19th April

Half-term begins: Monday 31st May

Children return: Tuesday 8th June

Summer term ends: Wednesday 21st July

Children return for the new academic year: Monday 6th September

School is closed for training on the following days:

Monday 4th January; Monday 22nd February; Monday 7th June

In addition, we are closed on **Thursday 6th May** for Local Elections (these are postponed elections from last year).

Site Safety - January 2021

The safety measures we have currently have in place will continue until further notice. A reminder of some key points for January.

Symptoms

- Children must not be sent to school if they are showing symptoms of Covid-19. We encourage you to get them tested if this is the case and let us know the result.
- Children must not attend school while they are awaiting the result of a test.
- Children must not attend school if a member of the household has received a positive test result and other members of the household are required to self-isolate.

Use of the site

- Make sure your child arrives at school on time and is collected on time. We have different drop off and collection times to limit the number of people gathering at any one time and to reduce the risk to others.
- If you are using the cube to travel from one side of the site to the other, please wear a face covering or cover your mouth and nose for the short time you are indoors. If you are unable to do this, use Lodge Hill Road and Frederick Road instead.
- If you are waiting to drop-off and/or collect, do not allow your child to mix with others who are not in your household.
- Use one way systems where they are marked.

Contact details

If your contact details change during the Christmas break, let us know as soon as term begins. This means we can contact you quickly should we need to close your child's class.

Please refer to the letter sent on 9th December about contacting school if your child receives a positive test result for Covid-19 during the opening days of the Christmas break. This letter has been reissued with this newsletter.