



# St Mary's CE Primary School

## Parent Newsletter



October 2017

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### Parents' Evenings

We had an excellent level of attendance for both meetings held this week. The partnership between home and school is so important and the benefits of sharing information about progress (and the work needed to support this) have a huge impact on a child's achievements.

As part of the individual meeting, teachers issued a leaflet outlining the knowledge and skills that a child is expected to demonstrate by the end of the academic year. These are the standards that we report against in July.

If you did not receive one of these, please contact your child's teacher and they can supply one of these to you.

### Parking

The school now has 390 pupils on site so the issue of parking and road safety becomes more significant. The increased pressure on local roads is even greater this year with the opening of new student apartments at the top of Frederick Road.

Please consider parking a distance away from the school and walking the remainder of the journey. If this is not possible, it is essential that parents park with the safety of our pupils and the consideration of local residents in mind. Unfortunately, we are aware of a very small minority of parents who do not do this and details of dangerous and/or illegal parking are passed onto local police who may issue penalty notices to offenders.

### Attendance

Our attendance figure for the first half term so far this year is 97.2%. 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 figures for each class are below:

<b>Penguins:</b>	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>Seals:</b>	<b>96.2%</b>
<b>Foxes:</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>Hedgehogs:</b>	<b>98.2%</b>
<b>Eagles:</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>Falcons:</b>	<b>98.9%</b>
<b>Dolphins:</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>Starfish:</b>	<b>99.3%</b>
<b>Giraffes:</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>Lions:</b>	<b>95.7%</b>
<b>Tigers:</b>	<b>98.7%</b>		

You will be aware that the school uses the 'Spotlight' programme for tackling cases of persistent absenteeism. A letter was circulated to all families about this last month. As part of the process, we are asked by the Local Authority to publicise data about the programme for the previous academic year. This is below:

- Number of pupils in the action group: 5
- Number of penalty notices issued: 1
- Number of parents/carers prosecuted: 1

### Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

As mentioned in last month's newsletter the funds raised by FOSM during the past year have enabled the school to carry out a number of projects that would not have been possible without parental support.

The next major event is the Christmas Fair on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. If you are interested in helping to support this, we are holding a planning meeting in school after the half-term holiday (date to be confirmed). All are welcome no matter how much or little support you are able to give.

### English Lessons

A reminder that a group of parent volunteers now run sessions in school aimed at developing practical skills in using and understanding English every Tuesday at 9.15. Please contact the office if you are interested or know somebody who may be.

### Term Dates 2017 – 2018

School closes for the half-term break on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October** and re-opens on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October**. The remaining term dates for the academic year are below:

**Aut 2:** Mon 30<sup>th</sup> October – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December

**Spr 1:** Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January – Fri 16<sup>th</sup> February

**Spr 2:** Mon 26<sup>th</sup> February – Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Sum 1:** Mon 16<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> May

**Sum 2:** Mon 4<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> July

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

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January;

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**Please note that the school is also closed on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 due to local elections.**

Looking forward to next summer, if your child is in Year 6 please note that the test week for the 2018 Sats is the week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

### Harvest Donations

Our harvest appeal is once again underway and we would welcome any donations of tinned or packet items to be brought into school next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. They will go to a local food bank and therefore help several individuals and families in the area. Many thanks for supporting this cause.

### Important Dates

Some key dates for the remainder of this term:

Further dates are available on our website calendar [www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk](http://www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk) (including Christmas events)

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	4 Starfish to Viney Hill return 18 <sup>th</sup> October
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	4 Dolphins to Viney Hill Return 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Church service –St Mary’s Church 2.30pm Encourage
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Church service –St Marys Church 9.30am Inspire
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> –Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	School closed for half term holiday
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	School re-opens
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Bags for rags collection 9am
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Individual School photos
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	6Tigers class assembly 9am
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Open morning for new reception admission 2018
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Open morning for new reception admission 2018
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Non uniform day for donation for Christmas fair
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu immunisation YR – Y4
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	FOSM Christmas fair
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Senior Choir concert

### Forthcoming Events at St Mary’s Church

#### November

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> (4.30pm): Service of Memory (for those who have died)

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> (7pm): Quiz Night

#### December

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> (10-11.30): Children's Christmas Activity Morning

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> (6.30pm): Main Carol Service

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> (6.00pm): Acorns Carol Service

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> (11.30pm): Midnight Mass

We have a monthly Men’s Group and Women’s Group as well as coffee mornings and social events. For details of baptisms, weddings and funerals, please see the church website (<http://www.stmarysellyoak.org.uk>) or ring the vicarage. If you live in the parish, you are entitled to the services of St Mary’s Church.

### A Harvest Prayer



Dear God,  
We thank you for all the gifts of food you give to us at Harvest time.  
For the meals that are on our table every day and for all the other good things we have to eat.  
Help those who are less fortunate and grant us all your peace this day and for evermore.  
Amen

### Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty 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 Service (CASS) on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

### School Admissions

A reminder that if you have a child in Year 6, the deadline for applying for a secondary school place is **31<sup>st</sup> October**. If you have a child who is due to start in Reception next September, the deadline for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January**.

Applications are now made online and for further information on both procedures, please visit the following link:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions)

Open sessions for parents who are interested in a Reception place at this school for September 2018 will be held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 9.45** and **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 9.45**. Only one session needs to be attended as it the same content for both. These dates are different to those published by Birmingham City Council and we would be grateful if current parents could pass this information onto those families who may be looking for a place here for the first time.

### Site Safety

Please ensure that your child does not ride a scooter or a bicycle on the school site. The playgrounds and pathways get very busy before and after school and we want to avoid accidents.

We would also appreciate vigilance on your part in ensuring that children are not climbing on any play equipment or railings at these times and, as we head into colder and damper weather, avoiding areas of decking as they can become slippery.

A particular area of concern at the moment centres around the steps leading to Lodge Hill Road and the bank next to these steps. This gets very congested at the start and end of the day and this issue is being made harder to manage due to children climbing on or over the fences in this area.

Many thanks for your support.

