



# St Mary's CE Primary School

## Parent Newsletter

### November 2017



Tel: 0121 675 1729 E: [enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk) W: [www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk](http://www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk) T: @stmarysb29

#### Christmas Celebrations

Please find below a list of the key dates for our Christmas celebrations that will be held throughout December:

##### FOSM Christmas Fair:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> (5.00 – 7.00)

##### KS1 Christmas Performances\*:

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - 9.30

This is a dress rehearsal but open for families to attend.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - 2.00

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - 9.30

##### Acorns Christmas Carol Service (Choir singing):

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – 6.30 (at St Mary's Church)

##### Christmas Parties: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> (afternoon)

##### KS2 Christmas Concert\*:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> - 6.00 (at St Mary's Church)

##### Christmas Services (at St Mary's Church)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Inspire – 9.30

Encourage – 2.30

##### Term ends:

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> (3.20/3.30). Pupils return **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**.

*\*A further letter will follow very shortly with details of tickets.*

#### Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

Many thanks to our FOSM volunteers for making these possible earlier in the term and thank you to our families for supporting them. In total they raised a total of £857 for the school.

In terms of the funds raised last year, we will be buying playground furniture with the bulk of the money generated in 2016 – 2017 and these will provide much-needed seating space for children at breaktimes and lunchtimes which has been in short supply as the school has expanded in pupil numbers.

The next major event is the Christmas Fair on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. Our Year 5 parents will be taking the lead in organising this but we will welcome all help and support no matter how much or how little support you are able to provide. Please contact the school if you are interested in finding out ways in which you can help.

An immediate source of help would be to donate an item for the Christmas Fair tombolas. This is a long-established tradition at the school and is linked to a non-uniform day which will take place on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November** (details included elsewhere in this newsletter). Please send all donations to school on this day in exchange for your child not wearing uniform. Thank you!

#### Term Dates 2017 – 2018

School closes for the Christmas break on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** and re-opens on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**.

The remaining term dates for the academic year are below:

**Spr 1:** Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January – Fri 16<sup>th</sup> February

**Spr 2:** Mon 26<sup>th</sup> February – Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Sum 1:** Mon 16<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> May

**Sum 2:** Mon 4<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> July

The school is closed for staff training on:

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January;

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**Please note that the school is also closed on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 due to local elections.**

Looking forward to the summer, if your child is in Year 6 please note that the test week for the 2018 Sats is the week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Anti-Bullying and Children in Need

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November sees us beginning Anti-Bullying fortnight in school. Our theme this year is 'All equal, all different' with the Rights Respecting League (formerly known as the School Council) providing many ideas for this. There are two key events that we'd like all children to take part in:

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November:** all children to wear a pair of odd socks (but normal uniform otherwise). This will launch the events.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November:** all children to take part in 'Smarties' day to close the fortnight. This will be a non-uniform day linked to a Christmas Fair donation (further details to follow very shortly).

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** is Children in Need day. The theme is 'Be Yourself' with children being able to dress accordingly in return for a donation which will go towards the national Children in Need appeal.

### Important Dates

Some key dates for the remainder of this term (Christmas dates are not included in this section – please see page 1):

Further dates are available on our website calendar

[www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk](http://www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk) (including Christmas events)

13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-bullying week
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Non uniform day
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Open morning for new reception admission 2018
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Non uniform day
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Non uniform day for donation for Christmas fair
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu immunisation YR – Y4
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	FOSM Christmas fair
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Senior Choir concert
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am Dress rehearsal Nativity YR,1&2
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm performance Nativity Yr,1&2
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am performance Nativity YR,1&2
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas party (during school day)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	6pm –KS2 christmas performance in St Marys Church
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.30 – Inspire church service
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	2.30pm-Encourage church service

### Site Safety

A further reminder that children should not be climbing on fences, walls or climbing equipment before or after school and it is the parent or carer's responsibility to provide adequate supervision. We would also like to remind parents that dogs should not be brought onto the premises, this includes driveways and paths leading onto the site. If dogs need to be tied to railings, please avoid doing this immediately in front of gates leading into school.

### Forthcoming Events at St Mary's Church

Some information on different events happening in the coming weeks:

#### November

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> (7pm): Quiz Night

#### December

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> (10-11.30): Children's Christmas Activity Morning

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> (6.30pm): Main Carol Service

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> (6.00pm): Acorns Carol Service

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> (11.30pm): Midnight Mass

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.stmarysellyoak.org.uk>) or ring the vicarage. If you live in the parish, you are entitled to the services of St Mary's Church.

### Attendance

Our attendance figure so far this year is 97%. A reminder that any late children are to report to the office and not the classroom doors as office staff must have an accurate picture of attendance each day. The figures for each class are below:

<b>R Koalas</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>R Wallabies</b>	<b>93.8%</b>
<b>Penguins:</b>	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>Seals:</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>Foxes:</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>Hedgehogs:</b>	<b>98.4%</b>
<b>Eagles:</b>	<b>97.7%</b>	<b>Falcons:</b>	<b>98.3%</b>
<b>Dolphins:</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>Starfish:</b>	<b>98.4%</b>
<b>Giraffes:</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>Lions:</b>	<b>94.8%</b>
<b>Tigers:</b>	<b>98.6%</b>		

### A Prayer



Dear God,

As we begin to approach the time of Advent and think of preparing to give gifts to those who are close, please help us to consider those less fortunate guide us to reach out and help them in any way that we can.

Amen

### E-Safety Parent Workshops

We held sessions earlier this month to support parents in supervising their child's online activity at home. If you were not able to make these, we can provide the handout used free of charge - please contact the office if you would like a copy. We also have a 'Be Safe' App available on Google Play which was designed by our pupils as well as resources in the 'Parents' section of our website ('Online Safety').

### Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty 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 and Support Service (CASS) on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

### School Admissions

A reminder that if you have a child who is due to start in Reception next September, the deadline for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2018**.

Applications are now made online and for further information on both procedures, please visit the following link:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions)

A further open session for parents who are interested in a Reception place at this school for September 2018 will be held on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 9.45**.

We would be grateful if current parents could pass this information onto those families who may be looking for a place here for the first time.

