



St Mary's C of E Primary School

Parent Newsletter

December 2017

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Christmas Wishes

Thanks to all who attended our concerts, performances and services over the past week or so, we hope you enjoyed them and they got you into a festive mood. Unfortunately, the snow and ice meant we had to cancel our planned Christmas Fair but we are planning to hold an alternative event during the Spring term so please keep an eye out for information about this in the new year.

We would also like to thank all of the parents who helped (or offered help) to clear snow from the playground last Tuesday, this was very much appreciated and meant we could get back to normal quickly. We wish you a very enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in January.

Winter Weather Procedures

If severe weather strikes, **the first step is to assume that the school is open unless you are informed otherwise.** If we are closed, you will be informed by text message, school website, Twitter and e-mail by 7.15 at the latest and we will use the same methods to inform you of reopening arrangements. Local radio stations will be also be contacted.

If snow has fallen and the forecast is poor, we will have a 'rolling' closure where you can pick your child up from a specific time onwards if you are able to - we will let you know if this is happening through the same methods above.

Finally, we were very concerned with the lack of gritting (and facilities) on Lodge Hill and Frederick Road during the recent spell of snow and ice and have contacted the three Selly Oak Ward Councillors with our views on the risks and dangers this presents.

Term Dates 2018 – 2019

Please find below the confirmed dates for the 2018/19 academic year. We trust that advance notice of these will enable holidays and other plans to be arranged without your child's attendance being affected.

Aut 1: Tues 4th September – Fri 26th October 2018

Aut 2: Tues 6th November – Fri 21st December 2018

Spr 1: Tues 8th January – Fri 15th February 2019

Spr 2: Tues 26th February – Thurs 11th April 2019

Sum 1: Mon 29th April – Fri 24th May 2019

Sum 2: Mon 3rd June – Fri 19th July 2019

Staff training days for the year (where school will be closed) are:

Monday 3rd September 2018

Monday 5th November 2018

Monday 7th January 2019

Monday 25th February 2019

Monday 22nd July 2019

A Christmas Prayer

Thank you, God for the wonderful gift of Jesus.
As we give and receive gifts, help us to remember his message of love
and to take time to think of those who have nothing.
Help us, Lord, to fill this Christmas with your love, peace and joy.
Amen

Key Stage Two Standards (2017)

We have had final confirmation of our outcomes for this year's KS2 assessments which were carried out in July. The results are below with the 2017 national average in brackets for comparison.

Children achieving the expected and higher standard in each of Reading, EGPS*, Writing and Maths:

1) Reading: 97% (72%) and 50% (25%)

2) Writing: 93% (76%) and 20% (18%)

3) EGPS: 97% (77%) and 60% (31%)

4) Maths: 100% (75%) and 40% (23%)

*English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Children achieving the expected or higher standard in all of Reading, Writing and Maths:

5) Expected: 93% (61%)

This was the second highest in Birmingham.

6) Higher: 20% (9%)

These are achievements of which we can be extremely proud. Once again well done to the children, staff and parents for their hard work!

Attendance

Our attendance figure to date is 96.2%. The current figures for each class are below:

Koalas: 95.1 %	Wallabies: 92.9%
Seals: 94.7 %	Penguins: 95.7 %
Foxes: 96.3%	Hedgehogs: 97.1%
Eagles: 96.1%	Falcons: 97.8%
Dolphins: 97.8%	Starfish: 97.7%
Giraffes: 95.8%	Lions: 95.0%
Tigers: 97.8%	

Christmas Services at St Mary's Church

Sun 24th

-5.00pm Crib Service (a traditional telling of the Christmas story for children)

-11.30am: Midnight Communion

Mon 25th

-10.00am Holy Communion

We also 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.

