



St Mary's CE Primary School

Parent Newsletter

September 2016



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.

The term has started smoothly and the children have settled into their new classes well. A particular welcome to children and families who have joined us this week, we look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the coming years.

We also welcome Miss Domagala and Miss Bushnell to St Mary's, they will be teaching Reception and Year 1 classes respectively. We trust that their time with the school will be happy and successful.

Summer Projects

We have made several improvements to the building and grounds during the summer break.

-The playground on the Lodge Hill Road side of the site has been landscaped with larger areas designed for children to sit and talk with their friends.

-There is a new bicycle and scooter shelter (close to the Reception outdoor area) for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children to use. As explained earlier, this has been provided by funds raised by FOSM. Years 3 to 6 will use the existing shelter.

-The Reception and Year 1 classrooms have been redecorated along with the space outside the hall and the hall itself.

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 ready for the new year. We hope you see the positive impact of these changes, they have greatly enhanced the school environment.

Some classrooms have been relocated with some entry and exit points changing:

- Reception and Year 1 classes remain unchanged.
- Robins, Bluebirds and Starfish** classes – via the doorway next to the canopied area.
- Dolphins** via the door that leads directly onto the playground.
- Giraffes and Lions** remain unchanged although they have swapped rooms.
- Tigers** via the door used by Years 5 and 6 last year.
- Monkeys** via the doorway by the spider-web climbing frame on the Frederick Road side of the site.

Friends of St Mary's

Last year was a very successful one for FOSM with the whole calendar of events being very well supported. The new bicycle and scooter shelter paid for with the funds raised is now in use and there is an exciting programme of activities taking shape, starting with our 'Dahlicious' evening on Friday 16th September. Sharon Towns, one of our co-Chairs, has stepped down and we thank her for her tireless work. This does create a vacancy which we would like to fill at the AGM which will be held in school before half-term. We would be very pleased to see you there if you wish to get involved with helping and supporting the school. Alternatively, contact us to register your interest if you are unable to make this meeting.

Parking

The school now has 360 pupils on site so the issue of parking and road safety becomes more significant. Please consider parking a distance away from the school and walking 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.

A Prayer



Dear God,

We ask for your guidance as we begin a new school year. Allow us to seize the new challenges that it will bring and give us a generous spirit to share with others and to support them through our journey together. Amen

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 Information and Advice Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

Important Dates

Some key dates for the forthcoming term:

Tuesday 13th September – Dressing up day – Roald Dahl
Friday 16th September – Family fun evening 6 – 7.30pm
Monday 19th September – Y2 to Warwick Castle
Wednesday 21st September – School photographer in
Wednesday 21st September – 4L assembly 9am
Thursday 22nd September – 4G assembly 9am
Friday 23rd September – Bags 4 Rags collection 9am
Thursday 6th October – Y5 & Y6 to KES
Tuesday 11th October – parent consultations
Wednesday 12th October – parent consultations
Monday 17th October – 4G to Viney Hill
Wednesday 19th October – 4L to Viney Hill
Wednesday 19th October – YR parent meeting 6 – 7pm
Monday 24th October – Half term

Thursday 10th November – Open morning for children starting school in 2017 – 9.45am
Thursday 17th November – open morning for children starting school in 2017 – 9.45am

School Organisation

We will maintain the way the school is organised in the light of the increased number of pupils and the need to resolve any concerns as quickly and effectively as possible. Year groups are organised into phases, each led by a member of the school's leadership group (they are named in brackets):

Phase 1: Reception and Year 1 (Mrs Shore)

Phase 2: Years 2 and 3 (Mrs Fage)

Phase 3: Years 4, 5 and 6 (Mr Tromans)

Any concerns should be addressed in the first instance with the class teacher, in most cases a short discussion should resolve these. If a resolution has not been reached, please contact the designated phase leader who will then work with you to find a solution. If the concern has not yet been resolved after this stage then please contact a member of the school's senior leadership (either Mrs Joel, Mr Warland or Mr Smith).

Please use this procedure if you have a concern so members of staff closest to your child on a day to day basis can deal with issues as they arise and further difficulties avoided.

We also request that you contact the school via telephone, letter, in person or the school email address enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk). Please do not approach or contact school staff through personal social media or email addresses as this has the potential to place the school, the member of staff concerned and the person making the contact in breach of the safeguarding practices we have here. Thank you for your support.

Term Dates 2016 - 2017

These are terms for the academic year:

Aut 1: Tue 6th September – Fri 21st October

Aut 2: Tue 1st November – Fri 16th December

Spr 1: Wed 4th January – Fri 17th February

Spr 2: Mon 27th February – Fri 7th April

Sum 1: Mon 24th April – Fri 26th May

Sum 2: Mon 5th June – Fri 21st July

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

Monday 5th September; Monday 31st October

Tuesday 3rd January; Monday 24th July and

Tuesday 25th July.

The school is also likely to be closed on 4th May 2017 due to local elections, we will be able to confirm this nearer the time.

Looking forward to next summer, **if your child is in Year 6 please note that the test week for the 2017 Year 6 Sats is the week beginning Monday 8th May.**

Uniform

Standards are usually very high at school with the vast majority of parents supporting our expectations. Please be aware that these 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.

Collective Worship and Assemblies

As the school approaches the final phase of its transition to 420 pupils, we are anxious to preserve the special ethos of older children and younger children coming together as a community. Consequently, we have reorganised assemblies so we have a range of ages present in each rather than the older/younger children groupings of last year. The classes have been organised into two groups (each still to be named by the children) and are as follows:

-6M; 4L; 3S; 2R; 1F; RZ

-5T; 4G; 3D; 2B; 1H; RE

These will also form the groupings for the Friday 'Congratulations' assemblies which will continue to be held on alternate weeks for each group. These will be listed on the weekly diary as before and we hope that this allows us to continue celebrating the unique qualities of our school in a positive way.

