



St Mary's CE Primary School

Parent Newsletter



October 2020

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Parents' Evenings

We will not be able to hold these in their usual form due to the restrictions currently in place regarding visitors to the school building.

Instead, you will receive a telephone call from your child's teacher which will focus on how well your child has settled in since returning and their current progress. You will also have the chance to identify any particular areas that you would like to raise with their teacher in advance of this. These consultations will take place in November and further details will be shared with you before the half-term break about booking details.

Attendance

Our attendance figures for the first month of the school year compare very well to the national picture. As explained in previous letters, we are vigilant in making the school as safe as it can be in the current climate and it is great to see the children in school regularly and catching up on lost time despite the worries and concerns that we all have.

Please note that regulations about leave or holiday in term time have not changed. They can only be authorised in the most exceptional of circumstances and only when this has been agreed with the Headteacher in advance.

Harvest Donations

As explained in the last newsletter, we will be unable to hold Church services for the foreseeable future but will be producing virtual celebrations in place of those we cannot share in person.

Something which remains unchanged is our tradition of asking families to contribute towards our Harvest appeal.

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 22nd or Friday 23rd October and we would be very grateful for any donations received.

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.

We ask for your help with those who are less fortunate than ourselves and pray that they benefit from the generosity of others.

Amen

Site Safety

A reminder of the ways in which we can reduce the risk to all who use our school site at the beginning and end of the day. **Please protect other children and adults by:**

- Arriving as close to your drop-off/collection time as you can (this reduces mixing of parents and children from different year groups).
- Only having one parent or carer on the premises.
- Asking older siblings from other schools not to enter the premises.
- Keeping your distance from adults who are not in your household. Face coverings are permitted if you are unable to maintain distance between yourself and others.
- Keeping your children with you so they are not playing and mixing with other children from other year groups.
- Making sure that children are not using play equipment as this will have been cleaned in readiness for the day.
- Avoiding face to face contact with members of staff and instead contact them via teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk.
This mailbox is monitored regularly throughout the day and messages will get through to them quickly.
- Leaving the site as soon as possible to reduce congestion on pathways, the playground and the pavements outside.

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

Over many years, FOSM have been brilliant in supporting the school by organising fundraising activities which improve the experience of the children here. In recent times they have organised events which have paid for:

- Climbing equipment in the Frederick Road playground.
- The bicycle and scooter shelters on both sides of the site
- The annual end of year trips for Year 6 pupils
- Playground and play equipment
- Books and reading resources
- An electric piano (soon to arrive)

As school budgets become stretched, their work has never been more important. If you would like to get involved in any way possible (e.g. joining the committee, building links with local businesses, giving time to run small sales), please contact the school. Every contribution makes a huge difference.

In the absence of being able to organise fundraising events which bring the school together in person, FOSM are looking at a range of ideas which can continue their support whilst complying with the restrictions currently in place. Further details will follow in the coming weeks.

Admissions to Reception and Year 7 (2021)

As in previous years, applications for admission to Reception and transfer to secondary education will be online.

If you have a child in Year 6 who is due to transfer to secondary education next September, please use the link below to access the information about this process:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1778/secondary_school_year_7_admissions/1

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

There is also a letter attached to today's weekly bulletin which tells you more about Reception places for next year.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 7 th October	Y6 individual photos – please come in school uniform – NO P.E.
Thursday 22 nd – Friday 23 rd October	Harvest donations to be brought into school
Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October	Half term holiday – school closed
Monday 2 nd November	Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 4 th November	Nasal Flu Immunisations – whole school
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
Monday 28 th – Wednesday 30 th June	REVISED DATE for Y6 VINEY HILL RESIDENTIAL group 2

