

St Mary's CofE Primary School Parent Newsletter

November 2023

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Christmas Events

We are looking forward to our programme of Christmas events this year. A reminder of the key dates is below:

-FOSM Christmas Fair: Friday 8th December (3.30 – 5.30)

-Key Stage 2 Christmas Concert: Tuesday 12th December (after school in the hall)

-Reception and KS1 Nativity:* Tuesday 19th December and Wednesday 20th December (9.15)

-**Christmas Parties:** Wednesday 20th December (afternoon)

-Key Stage 2 Candlelight Carols:* Thursday 21st December (2.00pm at St Mary's Church)

-Reception and KS1 Crib Service: -Friday 22nd December (9.30am at St Mary's Church)

Events marked * require online booking using the link below: https://stmaryschurchofengland.schoolcloud.co.uk/

Looking further forward, the Christmas break begins at the end of the school day on **Friday 22nd December** and we reopen to pupils on **Monday 8th January.**

Christmas at St Mary's Church

Please find below the programme of events taking place at St Mary's Church in the coming weeks:

Sunday 3rd December, 5.00pm Service of readings and music for Advent Sunday

Saturday 9th December, 10-11.30am Children's Activity Morning (for children aged 4-11 years, who must be accompanied by an adult)

Sunday 17th December, 10am All-age Communion Service with Junior Church nativity.

Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm Carol Service, followed by seasonal refreshments.

Sunday 24th December, Christmas Eve

-5pm Crib Service: suitable for all ages. -11.30pm Midnight Mass: the first of Christmas.

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day 10am Parish Communion

Thank You

The response to our Harvest appeal was greatly appreciated and showed the generosity of the school community. Donations have already helped those in need in the local community. We also raised £229 from last week's non-uniform day in aid of Children In Need. The support for the last month's Scholastic Book Fair was fantastic. Sales totalled £1,307, generating over £751 in commission to spend on new books for school. We have also benefitted from books generated by fundraising through Usborne RSR and Bright Sparks Publishing (see photo below).



Reception Admissions – September 2024

Application for admission to Reception classes in Birmingham is online. If you have a child born between <u>1st</u> <u>September 2019 and 31st August 2020</u>, you can now apply for a Reception place for next September. The closing date for applications is **15th January 2024**, please pass this information onto anyone who is interested in applying for a place here next year. The link for further information is as follows:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school admi ssions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school

Staffing News

We say farewell to Mrs Shore at the end of term. She has been part of St Mary's for over 14 years and touched the lives of so many children during this time. We wish her well as she takes up a post at another school. Earlier this month we received the very happy news that Mrs Ahmed gave birth to a daughter. Both are doing very well and we look forward to seeing them soon.

A Christmas Prayer

We thank you, God for the wonderful gift of Jesus. As we give and receive gifts at this time of year, help us to remember his message of love and to take time to think of and help those who will have little or nothing. Help us to fill this Christmas with love, peace and joy. Amen



School Uniform

A reminder that trainers are not part of school uniform and shoes must be worn. We discourage children from wearing jewellery to school but do allow 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. Smart watches are classified as high-value items and should not be worn unless it has been agreed with the school.

-Hair accessories such as bands, grips etc but these must be plain and without extensions or additional elements. -Items worn for religious reasons. We discourage the wearing of items around the neck as they can cause injury if they get caught on something or easily broken. If an item of this type must be worn, it should be tucked away beneath clothing.

Attendance

Our attendance figure to date this term is 97%. This is above both local and national figures and shows the importance that the school community places upon education and learning. The breakdown for individual year groups is as follows:

Year 3.97%

Reception	: 96%	Year 1: 96%	Year 2:	97%
Year 4:	98%	Year 5: 97%	Year 6:	97%
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Leave in term time is only authorised in exceptional circumstances and only when a written request has been assessed and agreed by the school in advance.

Term Dates

Please find below term dates for the rest of the academic year: **Spring 1:** Monday 8th January – Friday 9th February **Spring 2:** Monday 19th February – Friday 22nd March **Summer 1:** Monday 8th April – Friday 24th May **Summer 2:** Monday 3rd June - Thursday 18th July

School is closed on the following dates for staff training: Monday 8th April; Friday 19th July and Monday 22nd July School is closed on the following date due to local elections: Thursday 2nd May

In addition, find below term dates for the **2024/2025 academic year**. The intention is that early notice allows families plenty of time to plan holidays without the need to withdraw their children from school:

Autumn 1: Monday 2nd September 2024 – Friday 25th October 2024 Autumn 2: Monday 4th November 2024 – Friday 20th December 2024 Spring 1: Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 14th February 2025 Spring 2: Monday 24th February 2025 – Friday 11th April 2025 Summer 1: Monday 28th April 2025 – Friday 23rd May 2025 Summer 2: Monday 2nd June 2025 – Monday 21st July 2025

The dates for staff training for next year will be confirmed in the early part of the summer term.

Parking

West Midlands Police have received a report of obstructive parking on Wellman Croft by residents picking up children from school. They have advised the following when parking your vehicle:

- Do not park within 10 metres of a junction.
- Do not obstruct the footpath leave enough room for a wheelchair or a double buggy to pass by.
- Do not park in a way that prevents somebody from moving their vehicle off their driveway.
- Do not park or stop on the yellow zig-zags outside school.
- Ensure there is enough space for emergency vehicles to pass through be mindful if vehicles are parked on both sides of the road.

Parking considerately helps to keep your children safe, and maintains a good relationship between the school and local residents. Both West Midlands Police and Birmingham City Council have powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to vehicles causing an obstruction.

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.

Thank You

This is the final newsletter of the term and staff and governors would like to wish all of our families a peaceful Christmas break when it arrives.