

**St Mary’s C of E Primary School**

**Parent Newsletter**

**May 2018**

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**A Pentecost Prayer**

Dear God,  
Thank you for the special times we enjoy and look forward to.   
Help and encourage us when life is not easy.   
May the flame of your love be kept alive in us today and always, through the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Amen

The final term is always a very satisfying one as we see the children showing the full extent of the knowledge, skills, talents and abilities they have been developing since September. Thoughts also begin to turn to the next stage of their journey through school with a lot of hard work lying ahead as we begin preparing the children for transitions to new year groups and, in the case of Year 6, new schools.

We hope you have a peaceful half-term and look forward to returning for the closing weeks of the year on Monday 4th June.

**Parking and Conduct**

We are pleased to report that many parents have responded positively to repeated requests for considerate and safe parking outside school. The situation continues to be a problem in the local area however and we ask once more that parents park safely and consideration for our neighbours.

On another note, we had an upsetting incident on Lodge Hill Road at the beginning of the month where a pupil was knocked over by a parent who was rushing away from the school. Despite the child being hurt, there was no acknowledgement from the individual of the collision and its consequences.

This was extremely disappointing behaviour and certainly not supportive of the values that the school seeks to promote both inside and outside school.

**Attendance**

Our attendance figure to date is **96.1**%. 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 are below:

R Wallabies 93.2% R Koalas 94.1%

1 Penguins 95.5% 1 Seals 95.1%

2 Foxes 96.6% 2 Hedgehogs 97.1%

3 Eagles 96.0% 3 Falcons 97.5%

4 Dolphins 97.1% 4 Starfish 97.6%

5 Lions 95.2% 5 Giraffes 95.6%

6 Tigers 98%

**Congratulations** to Mrs Shore who gave birth to a daughter, Robyn, at the end of March. Both mum and baby are doing well and we hope to see them very soon.

We also wish Mrs Bibi well as she begins her maternity leave today and look forward to hearing happy news soon.

**Staffing 2018-2019**

Plans are well-advanced in terms of staffing arrangements for September with several changes being made:

-Mrs Precious-Li joins us as a permanent teacher from September.

-Miss Atkins joins us as a new teacher from September.

-Mrs Cleary joins us as a teaching assistant having been a lunchtime supervisor here since 2016.

-Mrs Cotterill replaces Mrs Bibi for the duration of her maternity leave (see below).

Mrs Howe will sadly be leaving us at the end of the summer term and we wish her well for the future.

Mrs Williams will be retiring at the end of the summer term and we wish her the very best for her future retirement.

We will be in a position to inform children and parents of our 2018-19 classes in time for our moving up day which will be on Wednesday 4th July.

**Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy**

We have a vacancy to join our lunchtime team from September. The post is a permanent one, Monday to Friday (term time only) between 11.35 and 1.30. if you are interested, application forms will be available from the school office from Monday 4th June.

**Term Dates 2018/19**

**Aut 1:** Tues 4th September – Fri 26th October 2018

**Aut 2:** Tues 6th November – Fri 21st December 2018

**Spr 1:** Tues 8th January – Fri 15th February 2019

**Spr 2:** Tues 26th February – Fri 12th April 2019

**Sum 1:** Mon 29th April – Fri 24th May 2019

**Sum 2:** Mon 3rd June – Fri 19th July 2019

**Staff training days (where school will be closed) are:**

Monday 3rd September 2018; Monday 5th November 2018

Monday 7th January 2019; Monday 25th February 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

**Term dates for the remainder of this year can be found on the reverse of this letter.**

**Friends of St Mary’s (FOSM)**

We are looking for volunteers who can serve on the committee during the 2018/19 academic year and carry on the excellent fundraising work that FOSM carries out. As with many schools across the country, we are now experiencing budgetary pressures so the work of FOSM becomes ever more vital in helping us to provide the type opportunities we want all of our pupils to enjoy. We would be delighted to hear from any family members interested in supporting the important work of the group, please contact the school office for more details.

**English Language Classes**

You may be aware that parent volunteers have been running English classes in school since September. These have been a great success and we are pleased to let you know that they will continue next term with the first session beginning on 11th January. Please contact the school if you would like further information.

**High Value Items**

A reminder that the school cannot take responsibility for damage to (or loss of) valuable items that children bring into school. Recently, we have seen a rise in this trend with many high-value items (including Fitbits) being brought in by children.

The important points to establish are whether there would be upset caused should a valuable item be lost/broken or would it be expensive to replace. If the answer to either of these is ‘yes’, please ensure the item remains at home.

**Dogs on Site**

Many thanks to those parents who have responded to our request that dogs are not brought onto the school site. We also want to ask that the main entrances/exits onto Lodge Hill Road and Frederick Road are also kept clear of dogs. This means that children who are nervous of dogs are not distressed by having them in close proximity as they enter or leave school. Many thanks. 

**Important Dates**

Friday 25th May School closes at 3.20pm/3.30pm for half term holiday

Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June School CLOSED – Half Term holiday

Monday 4th June School re-opens to pupils

Monday 4th - Friday 15th June Swimming Year 4 Starfish

Wednesday 6th June Class photos

Thursday 7th June 6T to Buddhist Centre

Thursday 7th June Y1 to Selly Oak Methodist Church

Thursday 7th June Y2 to Quaker meetinghouse Selly Oak

Friday 8th June Reception classes to St Mary’s church Selly Oak

Monday 11th June PGL meeting for parents 3.30pm

Tuesday 12th June Y4 to Birmingham Mosque

Tuesday 12th June New Reception parents (Sept 18) meeting 3.40pm and 5.30pm

Wednesday 13th June 3Eagles to Central Synagogue

Thursday 14th June 3Falcons to Central Synagogue

Thursday 14th June Y5 to St Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Church

Friday 15th June Year 1 to Dudley Zoo

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd June Bikeability Y5 & Y6

Thursday 21st June Senior choir concert 4pm

Friday 29th June – Monday 2nd July PGL residential visit for Y5 & Y6

Tuesday 3rd July Parent Autism support meeting

Friday 6th July 5G charity pyjama day

Friday 6th July FOSM summer fair

Monday 9th July Y6 leaver service 11.15am at St Martins Birmingham

Wednesday 11th July KS1 sports day 9.30am

Thursday 12th July KS2 sports day 9.30 am

Friday 13th July FOSM disco 3.30pm / 4.45pm

Tuesday 17th July Y6 leaver show 9am

Wednesday 18th July Inspire Thank you assembly 9am

Wednesday 18th July Drop in session - reports

Thursday 19th July Encourage Thank you assembly 9am

Friday 20th July Y6 Leaver service 9.30am

Friday 20th July School finishes for summer holiday at 3.20pm/3.30pm

Monday 3rd September School closed to pupils

Tuesday 4th September School re-opens to pupils for Autumn term

**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 Advice Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

**Data Protection**

Further to the letter sent home last week, a reminder that the school’s policies and procedures in relation to data protection have changed in the light of new legislation which is effective from today. They can be found on our website.