



St Mary's CE Primary School

Parent Newsletter



October 2018

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Parents' Evenings

It was good to see so many of you at these sessions earlier this week and we hope you found your time in school useful. The partnership between home and school is vital in sharing information about progress (and the work needed to support this) and has a significant impact on a child's achievements.

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 the school office and we can arrange supply.

Parking

The school now has 420 pupils on site so the issue of parking and road safety becomes significant. The increased traffic on local roads is now greater than it was following the return of university students for the new term.

Please consider parking a distance away from the school and walking the remainder of the journey. If this is not possible, please park with the safety of our pupils and the consideration of local residents in mind.

Attendance

Our attendance figure for the first half term so far this year is 97.6%. 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:

R Moles	95.7%	R Badgers	97.1%
1 Wallabies	97.2%	1 Koalas	97.7%
2 Penguins	95.8%	2 Seals	98.1%
3 Turtles	97.0%	3 Whales	98.2%
4 Eagles	98.2%	4 Falcons	97.8%
5 Dolphins	98.5%	5 Starfish	98.8%
6 Lions	96.1%	6 Giraffes	99.1%

You will be aware that the school uses the 'Fast Track' legal procedure 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 Birmingham Local Authority to publish data about the programme for the previous academic year. This is below:

- Number of pupils in the action group: 6
- Number of penalty notices issued: 1
- Number of parents/carers prosecuted: 1

Revd Jim Cox

Many of you will know that Revd Jim will be leaving St Mary's (and Birmingham) next week with his final services at church being this weekend.

We said our farewells to him last week and wanted to thank him for all of the support he has given to the school over many years both as a member of the clergy and as a governor. He will be very much missed by us all and we wish Revd Jim and his family every happiness for the future.

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

We held a coffee and cake morning last week which saw over 20 parents coming along to find out more about FOSM's work. Many thanks to all who were there.

We are now going to hold a further meeting in school **next Friday (19th October) at 9.15** where we will talk about the planning of the Christmas Fair (to be held on 7th December). All are welcome no matter how much or little support you think you are able to give as all funds we raise at events like this benefit the children in the school directly.

Beginning of the School Day

We are making changes to the arrangements we have at the start of the day in response to the demands of having 420 pupils on site. They will be introduced in two phases, the first just before half-term and the second immediately after.

A letter explaining these in more detail will be sent on Monday. Please read it carefully so you are fully aware of the new arrangements.

Term Dates 2018 – 2019

School closes for the half-term break on **Friday 26th October** and re-opens on **Tuesday 6th November**.

The remaining term dates for the academic year are below:

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

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

Spr 2: Tue 26th February – Fri 12th April

Sum 1: Mon 29th April – Fri 24th May

Sum 2: Mon 3rd June – Fri 19th July

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

Monday 5th November

Monday 7th January

Monday 25th February

Monday 22nd July

Important Dates

Below are some key dates for the remainder of this term. Further dates are available on our website calendar www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk (including Christmas events)

Wednesday 17 th October	5S class assembly 9am
Thursday 18 th October	5D class assembly 9am
Thursday 18 th October	Y6 Viney Hill meeting for parents 3.30pm
Friday 19 th October	FOSM disco Infant 3.20 – 4.30pm Junior – 4.45 – 6pm
Mon 22 nd Oct – Wed 24 th Oct	4Falcons Viney Hill residential trip
Wed 24 th Oct – Fri 26 th Oct	4 Eagles Viney Hill residential trip
Thursday 25 th October	Harvest church service for Encourage group 2.30pm
Friday 26 th October	Harvest church service for Inspire group 9.30am
Mon 29 th Oct – Fri 2 nd Nov	School closed for half term
Monday 5 th November	School closed to pupils for staff training day
Tuesday 6 th November	School re-opens to pupils
Thursday 8 th November	Open morning 9.45am for 2019 reception intake
Thursday 15 th November	Open morning 9.45am for 2019 reception intake
Friday 16 th November	Children in need charity day
Friday 23 rd November	Flu vaccines in school YR – Y5
Thursday 29 th November	Y3&Y4 to Theatre (see separate letter)
Friday 30 th November	Y5&Y6 to Theatre (see separate letter)
Monday 17 th December	KS1 Nativity performance
Tuesday 18 th December	KS1 Nativity performance
Wednesday 19 th December	Party day
Thursday 20 th December	KS2 Christmas concert

English Lessons

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

Harvest Donations

As you can see from the above dates, we have Harvest Services at the end of this half-term and are continuing our tradition of asking families to contribute towards our Harvest appeal as part of the celebrations. We ask for donations of any tinned or packet items (no perishable goods please) with all of these going towards a local food bank so people in our community can benefit directly from your generosity. Contributions can be sent to school on either Thursday 25th or Friday 26th October. Many thanks for your support.



A Harvest Prayer

Dear God,
We thank you for all the gifts of food you give to us at Harvest time.
We thank you 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 **31st October**. If you have a child who is due to start in Reception next September, the deadline for applications is **15th 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

Open sessions for parents who are interested in a Reception place at this school for September 2019 will be held on **Thursday 8th November at 9.45** and **Thursday 15th November at 9.45**. Only one session needs to be attended as it the same content for both, 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.

