



St Mary's CE Primary School

Parent Newsletter

September 2017



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

Welcome

On behalf of all staff in school, a very warm welcome back as we look forward to the excitement and challenges that a new school year brings. The children have settled into their new classes well. A particular welcome to children and families who have joined us this week, we look forward to getting to know you and your child and working with you over the coming years.

We also welcome Miss Evans, Mr Jones and Miss Goley to St Mary's as new teaching staff and we hope that their time with the school will be happy and successful.

Summer Projects

We have made two key improvements to the site during the summer break:

- The area outside the Reception classrooms has been landscaped to create a designated area for outdoor learning. In addition, a canopy has been erected immediately outside these rooms to allow large sections of this new area to be used regardless of weather conditions. We ask that the pathway running to the side of this area is used for travelling across the site and that you avoid walking through the learning area and do not allow your children to do so either.
- The school took possession of Mr Wright's house over the summer holiday and we are now nearing completion in converting this space for school use. It will be used for music tuition, working space for staff and meeting rooms.

Many thanks to Mr Wright for managing these projects over the summer period and to his team of cleaners for making the school look attractive and ready for the new year.

A reminder of the entry and exit points for children:

- Reception and Year 1:** direct from the classroom doors.
- Eagles, Falcons and Hedgehogs:** the doorway next to the canopied area in the Lodge Hill Rd playground.
- Foxes:** the classroom door leading onto this area.
- Dolphins and Starfish:** classroom doors that lead directly onto the Lodge Hill Rd playground.
- Lions and Giraffes:** the stairwell leading onto the Lodge Hill Rd playground).
- Tigers:** the doorway by the spider-web climbing frame on the Frederick Road side of the site.

If you join us for parent reading on Friday mornings or for class assemblies, please note that you must now leave the site by the Lodge Hill Road gate only.

Friends of St Mary's

Last year was a very successful one for FOSM with the whole calendar of events being very well supported. We are always looking for new volunteers to help and there will be an AGM which will be held in school before half-term to which all parents are warmly invited. We would be very pleased to see you if you wish to get involved with helping and supporting the school. Alternatively, contact us to register your interest if you are unable to make this meeting.

A letter was sent out regarding proposals to secure the long-term future of the group in July and we will be providing more information about this next week.

Parking

The school now has 390 pupils on site so the issue of parking and road safety becomes even more significant than before.

If you travel by car, please park away from the school and walking the remaining part of the journey.

If this is not possible, it is essential that parents park with the safety of our pupils and the consideration of local residents in mind.

A Prayer



Dear God,

We ask for your guidance as we begin a new school year. Allow us to meet the new challenges that it will bring and give the generosity to share our help with others and to support them through our journey together.
Amen

Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty very 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 on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

Term Dates 2017 - 2018

A reminder of dates for this academic year:

Aut 1: Wed 6th September – Fri 20th October

Aut 2: Mon 30th October – Fri 22nd December

Spr 1: Tues 9th January – Fri 16th February

Spr 2: Mon 26th February – Thurs 29th March

Sum 1: Mon 16th April – Fri 25th May

Sum 2: Mon 4th June – Fri 20th July

The school is closed for staff training on:

Monday 8th January/Monday 23rd July/Tuesday 24th July

We are also likely to be closed on 3rd May 2018 due to local elections, we will be able to confirm this nearer the time.

Term Dates 2018 - 2019

Aut 1: Mon 3rd September – Fri 26th October

Aut 2: Mon 5th November – Fri 21st December

Spr 1: Mon 7th January – Fri 15th February

Spr 2: Mon 25th February – Fri 12th April

Sum 1: Mon 29th April – Fri 24th May

Sum 2: Mon 3rd June – Monday 22nd July

Staff training days will be confirmed later this term.

School Organisation and Concerns

With more pupils in the school, we must be clear about the way we respond to any parental concerns so they are resolved as effectively as possible. Partly for this reason, classes are organised into groups, each led by a class-based member of the school's leadership team:

Reception, Year 3 and Year 4: Mrs Shore

Years 1 and 2: Mrs Fage

Years 5 and 6: Mr Tromans

Please use the following procedure if you have a concern so there is little delay in finding a solution and further difficulties are avoided:

-Concerns should be raised the first instance with the class teacher. In most cases a short discussion should address these.

-If the problem is not resolved, contact the relevant leader named above who will work with you to find a solution.

-If the concern is yet to be resolved after this stage then please contact one of the following members of the school's senior leadership team - Mrs Joel, Miss Evans, Mr Warland.

-If the concerns still persist then please make an appointment to see Mr Smith.

If you need to contact a member of staff, do this via the school office, through a letter, in person or using the school email address enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk.

Please do not contact staff directly through means such as social media or direct email addresses. Staff have been instructed not to respond to forms of communication such as these it can place the member of staff concerned and the person making the contact in breach of the safeguarding and confidentiality practices we have in place.

Communication

We have many ways to keep parents and families informed of different events that are going on and wanted to remind you of the different methods we use:

-Weekly bulletins including notices for the week ahead are displayed in the cube (the indoor walkway between both playgrounds).

-Where required, notices are displayed in classroom windows and doors used for entry/exit. There are also noticeboards in each of the two playgrounds that are updated regularly.

-Letters and weekly bulletins are emailed to the registered addresses held on our database and they are also published on our website.

-Text messages are sent in the case of unexpected events or late changes to planned ones (this only works if we have an up to date mobile number).

-We have a Twitter feed and are planning to launch a Facebook page later this year (this will be a news feed only and not interactive).

Extra-curricular clubs will begin from next week, please look at the weekly bulletin to check our new timetables as there have been some changes since last term.

Uniform

Please be aware that our expectations have remained unchanged. If you are in any doubt as to what is required, please contact the school or consult our Uniform Policy on the school website.

Collective Worship and Assemblies

As the school approaches the final phase of its transition to 420 pupils, we will continue to preserve the special ethos of older children and younger children coming together as a community. Consequently, we will continue with our 'Encourage' and 'Inspire' structure. This year's groups are as follows:

-Encourage: 5L; 4S; 3E; 2F; 1S;

-Inspire: 6T; 5G; 4D; 3F; 2H; 1P

(Reception classes confirmed in October).

Our very popular Friday 'Congratulations' assemblies will continue to be held on alternate weeks for each group at 2.45pm. These will be listed on the weekly diary as before and we hope this allows us to continue celebrating the unique qualities of our school, all parents are invited to join us. We will also continue to use these groups for our Church services at the end of every half-term.

Dates for your diary 2017

Week 11 th September	after school clubs start
Thursday 14 th September	New reception children start full time
Tuesday 26 th September	Parent Autism support group
Thursday 28 th September	Viney Hill meeting for parents
Thursday 5 th October	New Reception parent workshop - 2pm
Thursday 5 th October	New Reception parent workshop 5.30pm
Monday 9 th October	Book fair in school all week
Wednesday 11 th October	Parent consultations 3.30-6pm
Thursday 12 th October	5 Giraffes assembly 9am
Thursday 12 th October	Parent consultations 3.30 – 6pm
Monday 16 th October	4 Dolphins to Viney Hill
Wednesday 18 th October	return 18 th October
Wednesday 18 th October	4 Starfish to Viney Hill
Thursday 19 th October	Return 20 th October
Thursday 19 th October	Church service –St Mary's Church 2.30pm
Friday 20 th October	Encourage Church service –St Marys Church 9.30am
Monday 23 rd October	Inspire School closed for half term holiday
Monday 30 th October	School re-opens
Wednesday 1 st November	Bags for rags collection 9am

Further dates are available on our website calendar
www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk