



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Parent Newsletter

February 2020

Tel: 0121 675 1729

Email: enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Web: www.stmarvs-sellvoak.co.uk

Twitter: @stmarvsb29



Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings for the Spring term will be held on **11th and 12th March** and you will be able to book a time for one of these evenings at the school office from **Tuesday 25th February**. They provide an excellent opportunity for you to discuss the progress that your child has made so far and for us to share and set targets to support further progress during the remainder of the year. We will also have a range of your child's work available to look at and discuss and look forward to seeing you on one of these evenings.

Important Dates

Half-term begins today and children return to school on Tuesday 25th February. Term dates for the second half of the academic year are as follows:

Spring term ends: Friday 3rd April

Summer term begins: Monday 20th April

Half-term begins: Friday 22nd May

Children return: Monday 1st June

Summer term ends: Friday 17th July

2020/21 academic year begins: Wednesday 2nd September

Key Dates –Spring term 2020

Mon 17th Feb – Fri 21 Feb Half Term holiday – school closed

Monday 24th February School closed to pupils – Staff training day

Wednesday 4th March 1 Badgers class assembly 9am

Thursday 5th March 1 Moles class assembly 9am

Wednesday 11th March Parent consultations 3.40 – 6pm

Thursday 12th March Parent consultations 3.40-6pm

Tuesday 17th March Author visit for Year 5

Wednesday 18th March Author visit for Year 4

Thursday 19th March Author visit for Year 3

Friday 20th March Author visit for Year 6

Monday 30th March 5Falcons class assembly 9am

Tuesday 31st March 5 Eagles class assembly 9am

Thursday 2nd April Easter service – Encourage group 2.30pm at St Mary's church

Friday 3rd April Easter service – Inspire group 9.30am at St Mary's church

Friday 3rd April School finishes for Easter holiday

Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 20th April School re-opens

Thursday 7th May School closed to pupils – Local Elections

Friday 8th May School closed – Bank Holiday

Monday 11th May **Y4 swimming lessons (2-week block)**

Monday 11th May Y6 SATs week

Thursday 21st May Church service – Inspire group 2.30pm

Friday 22nd May Church service – Encourage group 9.30am

A Spring Prayer



Dear God,

Please help us to plant flowers in other people's lives.

May we be encouragers and supporters.

May we bring hope and light to all who we meet.

Amen

St Mary's Church

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Reverend Hazel White who is now the new incumbent at St Mary's Church.

We look forward to welcoming her into school in the very near future and continuing to build upon the strong relationship which already exists between the church and school communities.

Attendance

Our attendance figure to date is 96.4%. A reminder that late children report to the office and not the classroom doors. The current figures are below:

RGrasshoppers	93.2%	RDragonflies	95.0%
1Moles	94.9%	1Badgers	96.5%
2Koalas	96.4%	2Wallabies	96.4%
3Penguins	97.5%	3Seals	97.2%
4Turtles	97.4%	4Whales	97.9%
5Falcons	97.6%	5Eagles	96.2%
6Starfish	96.8%	6Dolphins	96.4%

Data Protection and Mobile Devices

The school takes steps to make sure that the personal data we hold in relation to a child and their family is protected and secure.

The school website has a section related to this where you can find policies and privacy notices which explain more about the measures we take.

We would also like to issue a further reminder that children are **not** permitted to bring mobile phones into school unless this has been agreed by a member of the school's senior leadership team. In addition to this, items such as smart watches and Fitbits are not allowed in school as they are also classed as high value items. Many thanks for your support.

Safeguarding

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. **Online safety is a critical part of safeguarding and there is an important notice for all parents and carers about this on the final page.**

Parking

We ask parents and carers to park with the safety of pupils and consideration for our neighbours in mind. Our Junior PCSOs carrying out regular parking patrols and have issued 3 warning tickets this week where they have seen unsafe parking*.

We are also working with the local police to support third-party reporting of dangerous or illegal parking*. This means that any member of the public can report incidents directly to the police. If you wish to do this, you will need the following:

- 1) A photograph of the front and rear of the car including the registration plates.
- 2) A timestamp of the photograph or evidence of the date and time when it was taken.
- 3) A brief description of the obstruction/breach.

This information must be sent to West Midlands Police (within 24 hours) using either of these email addresses:

t.j.jones@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or Thomas.odell@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

This initiative is working well at other local primary schools in reducing levels of poor parking and we will support any member of the public or school community who chooses to take this action.

