



# St Mary's C of E Primary School

## Parent Newsletter

May 2021

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### Opening Up

It has been great to see the children return for the summer term and very much pick up from where we all left off at Easter. As national restrictions gradually relax, we will look at what this means and examine the scope we have to reintroduce things that have not been possible over the past year.

Government guidance and the safety of all site users will be at the forefront of the decisions we make and you will be notified of any changes to our arrangements well in advance.

In the meantime, we continue to operate as we are now and await the government's forthcoming announcements.

### Covid Measures

Local infection rates continue to remain below the national average but we must remain vigilant despite the progress that has been made. A further reminder to:

- Follow all self-isolation guidelines if your child or a household member develop symptoms of Covid-19.
- Do not send a child into school while a test result is awaited (for them or the household member).
- Help us with our key safety measure in keeping groups of children apart. **Your children must remain with you when they are on site, do not allow them to run around and mix with other children.** There have been several examples of this recently.
- Observe social distancing while you are waiting on site and avoid congregating on pavements and pathways.

We have been fortunate in not having to close any class bubbles since our return in March. These measures help to keep one another safe and reduce the risk of further disruption to the education of your children.

### Term Dates

School closes for the half-term break on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May** and we reopen on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. The final day of the summer term is **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**. Dates for the next academic year are:

**Aut 1:** Mon 6<sup>th</sup> September – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

**Aut 2:** Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Fri 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Spr 1:** Weds 5<sup>th</sup> January – Fri 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Spr 2:** Tues 1<sup>st</sup> March – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Sum 1:** Mon 25<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Sum 2:** Mon 6<sup>th</sup> June – Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

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

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021;

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021; Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022;

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

### Eid al-Fitr

Eid Mubarak to all of our families and staff who will be celebrating next week!

### A Pentecost Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the special times we enjoy and for the special people who help us.

Encourage and comfort us when life is not easy and help us to keep alive the flame of your love today and always, through the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Amen

### Family Support

We have a support team in school consisting of a family worker and pupil mentor who are able to support both families and children in a range of different areas.

Support with parenting, emotional and mental health, attendance, help with accessing different services and housing are just some of the areas in which they can help.

All support comes free of charge and we would urge any parent who feels they need advice or support to contact the school in the strictest confidence. Please do not think that you cannot approach us, we are here to help.

### Attendance

Our attendance figure to date is **97.7%**, this compares to a current national average of 96%. The past 12 months has shown the importance of school and it is pleasing to see this reflected in the figures below:

Reception: 97.5%

Year 1: 97.2%

Year 2: 98.3%

Year 3: 98.0%

Year 4: 97.7%

Year 5: 98.5%

Year 6: 96.5%

A reminder that any late children are to report to the office and not to classroom doors, this helps staff to have an accurate picture of attendance.

### Parents' Evenings and Annual Reports

A reminder that parents' evenings will be held during the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> May (details to follow) and we will be issuing annual reports in the middle of July. Together, they should combine to give an overview of your child's achievements and identify areas for further development.

### 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 and Support

### **Site Safety – Before and After School**

The school site is small for the number of pupils we have and it is important to consider the safety of all users at all times. Please ensure that bicycles and scooters are not ridden anywhere on the site (both children and parents). For this purpose, the boundary of the site is where Frederick Road and Lodge Hill Road meet both pedestrian gateways and the top of the driveway on the Lodge Hill side.

We also ask that children do not use the climbing equipment we have on site, this is for use during the school day only, and do not climb on railings, fences or any other areas. Many thanks for your support.

### **Important Dates**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 30 June

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Virtual parent evening appointments

**School closed for half term holiday**

**School closed to pupils for teacher training day**

Y6 Viney Hill residential trip - ) dependent on Government advice and Local

Y6 Viney Hill residential trip - ) Authority advice

Further information will follow when decision has been made

Last day of summer term

**School closed for summer holidays**

**School re-opens to pupils**

