



St Mary's CE Primary School

Parent Newsletter



October 2019

Tel: 0121 675 1729 E: enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk or teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk
W: www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk T: @stmarysb29

Parents' Evenings

It was good to see so many of you coming along to these sessions this week and we hope you found the time useful. Teachers issued a leaflet outlining the knowledge and skills that a child is expected to demonstrate by the end of the academic year, these are the standards that we report against in July. If you did not receive one of these, please contact the school office and we can arrange for a copy to be provided.

Attendance

Our attendance figure for the first half term is 97.8%. A reminder that children arriving after 9.00 are to report to school reception and not the classroom doors as office staff must have an accurate picture of attendance each day. The current figures for each class are below:

R Grasshoppers	97.3%	R Dragonflies	97.0%
1 Moles	95.3%	1 Badgers	99.3%
2 Wallabies	98.9%	2 Koalas	98.4%
3 Penguins	98.6%	3 Seals	98.4%
4 Turtles	97.7%	4 Whales	99.4%
5 Eagles	97.3%	5 Falcons	97.0%
6 Dolphins	97.7%	6 Starfish	97.5%

Attendance patterns for individual children are monitored closely and we contact parents where attendance has fallen below 95%. This is intended to establish the reasons for absence and to offer support if needed.

The school uses the 'Fast Track' legal procedure for tackling cases of persistent absenteeism (this is where a child's attendance is less than 90%). This process can ultimately end with penalty notices being issued to parents/carers (3 of these have been issued to families of children at this school in the past 12 months).

Please note that leave or holiday in term time can only be authorised in the most exceptional of circumstances and only when this has been agreed with the Headteacher in advance. Any leave which falls outside these definitions will be deemed unauthorised and will impact on the overall attendance figure for the child.

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.

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

Many thanks to all who have supported our fundraising events in the early part of this term. Planning is now underway for the Christmas Fair which will take place on Friday 6th December. There will be a planning meeting for this event **on Friday 8th November at 9.30 in the school hall** (refreshments will be provided). All are welcome no matter how much or little support you think you are able to give. All funds we raise at events benefit the children in the school directly.

Admissions to Reception and Year 7 (2020)

If your child is currently in Year 6, the deadline for applications for a secondary school place (Year 7) is **31st October 2019**.

If you have a child due to start school in Reception 2020 (i.e. they were born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016) please note that the deadline for applications is **15th January 2020**. Open sessions for admission to St Mary's in September 2020 will be held on **Thursday 7th November and Thursday 14th November between 9.30 and 10.45**.

Further information about both processes can be found at:

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

St Mary's International Cafe

A group of parent volunteers run sessions in school aimed at developing practical skills in using and understanding English. These take place every Monday between 9.00 and 10.00. Please contact the office if you are interested or know somebody who may be.

A Harvest Prayer



Dear God,
At Harvest time we thank you for the meals that are on our table every day and for all the other good things we have to eat.
We ask for your help with those who are less fortunate than ourselves and pray that they benefit from our generosity both now and in the future.
Amen

Important Dates

Below are some key dates for the remainder of this term.

Further dates are available on our website calendar

www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk (including Christmas events)

Monday 21st – Friday 25th October **Book Fair** before and after school in hall

Monday 21st -23rd October **4 Turtles** to Viney Hill residential

Wednesday 23rd – 25th October **4 Whales** to Viney Hill residential

Thursday 24th October **Harvest** Service at Church Encourage group 2.30pm

Friday 25th October **Harvest** Service at Church Inspire group 9.30am

Monday 28th October **School closed** – Half term holiday

Monday 4th November **School re-opens to pupils**

Thursday 7th November Open morning 9.30am for parents with children

Thursday 7th November starting school in Sept 2020

Thursday 7th November Y6 Viney Hill parent meeting 3.30pm

Tuesday 12th November 6Dolphins assembly 9am

Wednesday 13th November 6Starfish assembly 9am

Thursday 14th November Open morning 9.30am for parents with children

Thursday 14th November starting school in Sept 2020

Wednesday 27th November 4Turtles assembly 9am

Thursday 28th November 4 Whales assembly 9am

Wednesday 4th December 3 Penguins assembly 9am

Thursday 5th December 3 Seals assembly 9am

Thursday 5th December YR to theatre

Friday 6th December **FOSM Christmas fair**

Thursday 12th December Y1 & Y2 to theatre

Monday 23rd December **School closed for** Christmas holidays

Tuesday 7th January **School re-opens to pupils**

Fridav 10th Januarv Y3. Y4. Y5&Y6 to theatre

Harvest Donations

As you can see from the dates on the left, we have Harvest Services at the end of this half-term and are continuing our tradition of asking families to contribute towards our Harvest appeal as part of the celebrations.

We ask for donations of any tinned or packet items (no perishable goods please) with all of these going towards a local food bank so people in our community can benefit directly from your generosity. Contributions can be sent to school on either Thursday 24th or Friday 25th October. Many thanks for your support.

Term Dates 2019 – 2020

A reminder of the term dates for the rest of the academic year:

Half-term begins: Fri 25th October

Aut 2: Mon 4th November – Fri 20th December

Spr 1: Tues 7th January – Fri 14th February

Spr 2: Tues 25th February – Fri 3rd April

Sum 1: Mon 20th April – Fri 22nd May

Sum 2: Mon 1st June – Friday 17th July

School is closed for staff training on the following days:

Monday 6th January 2020

Monday 24th February 2020

Monday 20th July 2020

In addition, the school will be closed on the following dates:

-Thursday 7th May 2020

(Polling for the West Midland Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner elections).

-Friday 8th May 2020

May Bank Holiday (please note that we are open on Monday 4th May).

St Mary's Year of Reading

The parent reading sessions now taking place between **9.00 and 9.30 on Friday mornings for all classes** have got off to a really positive start and it is great to see so many parents coming into school.

In order to make these sessions run smoothly, we ask that you stay for the whole session rather than part and if you have more than one child in the school, take turns in going along to their classroom for a whole session rather than moving mid-session. This means you and the child will get the most out of it.

Relationships Education from 2020

You may be aware that the government are introducing the compulsory teaching of relationships education in primary schools from September 2020.

We are required to consult with families when developing and reviewing our policies in this area of the curriculum and further detail on the government's proposals can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>

Site Safety

A letter was sent home last month with various pieces of information regarding the safety of all site users at the start and end of the school day. Thanks for your support in these areas.

We have recently had CCTV installed in three locations around the site with the Frederick Road and Lodge Hill playgrounds now having coverage and a camera has also been installed in the Y3 and Y4 corridor close to the stairwell used by Year 5. All three cameras are operated in accordance with our CCTV Policy which is obtainable from the school on request.

