



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Parent Newsletter



July 2019

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Farewells

We wish our Year 6 leavers every success as they look forward to the next chapter of their school journey. They made history by being the first group of 60 pupils to make their way through the school and we will miss each and every one of them.

We also send our best wishes to those families whose association with St Mary's draws to a close at the end of this week.

We also say goodbye to some members of our teaching staff as Miss Daykin-Pont, Mr Warfield and Mr Jones all leave us, we thank them for everything they have done for the children they have worked with during their time here and wish them every success and happiness in the future.

Finally, many thanks to our families for supporting us throughout the year, partnerships with home are vital to any school's success. We wish you a peaceful summer break and look forward to seeing you all on 3rd September.

Key Stage Two Sats

These are derived from a combination of tests and teacher assessment and used to help judge the effectiveness of a school. The results are published nationally in December but we received the provisional figures for our school last week. They are shown below and list the percentage of our 11 year olds who achieved the standard expected for their age with the provisional national figures in brackets for comparison.

Reading: 82% (73%)

Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 91% (78%)

Writing: 91% (78%)

Mathematics: 88% (79%)

Congratulations to the Year 6 children and huge thanks to all of the staff who have been involved in teaching and supporting them during their time at the school.

Attendance

Our final attendance figure for the year is 96.8%. You will have received your child's attendance report enclosed with their academic report and the final figures for each class are below:

R Moles	93.7%	R Badgers	96.7%
1 Wallabies	96.9%	1 Koalas	97.7%
2 Penguins	96.5%	2 Seals	97.4%
3 Turtles	97.9%	3 Whales	96.0%
4 Eagles	97.8%	4 Falcons	97.6%
5 Dolphins	97.3%	5 Starfish	97.5%
6 Giraffes	96.1%	6 Lions	96.3%

Poor attendance patterns can become habitual from a very early age and have a very negative impact on progress. Below is the latest government data showing the proportion of 11 year olds leaving primary school and working at the standards expected for their age in Reading, Writing and Maths:

-Those with high levels of attendance (i.e. 99% or above):

96% of pupils achieve the standards expected for their age.

-Those with average levels of attendance (i.e. 95% - 98%):

88% of pupils achieve the standards expected for their age.

-Those with low levels of attendance (i.e. 90% or below):

70% of pupils achieve the standards expected for their age.

Reports

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

Friends of St Mary's

It has been a busy term for FOSM with the summer fair and discos - we will be able to let you know the final figure for our fundraising soon. Many thanks to the volunteers whose tireless work makes these events happen – their work and support for the school is invaluable.

All money raised provides funds which benefit the pupils of the school. The fundraising work of groups such as FOSM are becoming ever more vital to schools as the impact of funding cuts begins to have a detrimental effect on the provision and service they are able to offer.

Please see the section titled 'Site News' for information on how FOSM is playing a vital role in the development of the school's grounds.

We would be very interested in hearing from anybody who would like to get involved during the next academic year – all help, no matter how much or how little, is hugely appreciated.

Teaching Arrangements 2019/2020

The class allocations for September 2019 are as follows

Class	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
RDragonflies	Miss Domagala	Mrs Cartwright
RGrasshoppers	Mrs Woods	Ms Bushell Mrs Kirby
1Badgers	Miss Hughes	Miss Rooney
1Moles	Mrs James	Mrs King/ Mrs Powers
2Koalas	Miss Atkins	Mrs Ashton
2Wallabies	Mrs Cole	Mrs Cater
3Seals	Mrs Precious-Li	Ms Cleary
3Penguins	Mrs Fage	
4Turtles	Miss Ahmed	Mrs Neal
4Whales	Miss Goley	
5Eagles	Mr Tromans	Ms Berryman
5Falcons	Mr Green	
6Starfish	Mrs Evans/Mrs Shore	Mrs Thomas
6Dolphins	Miss Forrest	

Mr Jenkins and Mrs Holmes will continue to be non-class based teachers working across the school and we welcome Miss Ahmed, Mr Green and Miss Hughes who join us from September.