***As a reminder, the Highway Code states the following:**

DO NOT stop or park: near a school entrance; anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services; where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles.

Parking on the pavement can obstruct pedestrians and wheelchair users, forcing them to use the road to pass a parked vehicle/s. It should also be noted that unless you are accessing your property via a lowered kerb driveway, it is an offence to drive on the pavement even for a short distance.

Yellow zig-zag lines outside schools, hospitals, or fire, police or ambulance stations indicate the length of road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited. Even if not specifically prohibited, parking a vehicle on the pavement could lead to an offence of obstruction being committed – this could result in a fixed penalty notice being issued to offending vehicles.

Uniform

The vast majority of pupils come to school wearing appropriate uniform. However, there are exceptions to this at the moment, please find below an extract from the school's uniform policy which provides clear guidance as to what is permitted.

ITEM OF UNIFORM	GUIDANCE NOTES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plain dark grey or black trousers, shorts, skirt, culottes or pinafore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trousers and shorts must be a tailored fit, e.g. no jogging bottoms or sports shorts.• Skirts should be no higher than 5cm above the knee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White or light blue shirt, blouse or polo shirt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Items specified must have a collar. T-shirts are not allowed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Royal blue sweatshirts, cardigans, jumpers or fleece jackets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Royal Blue is St Mary's chosen school colour.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blue and white dresses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dress length should be no higher than 5cm above the knee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plain socks (no higher than below the knee).• Blue, white, grey or black tights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patterned tights are not permitted.• Socks/tights MUST be worn at school.
FOOTWEAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black shoe or ankle boots.• Black, white or blue sandals – SUMMER OPTION.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trainers or other sportswear not permitted.• Shoes MUST be predominantly black, e.g. no visible patterns/logos.• Sandals MUST have backs to them, e.g. not slip on sandals.• Open-toed footwear must not be worn.

Jewellery:

We discourage children from wearing jewellery to school but we do permit the following:

- Pierced ears – just one small stud in each ear lobe.
- Watches should be of a suitable size and alarms deactivated when in school.
- Hair accessories should be kept minimal and without extensions.
- Items worn for strictly religious reasons.

The school cannot accept responsibility for any valuable items, such as watches, which are brought into school.

Unsuitable:

We do not consider the following to be suitable for school:

- Nail varnish/nail decorations
- Make-up/fake tattoos
- Extreme hairstyles, e.g. lines/patterns shaved into hair. Hair should also be of natural colour.
- Football shirts, including those worn underneath school uniform

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Online Safety and Safeguarding

In recent weeks, we have been dealing with several problems arising from the online activity of pupils of different ages which has taken place outside school hours and beyond the school premises.

Our findings, following investigation of these issues, have led to us identify some common themes which have allowed the inappropriate use of technology by children at home and we wanted to share these with you:

-Children being allowed unsupervised internet access (this includes online gaming) without clear parental controls or expectations for safe usage being explained or put in place.

-Children accessing age-inappropriate platforms such as WhatsApp. Current guidance from the platform itself is that the minimum age for using this is 16.

-Older siblings introducing younger siblings to inappropriate content without the parent or carer's knowledge.

-Children being allowed to use devices (especially smartphones and tablets) in their bedrooms. This has led to usage at times which are neither suitable or safe (e.g. late at night or during the very early hours of the morning).

In school, we promote online safety in terms of:

-Curriculum provision, where we teach children how to stay safe when they are online.

-The use of firewalls to protect children from accessing inappropriate content while they are in school.

-The use of monitoring software which screens all online activity taking place in the building, enabling us to address issues of concern as soon as they are identified.

We take these steps because online safety is a safeguarding issue and rightly demands a high focus on our part.

However, your children are on the school premises for less than 20% of their time within a calendar year. This means that there is a lot of time when they are not with us and their exposure to the same type of risks but potentially without the above protections is a matter which should concern us all.

We are asking for the support of all parents and carers in helping to ensure that their child is engaged in safe and age-appropriate online activity. You can do this by having clear rules and expectations about usage and by putting in place a strong level of supervision whilst doing so (please use the features of our most recent cases as a guide if you need to).

In this way, the school and families are working in partnership to ensure that children are kept safe while they are online but are also taking advantage of the fantastic opportunities that ever-changing technology allows.