Important Dates

A reminder of term dates for the remainder of the year:

Spring term begins: Tuesday 9th January

Half-term begins: Friday 16th February

Children return: Monday 26th February

Spring term ends: Thursday 29th March

Summer term begins: Monday 16th April

Local Elections: Thursday 3rd May – closed to pupils

Half-term begins: Friday 25th May

Children return: Monday 4th June

Summer term ends: Friday 20th July

2018/19 academic year begins: Tuesday 4th September

Key Dates – Spring 2018 onwards

Thursday 11 th January	Theatre visit – Reception classes
Thursday 11 th January	Theatre visit – KS2
Friday 12 th January	Theatre visit – Years 1 & 2
Tuesday 16 th January	Reception – height, weight & hearing check
Tuesday 23 rd January	Parent Autism group 9.15 – 10.30am
Wednesday 14 th February	1S class assembly 9am
Thursday 15 th February	1P class assembly 9am
Thursday 15 th February	Encourage church service 2.30pm
Friday 16 th February	Inspire church service 9.30am
Monday – Friday 19 – 23 February	school closed half term holiday
Wednesday 7 th March	Reception class assembly 9am
Wednesday 7 th March	Parent consultation meetings 3.30-6pm
Thursday 8 th March	Reception class assembly 9am
Thursday 8 th March	Parent consultation meetings 3.30-6pm
Tuesday 13 th March	Parent Autism group 9.15-10.30am
Wednesday 28 th March	4S class assembly 9am
Thursday 29 th March	Inspire church service 9.30am
Thursday 29 th March	Encourage church service 2.30pm
Friday 30 th March	School closed for Easter holidays

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy to join our team of lunchtime supervisors. The post is a permanent one from Monday to Friday (term time only) between 11.35 and 1.30. If you are interested in the post (or know anybody who may be), application forms will be available from the school office from Tuesday 9th January.

Reception Admissions – September 2018

A final reminder that if you have a child who was born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014, it is important that you apply online for your child's Reception place by 15th January 2018.

For further information and to apply online please visit

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/590/apply_for_reception_primary_school

Notice for Year 2 Parents – Workshop in January

We would like to provide early notice of a very important workshop we are holding for Year 2 parents in January. This is designed to inform you about the arrangements for assessing your child's achievements during the summer term with a particular focus on the tests they will take during the month of May.

We will also be explaining how the assessments fit in with our work in preparing your child for their move into Year 3 and the support you can provide at home.

We would like as many parents to attend as possible and have set aside **Friday 19th January at 9.00** for this session. A letter with further details will be sent in early January, please look out for this.

Advertising

We receive regular requests from parents and other organisations to copy and distribute leaflets or flyers advertising different events or activities in the local community. We are happy to consider these but the logistics and cost of doing this would be significant if we were to grant every request, therefore we cannot offer this service. However, we are able to display adverts in the usual locations around the school (e.g. noticeboards) but ask that all requests are directed to the school office in the first instance.

Behaviour Code

It goes without saying that staff, visitors and volunteers should be conscious of their status as positive role models in and around school and, by extension, parents have a vital role to play in this regard. Unfortunately, we have had some isolated incidents in the recent months where a small minority of parents have fallen short of what is acceptable conduct and have set a poor example to our pupils.

This is something that is not confined to our school and Birmingham City Council have recently published a behaviour code for visitors and parents designed for use in its schools. The Governing Body decided to adopt this code last month and it specifies conduct that is deemed unacceptable along with the range of options open to the school should action be required. It has been sent alongside this newsletter today and will be effective from the start of January.

Forms/Certificates of Attendance

The school has traditionally provided certificates to confirm a child's attendance at this school if parents request this. These are often used to assist with visa applications or support admission to schools overseas.

The volume of these requests has increased over the past year and the work required to produce a certificate adds to the volume of tasks that the school's administrative team have to complete. With this in mind, the school's governors have agreed that the school will now ask for a voluntary contribution (the amount being of the parents' choice) to school fund that recognises the work required and we hope that parents will be supportive of this.

Please be aware that staff cannot act as counter-signatories for passport applications or anything similar as the personal data required is of a type that cannot be divulged due to the risk of it falling into the wrong hands and being misused.

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 Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