Term Dates 2019 - 2020

A reminder of dates for the forthcoming academic year:

Aut 1: Tue 3rd September – Fri 25th October
Aut 2: Mon 4th November – Fri 20th December
Spr 1: Tues 7th January – Fri 14th February
Spr 2: Tues 25th February – Fri 3rd April
Sum 1: Mon 20th April – Fri 22nd May
Sum 2: Mon 1st June – Fri 17th July

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

Mon 2nd September
Wed 9th October*
Mon 6th January
Mon 24th February
Monday 20th July

***Please note this is a change to the date previously issued.**

Site News

There are several projects happening in and around the building and site during the summer closedown, all of which are designed to make the environment as good as it can be for both learning and play. They are as follows:

- Further development of the grounds with non-slip surfaces created on all decking areas.
- Redevelopment of the area just outside the hall on the Lodge Hill Road side of the site.
- Redecoration of all corridors and communal areas in the 2013 extension.
- Upgrade of essential electrical systems and infrastructure.
- Replacement of some interactive whiteboards and projectors in classrooms.

FOSM have also played a significant role in enabling us to develop aspects of the site for improved outdoor provision at break times and lunchtimes and they have fully funded the projects below:

- Installation of a new climbing frame in the Frederick Road playground (this will replace the climbing wall which is being removed).
- Installation of a table tennis table in the Lodge Hill playground.

We thank FOSM once again for their support and to all who have supported any of the fundraising events during the academic year, these projects are a direct result of your generosity.

Year 6 Leavers' Service

This is being held on Friday at 9.30am in St Mary's Church. **Please note that this is by invitation only due to the numbers expected in church.**

A Prayer



Dear God,
We thank you for all the gifts you have given to us throughout this school year.
We think of those who are leaving St Mary's to embark on new and exciting journeys. We ask you to bless them in your love and give them peace.
We give our thanks for the good things you have done for us during this school year and for all who have shared in the work of school.
Amen

Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty very seriously. As we approach the summer break, it is important to state that 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.

Global Goals

Our Rights Respecting League, made up of children representing each class from Year 1 to Year 6, have been discussing between themselves and with staff in school about the small changes we can all make to our everyday lives with a view to making a real difference to our environment both locally and globally. One of the outcomes of their discussion has been looking at travel patterns to and from school and their thoughts are below.

Saving the planet is easier than you think; there are many things that us humans can do. One of these is as simple as walking to school. Going to school may be quicker by car but for our planet's future health, not using an engine is wiser. One of the advantages of walking is that the air will be less polluted and this means a better, improved world for all of us.

We can think about more than walking - cycling and using a scooter provides a likelier chance of our bodies remaining fit. An opportunity for Year 5 and Year 6 to take is to sign up for Bikeability which will not only teach you how to ride a bike well but how to ride on the road safely.

Even though we are trying to stop pollution; we can do things to reduce this - a good idea to share a car as this creates less pollution. Maybe a friend or neighbour will be willing to give you a ride.

These are just some of the many ways you can save the planet!

Alexander Bell and Aasiyah Fakira (Year 5 and members of the Rights Respecting League).

Change of School Status

Birmingham City Council have given approval for the school to change to Voluntary Aided status and the change will take effect on 1st September 2019. As explained during the consultation period in the Spring term, there will be no change to the way we operate or the services we provide.

Important Dates

Tuesday 16th July	Y6 show 9.30am – Y6 parents welcome – no tickets
Wednesday 17th July	Y6 show 9.30am – Y6 parents welcome – no tickets
Friday 19th July	Leavers Church service 9.30am at St Mary's Church
Monday 22nd July	School CLOSED to pupils – teacher training day
Tuesday 23rd July	Summer holidays – School closed
Monday 2nd September	School CLOSED to pupils – teacher training day
Tuesday 3rd September	School re-opens to pupils
Wednesday 9th October	School closed – teacher training day
Monday 21st -23rd October	Y4 to Viney Hill residential
Wednesday 23rd – 25th October	Y4 to Viney Hill residential
Monday 28th October	School closed – Half term holiday
Monday 4th November	School re-opens to pupils
Thursday 5th December	YR to theatre
Thursday 12th December	Y1 & Y2 to theatre
Monday 23rd December	School closed for Christmas holidays
Tuesday 7th January	School re-opens to pupils after holiday
Friday 10th January	Y3,Y4,Y5&Y6 to theatre