



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Parent Newsletter

December 2018

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Christmas Wishes

Thanks to everybody who has attended our concerts, performances and services over the past week, we hope you enjoyed them and that they got you into a festive mood. We would like to express particular thanks to the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) for their magnificent work in planning and organising the Christmas Fair. It raised a total of £1,698 – a fantastic effort – and the funds will now be used to directly benefit the children in school. Thanks to all who gave up their time on the day to help with stalls and many thanks to those who came along to support the event. On behalf of all children, staff and governors we wish you an 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, via 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 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.

Important Dates

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

Spring term begins: Tuesday 8th January

Half-term begins: Friday 15th February

Children return: Tuesday 26th February

Spring term ends: Friday 12th April

Children return: Monday 29th April

Half-term begins: Friday 24th May

Children return: Monday 3rd June

Summer term ends: Friday 19th July

2019/20 academic year begins: Tuesday 3rd September

Key Dates – Spring 2019

Wednesday 9 th January	Theatre visit for Reception and Year 1 classes
Thursday 10 th January	Theatre visit for Y2 classes
Friday 11 th January	Reception Moles –pyjama day for charity
Friday 18 th January	Reception Badgers Toy time for charity
Friday 25 th January	FOSM sale 3.20pm
Thursday 7 th February	Parent meeting for Viney Hill residential visit for Year 3
Thursday 14 th February	5 Dolphins pyjama day for charity
Friday 15 th February	5 Starfish fun run for charity
Monday 18 th February-Friday 22 nd February	Half term holiday
Monday 25 th February	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 26 th February	School reopens to pupils

Parent Reading

The recent changes to arrangements to the start of the school day have settled in well and the feedback from parents has been positive with far less congestion in and around the school site. Our parent reading sessions remain popular but, given parents are now entering school earlier for these, we are going to change the time at which they finish and a bell will now sound at **9.10am** to signal the end of the session. We request that parents do not leave the session before this time, as this leaves the security of the building vulnerable and a standard time for parents leaving the site means we are able keep the building as safe and secure as possible.

School Standards

Earlier this month we received final confirmation of the standards reached by our former Year 6 pupils in the summer of this year. They are below with the national average in brackets:

Pupils reaching the expected standard:

- Reading: 87% (75%)
- Writing: 90% (78%)
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 90% (78%)
- Maths: 97% (76%)
- Reading/Writing/Maths combined: 80% (64%)

Pupils reaching the higher standard:

- Reading: 40% (28%)
- Writing: 23% (20%)
- Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 67% (34%)
- Maths: 50% (24%)
- Reading/Writing/Maths combined: 23% (10%)

These excellent results represent the hard work of the children and all of the staff who supported them during their time at the school – well done to all!

Term Dates 2019 – 2020

Please find below the confirmed dates for the 2019/20 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 3rd September – Fri 25th October 2019

Half-term: Mon 28th October – Fri 1st November

Aut 2: Tues 5th November – Fri 20th December 2019

Christmas break: Mon 23rd December – Fri 3rd January

Spr 1: Tues 7th January – Fri 14th February 2020

Half-term: Mon 17th February – Fri 21st February

Spr 2: Tues 25th February – Fri 3rd April 2020

Easter break: Mon 6th April - Fri 17th April

Sum 1: Mon 20th April – Fri 22nd May 2020

Half-term: Mon 25th May – Fri 29th May

Sum 2: Mon 2nd June – Fri 17th July 2020

Summer break: Mon 20th July – Wed 2nd September

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

Monday 2nd September 2019

Monday 4th November 2019

Monday 6th January 2020

Monday 24th February 2020

Monday 20th July 2020

Late Collection of Children and Pupil Safety

Our expectation is that children should be collected by parents and carers promptly at the end of the day. If children are not collected on time, our first priority is to place them in a safe and secure location. For this reason, we are changing the arrangements for late collection from 7th January:

-Children who have not been collected at the end of the day will be taken to the school office and will remain there until 3.40.

-If they have not been collected by this time, they will be taken to a room further inside the school building close to the offices of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher where they will wait.

-Upon arrival at school, the parent or carer will be required to come to school reception and they will be taken to where their child is so a safe handover can occur.

We would also like to reinforce the fact that parents should not use entrances from the cube into either part of the building unless permission has been granted by a member of staff present in this area. This rule helps us to keep the building as secure as possible.

Reception Admissions – September 2019

A final reminder that if you have a child who was born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015, it is important that you apply online for your child's Reception place by 15th January 2019. For further information and to apply online please visit:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/draft_apply_for_reception_primary_school

E-Safety and Safeguarding

It is a key responsibility of parents to monitor and regulate any online activity that their child may be involved with at home. The effects of not doing this can be very serious. For example, the School Nursing team have informed Birmingham schools of a current trend concerning the game Fortnite (which has a minimum age limit of 12) where young people are being coerced into using webcams to share images of themselves removing clothing.

The school takes its safeguarding duty very seriously and 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. This number must also be used if you suspect any unlawful or inappropriate contact has taken place with either your child (or other children) online.

Christmas Services at St Mary's Church

Mon 24th December

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

-11.30am: Midnight Communion

Tues 25th December

-10.00am Holy Communion

If you live in the parish, you are entitled to the services of St Mary's church. We 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.stmaryselloak.org.uk>

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

Attendance

Our attendance figure to date is 97.3%. The current figures for each class are below:

Moles: 95.6 %

Koalas: 97.7 %

Seals: 97.5 %

Turtles: 97.5 %

Eagles: 97.5 %

Dolphins: 98.2 %

Giraffes: 96.7 %

Badgers: 97 %

Wallabies: 97%

Penguins: 96.7 %

Whales: 97.8 %

Falcons: 98.5 %

Starfish: 98.3 %

Lions: 96.1 %

