



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Parent Newsletter

March 2022

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Opening Up

We returned to holding Collective Worship in the hall at the start of this month and the groups of children gathering together will increase in size as the weeks go on. The aim is to have all classes in each of our Encourage and Inspire groups coming together before the end of term.

The traditional Easter Bonnet and Garden competitions will take place once again but in a modified way – hopefully, it will be the final year that we need to do this and details will follow shortly.

Our plan is to reintroduce adult attendance at Congratulations assemblies and to restart parent reading from the beginning of June - both will take place on Friday mornings. We will also begin to resume parent workshops at this point too. The main intention is to re-establish these important parts of school life before the end of the academic year so we can begin without delay in September.

In the short-term, an important step on our way back to normality is the reintroduction of the traditional end of term Church services over at St Mary's. The first set of these will take place on 7th and 8th April and all parents and family members are warmly invited. Please see below for details as to which classes will attend on each of the two days:

-**Encourage** (RP, 1O, 2G, 3B, 4W, 5P, 6T): **Thurs 7th April** (2.30).
-**Inspire** (RF, 1B, 2D, 3M, 4K, 5S, 6W): **Friday 8th April** (9.30).

Parents' Evenings

Many thanks to all who attended the recent online parents' evenings, we hope they were useful in understanding your child's progress, achievements and areas for development as thoughts turn towards the final term.

We are offering parents the opportunity for the children to bring their current Learning Journey and Maths books home during the final week of term so you can see the work that your child has been doing since January. A letter will follow in the coming days explaining more.

Staffing

We say farewell to Mrs Woods at the end of this term, we thank her for everything she has brought to the school and wish her well for the future. Miss Whiston will be teaching the class on a full-time basis until July.

We will be welcoming Mrs Lehal back from maternity leave at the start of next term and she will be teaching across the school until July.

We also send our congratulations to Mrs Robinson who gave birth to a baby girl recently and to Miss Ahmed who is getting married this weekend – we wish her a lovely day!

An Easter Prayer

Dear God,
Blessed are you, Lord our God. We thank you for all of your springtime gifts and we ask you to help us to be kind to our earth and all of creation.
Teach us to recognise the wonders of this time and to help make the world a place of peace.
Amen.

Easter at St Mary's Church

Please find below the programme of events at St Mary's church over the coming weeks.

Easter Activity Morning – Saturday 9th April

10 – 11.30am: For children aged 4-11 years (but please bring an adult with you. Egg hunt, cake making, Easter crafts and games. All taking place in St Mary's Church Hall.

Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, 10th April:

-10am Parish Communion with a reading of the passion narrative.
-6.30pm evening worship for Palm Sunday

Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th April:

9pm Compline – a short service to end the day.

Maundy Thursday, April 14th

7.30pm: Service of Holy Communion in Church followed by a watch

Good Friday, 15th April:

-12.00 – 2pm Church open for silent prayer and reflection
-2.00-3.00pm: Good Friday Service, 'an hour at the foot of the cross' with hymns, prayers, and readings

Easter Day, 17th April:

8am Holy Communion
10am Parish Communion

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair earlier this month. Sales raised a total of over £1,000, a fantastic response that has earned the school almost £700 in free books that will be distributed across the school in the coming months. Many thanks to Mrs Peat for organising this event.

The school also raised £532 for last week's Red Nose Day, many thanks for your generosity in supporting this.

Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty 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.

Term Dates April 2022 until July 2023

We finish for the Easter break on **Friday 8th April (3.20pm/3.30pm)** and reopen on **Monday 25th April**. The term dates for the rest of the academic year are below:

2021/2022

Summer 1: Monday 25th April – Friday 27th May

Summer 2: Monday 6th June – Thursday 21st July

The school will also be closed on the following dates:

-Monday 2nd May (Bank Holiday)

-Thursday 5th May (Local Elections – school used as a polling station)

-Friday 22nd July (Designated as a holiday for schools to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee).

In addition, find below the term dates and training days for the next academic year. These are issued so families can plan holidays and other activities with these in mind.

2022/2023

Autumn 1: Tues 6th September – Fri 21st October 2022

Autumn 2: Tues 1st November – Fri 16th December 2022

Spring 1: Weds 4th January – Fri 17th February 2023

Spring 2: Mon 27th February – Fri 31st March 2023

Summer 1: Mon 17th April – Fri 26th May 2023

Summer 2: Mon 5th June – Fri 21st July 2023

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

Monday 5th September 2022

Monday 31st October 2022

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th July 2023

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PARKING

A reminder that any member of the public can report evidence of poor parking in the local areas directly to the police. If you do that, you will need the following:

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

Once you have this:

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

Reports are then sent directly to the WM Police Central Ticket Office for processing and fines are issued automatically.

Other Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 30th March - Y5 canal visit

Thursday 31st March Parent Meeting for Seals & Penguins visit to Viney Hill 3.30pm

Tuesday 5th April Years R, 1 & 2 Easter bonnets displayed in hall

Wednesday 6th April Year 3,4,5 & 6 Easter gardens displayed in hall

