



St Mary's CE Primary School

Parent Newsletter

November 2020

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Parent Consultations

These will be taking place throughout November and will enable you to establish how well your child has settled into school during the first half-term and to gain a picture of their current attainment and progress.

Teachers gathered a range of information about your child throughout the first eight weeks of term and by sharing this, we hope you have a more substantial view of how your child is doing in comparison to previous years.

They will be held via telephone and if you wish to book a slot, please contact the school for details.

Mrs Fage

We are sorry to inform you that due to a change in her personal circumstances, Mrs Fage is no longer able to continue teaching at St Mary's.

Mrs Fage joined the school 7 years ago and taught many classes during this time. She has been a valuable member of the school community and we thank her for all that she has brought to St Mary's.

We wish her and her family well for the future.

Miss Shaw has taken up the post of teaching 3 Koalas and we welcome her to the school.

Site Safety

Thank you for supporting the different measures we have had in place since September. These will continue but some particular requests about safe use of the site as we head into winter are below:

- 1) Ensure there is only one parent or carer on the premises. Do not bring other family members or friends with you.
- 2) Do not send older siblings from secondary schools to collect pupils if possible, this increases the risk of transmission between schools and there are higher rates of infection in secondary than primary.
- 3) Keep your distance from adults who are not in your household. Wear a face covering if you cannot maintain distance.
- 4) Keep your children with you so they do not mix with children from other year groups.
- 5) Avoid face to face contact with members of staff unless it is an emergency. Instead contact them via teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk.
- 6) Make sure your child has everything they need before they leave for school. Staff movement in the building is restricted, the office team are included in this and carrying forgotten items to classrooms increases the risk to themselves and others.

From Monday, parents and carers who drop off and collect children from both the Lodge Hill Road and Frederick Road playgrounds will be able to move across the site using the cube.

This is a trial to begin with and its success depends upon social distancing rules being followed and children being closely supervised by their parent or carer. We ask that adults who use this route wear a face covering for the time that they are in the cube so they are protecting others while they are indoors.

If you use only one of these playgrounds, you must continue to use the entrance/exit that you are currently. There are no changes to the other drop off and collection arrangements currently in place.

Message from Rev Hazel and St Mary's Church

Although public worship is suspended during lockdown, you are very welcome to come to St Mary's Church for private prayer and reflection during the following times: **Wednesday mornings 10.00-12.00 and Sunday mornings 10.00-12.00.** We hope you find comfort and peace in this quiet place.

Christmas Arrangements

It will come as little surprise that we will not be able hold our traditional programme of events this Christmas.

Restrictions on singing and having large gatherings of children and adults give little scope for us to adapt our usual arrangements. We are looking at alternative ways of celebrating Christmas despite these restrictions and will share details of these with you closer to the time.

Admissions to Reception (2021)

If you have a child born between **1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017**, you are now able to apply for a Reception place for next September, please use the link below to access the information about this process:

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

Throughout November we are holding virtual open sessions for prospective parents who wish to find out more about the school. Please contact the office if you would like to book a place for one of these.

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. All calls are treated with confidence.

A Prayer for Carers

Dear God,

We thank you for all the people who care for our needs and the needs of others.

We pray for all those who are learning to become doctors and nurses so that they can look after people when they are ill.

We pray for all who work in hospitals and doctors' surgeries today.

Please help them in their work.

Amen

Winter Weather Procedures

In the event of snowfall, please assume the school is open unless informed otherwise. If the school is closed, you will be informed by text message, the school website, Twitter and e-mail by 7.15 at the latest. 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 you can collect your child earlier. If this does happen, we will let you know through the same ways described above.

Attendance

The first half term saw attendance above the historic levels we had prior to the arrival of the pandemic. This means that your child has the very best opportunity to catch up on the lost time in school from March until July.

If your child is unable to attend school because they are self-isolating, we ask that you access the website to access the links for the school's remote learning programme. This can be found at:

<http://www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk/remote-learning-for-isolating-children/>

Harvest Donations

Thank you for the donations sent in just before half-term, the response was amazing. They went to a local foodbank and will now be distributed to people locally who will benefit from your generosity.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 13 th November	Non-uniform day in exchange for donation to Children in Need
Monday 9 th November	Reception children to have eye test in school
Thursday 12 th November, 19 th & 26 th	Virtual meeting for new reception parents - intake September 2021 Please email for details
Week commencing 16 th November	Parent evening telephone calls – remember to book using the link sent by email or phone the school office
Monday 21 st December – Friday 1 st January	Christmas holidays – school closed
Monday 4 th January 2021	Teacher Training Day – school closed
Friday 12 th February 2021	Teacher Training Day – school closed (this now replaces the original date of Monday 22 nd February, school will be open on this date).
Monday 15 th – Wednesday 17 th March	REVISED DATE for Y4 VINEY HILL RESIDENTIAL group 1
Monday 22 nd – Wednesday 24 th March	REVISED DATE for Y4 VINEY HILL RESIDENTIAL group 2
Monday 21 st – Wednesday 23 rd June	REVISED DATE for Y6 VINEY HILL RESIDENTIAL group 1

