



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

## Parent Newsletter

### October 2021



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#### IMPORTANT NOTICE - PARKING

Local residents and parents have contacted the school expressing concerns that the parking of some parents/carers is both obstructing pavements and could prevent emergency services accessing local homes if needed. The problem is particularly serious in Wellman Croft.

The school has no legal authority over parking but we do work with the police to publicise third-party reporting of dangerous or illegal parking. This means that any member of the public can report evidence of this directly to the police. If you wish to do that, you will need the following:

- 1) Access the following website: <https://www.nextbase.com/en-gb/national-dash-cam-safety-portal/>
- 2) Select 'West Midlands Police'.
- 3) Complete the online form.

Reports are sent directly to West Midlands Police Central Ticket Office for processing

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

FOSM is a group of parent volunteers who work with the school to hold fundraising events throughout the year. In recent times, they have funded new climbing equipment in the playground, an electric piano and playground games with all money raised going directly towards making the children's experience of school better.

We hope to resume some events this year after an 18-month pause and would like any parents or family members to contact us if they are interested in getting involved; every bit of help is valuable no matter how large or small. Please get in touch via: [school.opening@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk](mailto:school.opening@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk).

#### Covid-19 Update

We are now getting a clearer picture of how we can work our way through the autumn and winter months with the main intention being to avoid disruption to learning and making the environment as safe and enjoyable as it can be for everyone. In recent weeks, we have:

- Established the changed timings and routines of the school day so it feels far more normal for children than it did last year.
- Made plans to reintroduce a range of extra-curricular clubs after half-term.
- Developed lunchtime arrangements so the experience is a more sociable one and allows older pupils opportunities to interact with younger ones.

However, the easing of national restrictions is having an impact with the number of Covid cases now being higher than experienced last term. For this reason, we will be holding the next set of Parents' Evenings virtually once again and we will be keeping the reintroduction of parental attendance at Congratulations assemblies under review.

Details about Parents' Evenings will follow immediately after half-term and we will let you know about any changes to Congratulations assemblies. We are now looking towards Christmas and decisions about these events will be based on local circumstances as we get closer to the time.

#### A Harvest Prayer

Dear God,  
At Harvest time we thank you for the food that we eat and for all the other good things we have.  
We ask you to help those who are not as lucky as we are and pray that they gain comfort from the help and generosity of others.  
Amen

#### Harvest Donations

We will be continuing our tradition of asking families to contribute towards our Harvest appeal. Donations of any tinned or packet items (no perishable goods please) will be greatly appreciated with all items going towards a local food bank so people in the community can benefit directly from your generosity. Contributions can be sent to school on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**.

#### Behaviour Code for Site Users

Please find attached with this newsletter the school's Behaviour Code for Site Users. The code makes clear the expectations we have of all those who engage with the school. Thankfully, instances where school staff are subjected to abusive or threatening behaviour are rare but when it does happen, it is unacceptable regardless of the context. The code sets out the actions open to the school should this occur.

### Attendance

Our attendance figures for the first month of the school year are higher than the current national and local picture which is encouraging given the scale of disruption to education over the past 18 months.

Regulations about leave in term time have not changed because of the pandemic. This can only be authorised in the most exceptional of circumstances and only when a request has been submitted in writing and subsequently agreed with the Headteacher in advance.

### Term Dates

Half-term begins at the end of the day on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**. Children return on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**.

Looking further forward, the Christmas break begins at the end of the school day on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** and we reopen to pupils on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**.

Details of all terms dates for this year and next were included in the September newsletter and we publish these regularly throughout the year.

### Admissions to Reception 2022

As in previous years, applications for admission to Reception classes in Birmingham is online. If you have a child born between **1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018**, you are now able to apply for a Reception place for next September, please use the link below to access information about this:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions/1786/apply\\_for\\_reception\\_primary\\_school](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school)

For this school, virtual open sessions for prospective parents will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Please contact the school office for more details and we would be grateful if this information could be passed onto to any parents who may be interested in applying for a place at the school.

### High Value Items

The school cannot take responsibility for damage to (or loss of) valuable items that children bring in. The important tests are whether there would be upset caused should a valuable item be lost/broken and would it be expensive to replace. If the answer to either of these is 'yes', please ensure the item remains at home. We are seeing some children bringing in smart watches, some of which are capable of taking photographs. There are privacy and safeguarding issues related to the use of these items so they must not be brought into school.

### 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

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October – Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	4 Wallabies to Viney Hill Adventure Centre
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	4 Koalas to Viney Hill Adventure Centre
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Deadline for ordering Christmas card online
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Donations of tins and packets of food for harvest
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term holiday
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Teacher Training day – school closed to pupils
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Virtual Open morning for pupils starting school in 2022 9.15 & 10.30 am – further details to follow
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Book fair in school
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Virtual Open morning for pupils starting school in 2022 9.15 & 10.30 am – further details to follow

