



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

## Parent Newsletter

### January 2024

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#### Welcome back and staffing changes

A belated welcome back to the new term with a particular welcome to families who have joined the school recently. We have also welcomed two new members of staff with Mrs Kawsar and Mrs Tarique joining the teaching team.

We say a temporary farewell to Mrs Precious-Li and Miss Johnson who both begin maternity leave next week. We wish them well for the coming weeks and months.

#### Requests for information

The school receives several requests for different kinds of information from parents and families throughout the year. Most of the time these are straightforward and can be dealt with quickly. However, there are times when an immediate response is not possible, this can be due to the information being requested (it may be detailed) or the member of staff responsible for dealing with the request may not be available. In these instances, the school aim to meet the request no later than 5 working days from the date it was made but will always try to do this sooner.

Requests made under data protection legislation have separate timelines and these are explained when the school provides its initial written acknowledgement of the request.

#### Parents' evenings

Parents' evenings will be held on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** after school. You will have the opportunity to look at your child's work since September and discuss their progress up until this point. Bookings will be online via the School Cloud system and the window for this will open shortly.

#### Important dates

Half-term begins on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** with children returning on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**. Term dates for the rest of the academic year are below:

**Spring term ends:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**Children return:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April

**Half-term begins:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

**Children return:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Summer term ends:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July

**New academic year begins:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

The school is closed on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** for local elections.

#### Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor - the hours of work are Monday to Friday from 11.25 until 1.30. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact the school office for details

#### Congratulations assemblies and parent reading

Please find below the dates for Friday Congratulations assemblies this term. Parent reading takes place between 8.50 and 9.15 for when classes do not have an assembly:

**Encourage** (RWoodpeckers; 1Hares; 2Peacocks; 3Otters; 4Grasshoppers; 5Badgers; 6Wallabies)

**-19<sup>th</sup> January; 2<sup>nd</sup> February; 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**Inspire:** (RKingfishers; 1Squirrels; 2Flamingos; 3Beavers; 4Dragonflies; 5Moles; 6Koalas)

**-26<sup>th</sup> January; 23<sup>rd</sup> February; 8<sup>th</sup> March**

#### Snow closures

If snow arrives, assume we are open unless we inform you otherwise. If we are closed, we will tell you in the following ways:

-A text message

-An e-mail

-A message on the homepage of the school website

-Posts on our social media platforms (see header above)

We will use the same methods to inform you of reopening arrangements.

If snow falls during the day and the forecast is poor, we may begin a 'rolling' closure where children can be collected earlier. If this happens, we will let you know via text message and email - avoid phoning the school to ask about early closing as this stops other important calls from getting through to us.

#### Headteacher appointment

The process of recruiting a Headteacher for September is now underway with the position currently being advertised. Governors will update you with progress on this in the coming weeks.

#### A Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you that you are always with us through good and difficult times.

As we move through a new year, please help us to learn from everything that happens to us and help us to live in a way that helps others.

Amen

#### Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty seriously. If you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child, contact the school or the Birmingham Children's Advice Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.