



# St Mary's CE Primary School

## Parent Newsletter

### September 2018



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#### Welcome

On behalf of all staff in school, a very warm welcome back as we look forward to the excitement and challenges that a new school year brings. A particular welcome to those children and families who have joined us this week, we look forward to getting to know you and your child and working with you over the coming years.

We also welcome Miss Atkins to St Mary's as a new member of the teaching staff and we hope that her time with the school will be happy and successful.

#### Summer Projects

We have made several improvements to the site during the summer break:

- The roof in some areas of the school required attention with the hall receiving a new covering and external cladding. Steps have also been taken to modify the drainage on the roof above the Reception and Year 1 classrooms. This will greatly reduce the chances of flooding in extreme weather conditions.
- The lines in the hall have been repainted.
- The refurbishment of toilets used by pupils from Reception to Year 3 has been completed.
- Final preparations have been made for the creation of an additional teaching space opposite the entrance doors into the hall. We are now awaiting the fitting of a partition to complete this project in the very near future.

Many thanks to Mr Wright for managing these projects over the summer period and to his team of cleaners for making the school look attractive and ready for the new year.

**If you join us for parent reading on Friday mornings or for class assemblies, please note that you must leave the school site by the Lodge Hill Road gate only. This helps to ensure the safety of all pupils and adults.**

#### Parking

The school now has 420 pupils on site so the issue of parking and road safety becomes even more significant than before. If you travel by car, please park away from school and walk the remaining part 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. The last academic year saw several potentially dangerous accidents avoided only through good fortune and we remain very concerned about the ongoing risks caused by poor parking on the part of parents.

#### Friends of St Mary's

Last year was a very successful one for FOSM with the whole calendar of events being very well supported. You will have seen in the July newsletter that we are in need of more committee members to support the school as well as requiring a new chair.

The funds FOSM raise are vitally important in maintaining the range of activities and equipment we can provide for children; this is especially true in the current financial climate where schools rely increasingly on the generosity of parents for help. We are therefore anxious to secure the future of the group for this academic year.

If you are interested in getting involved with FOSM over the coming year, please contact the school office before the end of the month so the excellent work of the group is able to continue.

#### Uniform

Please be aware that our expectations have remained unchanged. If you are in any doubt as to what is required, please contact the school or consult our Uniform Policy on the school website.

#### 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 Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

#### A Prayer



Dear God,  
We ask for your guidance as we begin a new school year. Allow us to meet the new challenges that it will bring and give the generosity to share our help with others and to support them through our journey together.  
Amen

### Term Dates 2018 - 2019

A reminder of dates for the forthcoming academic year:

Aut 1: Tues 4<sup>th</sup> September – Fri 26<sup>th</sup> October  
Aut 2: Tues 6<sup>th</sup> November – Fri 21<sup>st</sup> December  
Spr 1: Tues 8<sup>th</sup> January – Fri 15<sup>th</sup> February  
Spr 2: Tues 26<sup>th</sup> February – Fri 12<sup>th</sup> April  
Sum 1: Mon 29<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May  
Sum 2: Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> July

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

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> November; Mon 7<sup>th</sup> January; Mon 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Looking forward to next summer, if your child is currently in Year 6 please note that the test week for the 2019 Year 6 Sats is the week beginning **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May**.

### Term Dates 2019 – 2020

These are now confirmed and early publication is intended to assist families with planning holidays and removing the need to take children out of school:

Aut 1: Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> October  
Aut 2: Mon 4<sup>th</sup> November – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> December  
Spr 1: Mon 6<sup>th</sup> January – Fri 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Spr 2: Mon 24<sup>th</sup> February – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Sum 1: Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Sum 2: Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

**Staff training days will be confirmed in Summer 2019.**

### School Organisation and Concerns

Now that the school has reached its capacity of 420 pupils, we must be clear about the way we respond to any parental concerns so they are resolved as effectively as possible.

#### Please use the following procedure if you have a concern so there is little delay in finding a solution and further difficulties are avoided:

- Concerns should be raised in the first instance with the class teacher. In most cases a short discussion should address these.
- If the concern is yet to be resolved after this stage then please contact one of the following members of the school's senior leadership team - Mrs Joel, Miss Evans, Mr Warland.
- If the concerns still persist then please make an appointment to see Mr Smith.

If you need to contact a member of staff, do this either via the school office, a letter, in person or using the school email address [enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk). Please do not contact any member of staff directly through means such as social media or email addresses. Staff have been instructed not to respond to these forms of communication as it can place both them and the person making the contact in breach of the safeguarding, data protection and confidentiality practices we have in place.

### Communication

We have many ways to keep parents and families informed of different events that are going on and wanted to remind you of the different methods we use:

- Weekly bulletins including notices for the week ahead are displayed in the cube (the indoor walkway between both playgrounds) and emailed to parents.
- Where required, notices are displayed in classroom windows and doors used for entry/exit. There are also noticeboards in each of the two playgrounds that are updated regularly.
- Letters and weekly bulletins are emailed to the registered addresses held on our database and they are also published on our website.
- Text messages are sent in the case of unexpected events or late changes to planned ones. This only works if we have an up to date mobile number so if your details have changed over the summer, please let us know.
- We also have a Twitter account (this is a news feed only and is not interactive).

### Collective Worship and Assemblies

The school has now completed its transition to 420 pupils and we will continue to preserve the special ethos of older children and younger children coming together as a community in assemblies, church services and other events. Consequently, we will continue with our 'Encourage' and 'Inspire' structure. This year's groups are as follows:

- Encourage:** 6G; 5S; 4F; 3T; 2P; 1W; RB
- Inspire:** 6L; 5D; 4E; 3W; 2S; 1K; RM

Our popular Friday 'Congratulations' assemblies will continue to be held on alternate weeks for each group at 2.45pm. These will be listed on the weekly diary as before and this will allow us to continue celebrating the unique qualities of our school, all parents are invited to join us.

### High Value Items

A reminder that the school cannot take responsibility for damage to (or loss of) valuable items that children bring into school. In recent months 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 and would it be expensive to replace. If the answer to either of these is 'yes', please ensure the item remains at home.

## Dates for your diary 2018

Week commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> September – after school clubs start (see separate letters)	
Week commencing 10 <sup>th</sup> September – music lessons in school re-start (except flute)	
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Reception children in school full time 8.55am – 3.20pm
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent meeting for Viney Hill residential 3pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Individual photos in school
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Book fair in school
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent consultations 3.30 – 6pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent consultations 3.30 – 6 pm
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct –Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4Falcons Viney Hill residential trip
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4 Eagles Viney Hill residential trip
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	School closed for half term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>School closed</b> to pupils for staff training day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	School <b>re-opens</b> to pupils
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Open morning 9.45am for 2019 reception intake
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Open morning 9.45am for 2019 reception intake
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in need charity day
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Y3&Y4 to Theatre (see separate letter to follow)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Y5&Y6 to Theatre (see separate letter to follow)
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec – Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	School closed for Christmas holiday
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School closed to pupils for staff training
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	School re-opens to pupils