



St Mary's CE Primary School

Parent Newsletter



July 2017

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Farewells

The end of an academic year always brings an element of sadness as we say goodbye to those who have been part of the school community but these farewells are always tempered with excitement as we think about the new opportunities awaiting those who are leaving us.

We wish our Year 6 leavers every success and happiness as they begin the next chapter of their school journey. They have been excellent ambassadors for the school with their work ethic and growing maturity being particularly noticeable over the past year. We will miss each and every one of them.

As explained in a separate letter earlier this month, we are saying goodbye to Miss Dolan and Mrs Dodd - they leave with our gratitude for everything they have brought to St Mary's. Finally, many thanks to our families and friends for supporting us throughout the year. Partnerships with home and the wider community are vital to any school's success and in our case, this provides great strength for us to draw upon. Our children, staff and governors wish you a peaceful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you all on 6th September.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our final attendance figure for the year is 96.8%. The final figures for each class are below:

R Zebras	94.6%	R elephants	95.1%
Foxes:	95.6%	Hedgehogs:	97.7%
Robins:	96.8%	Bluebirds:	97.3%
Dolphins:	97.1%	Starfish:	97.8%
Giraffes:	97.5%	Lions:	95.8%
Tigers:	98.5%	Monkeys:	97.5%

Friends of St Mary's

It has been a very busy term for FOSM with the summer fair last week and today's discos. All events were very well supported as always and we will be able to let you know the final figure for our fundraising next week. Many thanks to the tireless work of the volunteers to make these events happen. All money raised provides valuable funds which benefit the school and the pupils and we look forward to another successful year in 2017-2018.

Lockdown Procedures

You received a letter on 3rd July outlining the school's use of these in the event of an emergency in or around the school. Advice issued by Birmingham LA last week now states that primary schools should go through procedures with staff but not with children so undue distress is avoided. We will now follow this advice and work closely with staff on the issue.

Key Stage Two Sats

These benchmarks are used to help judge the effectiveness of a school and are published nationally in December. The tests are now far harder than those that were in place up until 2015 with the children having to demonstrate far more knowledge and understanding to be considered as working at the standard expected for their age. The figures for our school are below and they show the percentage of our children who achieved this standard with the provisional national figures in brackets. As you can see, our Year 6 children rose to the challenge magnificently.

Reading: 97% (71%)

Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 97% (77%)

Writing*: 93% (76%)

*This is teacher assessed and not tested.

Mathematics: 100% (75%)

Congratulations to the children and huge thanks to all of the staff who have been involved in teaching and supporting them during their seven years at the school.

A Prayer



Dear God,

We thank you for all the gifts and happiness you have given to us throughout this school year.

As we come to its end, we give our thanks for the good things you have done for us, and for all who have shared in the work of this school. We think of those who are leaving our community to embark on new and exciting challenges. We ask you to bless them in your love and give them peace.

Amen.

Reports

Annual reports were issued on Friday 7th July. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can provide you with a duplicate.

Important Dates

Some key dates for the final week of term:

Monday 17 th July	Y6 memories DVD showing 3.30pm
Tuesday 18 th July	Y6 leavers show 9.30am
Thursday 20 th July	Thank you assembly Inspire 9 am
Thursday 20 th July	Thank you assembly Encourage 2.45pm
Friday 21 st July	Y6 leavers service 9.30am School finishes for summer holidays 3.20/3.30pm

And some key dates for the early part of the autumn term:

Monday 4 th Sept	Closed to pupils
Tuesday 5 th Sept	Closed to pupils
Wednesday 6 th Sept	School open to pupils
Monday 11 th September	New reception children start part time
Thursday 14 th Sept	New Reception pupils in full time

Summer Projects/September Entry and Exit Points

The school will embark on the final phase of its expansion from September as we head towards 420 pupils from September 2018. We will be making further improvements to the building and site in order this summer so we are prepared a year in advance:

- The area outside the current Reception classrooms will be changed and landscaped to create a designated area for outdoor learning. In addition, a canopy is to be erected immediately outside these rooms to allow large sections of this new area to be used regardless of weather conditions.
- The school will be taking possession of the Site Manager's house over the summer holiday and will convert this into a space allowing our current level of music tuition to be maintained as well as create working space for staff and meeting rooms.

The entry and exit points for classes from September onwards are explained below, these have been designed to minimise congestion in and around the school at the beginning and end of the day.

- Reception** and **Year 1** classes remain unchanged.
- Years 2 and 3 classes** - the entry/exit point for **Eagles, Falcons and Hedgehogs** classes will be the doorway next to the canopied area in the Lodge Hill Rd playground. **Foxes** will use the classroom door that leads onto this playground.
- Dolphins** and **Starfish** classrooms will be where the current Year 4 classes are and their entry/exit point will be the classroom doors that lead directly onto the Lodge Hill Rd playground.
- Lions and Giraffes** will move to where the current Year 5 classroom is based, their entry/exit point will be the one currently used by Years 5 and 6 (the stairwell leading onto the Lodge Hill Rd playground).
- Tigers** will move to the current Year 6 classroom at the opposite end of the corridor to where they are at the moment, their entry and exit will be the doorway by the spider-web climbing frame on the Frederick Road side of the site.

Term Dates 2017 - 2018

A final reminder of dates for the forthcoming academic year:

Aut 1: Wed 6 th September – Fri 20 th October
Aut 2: Mon 30 th October – Fri 22 nd December
Spr 1: Tues 9 th January – Fri 16 th February
Spr 2: Mon 26 th February – Thurs 29 th March
Sum 1: Mon 16 th April – Fri 25 th May
Sum 2: Mon 4 th June – Fri 20 th July

The school is closed on the following dates for staff training:

Monday 4 th September
Tuesday 5 th September
Monday 8 th January
Monday 23 rd July
Tuesday 24 th July

The school is also likely to be closed on 3rd May 2018 due to local elections, we will be able to confirm this nearer the time.

Looking forward to next summer, **if your child is currently in Year 5 please note that the test week for the 2017 Year 6 Sats is the week beginning Monday 14th May.**

Year 6 Leavers' Service

St Mary's Church can no longer accommodate all of the classes in the school in a single service and we now have two Church services at the end of each half-term for the Encourage and Inspire groups respectively.

Organising the forthcoming Leavers' service has provided a further challenge and we have considered the following principles when deciding a new format for this:

- Our wish to provide the children with a special, unique service on their final morning.
- The importance of enabling as many family members as possible to attend and for them to have an excellent view of the service.
- The opportunity for siblings of Year 6 children to attend (a practice we have followed with class assemblies this year).
- The opportunity to enable all school staff to attend who have been involved with supporting the children during their time from Reception onwards.
- Allowing the children from the Year 2 'Partner' classes to attend as they have built up a strong relationship with the Year 6 children.

With this in mind, invitations to attend the service will initially be offered to these different groups and we will review arrangements for our 2018 service in the light of this year's organisation.

