



# St Mary's C of E Primary School

## Parent Newsletter

April 2024

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### Welcome Back

A belated welcome back to what is always a busy term in school – we hope that the recent Easter break was a peaceful one and that all of our families who celebrated Eid al-Fitr this week had a wonderful time.

You will see below that there is a lot planned over the next three months and we hope that you will be able to join us for some of these events.

### Key Dates – Summer 2024

Please find below important dates for the remainder of the academic year.

**School Closed for Elections:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Bank Holiday:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

#### Pentecost Church Services:

**Encourage (RW, 1H, 2P, 3O, 4G, 5B, 6W):**

-Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (2.00)

**Inspire (RK, 1S, 2F, 3B, 4D, 5M, 6K):**

-Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May (9.30)

#### Summer Half-Term

This begins at the end of the day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May with children returning on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**ExpressFest Concert:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July (4.00 – 5.00)

**Sports Days** (both 9.30 – 11.00 at the playing field next to St Mary's Church)

-**KS2:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

-**Reception and KS1:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July

**Annual Reports to Parents:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July

#### ExpressFest Showcases (1.45 to 3.15)

**Encourage:** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

**Inspire:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July

**Academic year ends:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Dates for the 2024/2025 academic year can be found on the right of this newsletter.

### A 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

### Term dates for the next academic year

**Autumn 1:** Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2024 – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024

**Autumn 2:** Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

**Spring 1:** Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 – Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025

**Spring 2:** Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 – Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Apr 2025

**Summer 1:** Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Apr 2025 – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

**Summer 2:** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### School is closed for staff training on the following days:

-Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 -Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

-Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 -Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

-Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

### Attendance

Our attendance figure up until Easter was 96%. This is above both local and national figures but there is plenty of room for improvement as we can see in the breakdown for individual year groups below:

<b>Reception:</b> 93%	<b>Year 1:</b> 96%	<b>Year 2:</b> 96%
<b>Year 3:</b> 97%	<b>Year 4:</b> 96%	<b>Year 5:</b> 97%
<b>Year 6:</b> 97%		

A reminder that leave in term time is only authorised in very exceptional circumstances and a written request must be made to the school and agreed in advance.

### Out and About

During the spring term, children participated in the following activities outside school:

-Year 3 visited a Gurdwara

-Year 5 went to Gas St Basin and back via a canal boat

-Year 4 visited the Lickey Hills for the day

-Year 1 took part in a local walk

Children also represented the school in the following competitions: Netball, Tag Rugby, Indoor Cricket, Table Tennis, Gymnastics, Football and Maths and our String Ensemble also performed at Birmingham Conservatoire.

Everyone represented our school brilliantly – well done to all and thank you!

### Parent Governor Election

The outcome of last month's parent governor election was as follows. There were 54 votes cast in total.

-Joanne Mason: 30

-Fakhte Soltani: 24

Therefore, Joanne Mason was elected as a Parent Governor and will serve a four year term. Many thanks to both candidates for standing and everyone who voted.

### **Family Support**

We are able to either provide or signpost families to support across a range of different areas. Parenting, emotional and mental health, school attendance, accessing different services, financial issues and housing are just some of the areas in which we are able to 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.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE - PARKING**

Local residents and parents continue to contact the school telling us that the parking of some parents and carers is both obstructing pavements and could prevent emergency services accessing local homes if needed. Wellman Croft and its junction with Lodge Hill Road is a particular problem area.

Members of the public can report evidence of this directly to the police. If you wish to do this, you will need a photograph of the alleged breach with a date and time stamp visible. You will then need to do the following:

- 1) Access this website: <https://www.nextbase.com/en-gb/national-dash-cam-safety-portal/>
- 2) Select 'West Midlands Police'.
- 3) Complete the online form

Reports are sent directly to West Midlands Police Central Ticket Office for processing and penalty notices are issued accordingly.

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

