



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Parent Newsletter



September 2021

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Welcome

A very warm welcome back as we begin a new school year. We would particularly like to welcome all of our new children and families who have joined us this term and we very much look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

We also welcome Miss Swann and Miss Whiston who join the teaching team along with new members of support staff working across the school; we hope their time at St Mary's will be happy and successful.

Changes to the school's operations

We hope that you all received the returning guide to school issued either side of the summer break along with the separate letter about reporting Covid cases. If you did not receive these please contact the school office.

We will always get information to you as quickly as possible so if you hear of any news through the media or other sources, please wait for us to send the information to you rather than contacting the school as this will give us the time to put together plans which work for our setting and community and give a clear, consistent message to all.

The success of our communication depends on having up to date contact details for families in terms of telephone numbers and email addresses. If these have changed recently, please let us know.

Contact with staff

If you need to contact a member of staff, do so via the school office, email or a letter. There is a dedicated school email address for contact:

teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Emails will be forwarded to the relevant staff member promptly.

Please do not contact any member of staff through other means such as social media or personal email addresses (including school addresses). Staff cannot respond to these forms of communication as this may breach the safeguarding, data protection and confidentiality practices we have in place.

A Prayer

Dear God,
We ask for your guidance as we begin a new school year. Allow us to meet the challenges that it will bring and give us the generosity to share our help with one another as our journey progresses together.
Amen

Uniform

Our expectations remain unchanged. If you are in any doubt as to what is required, please refer to the information later in this newsletter and on the school website.

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 emailed to parents.
- Where required, notices are displayed in classroom windows and doors used for entry/exit. There are also noticeboards around the site that are updated regularly.
- Letters 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 so if your details have changed over the summer, please let us know.
- We also have a Twitter account (this is a news feed only and is not interactive).

Term Dates September 2021 – July 2022

Please find below the dates for the current academic year:

Aut 1: Mon 6th September – Fri 22nd October 2021

Aut 2: Tues 2nd November – Fri 17th December 2021

Spr 1: Weds 5th January – Fri 18th February 2022

Spr 2: Tues 1st March – Fri 8th April 2022

Sum 1 Mon 25th April – Fri 27th May 2022

Sum 2: Mon 6th June – Thurs 21st July 2022

Staff training days (where school will be closed) are:

Monday 1st November 2021

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Monday 28th February 2022

We are also closed on **Thursday 5th May 2022** for local elections and **Friday 22nd July 2022** (designated as a holiday in Birmingham schools to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee).

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.

The safety and welfare of a child is the priority when we manage safeguarding cases and there may be occasions where the school consults and seeks advice from external agencies prior to informing parents or guardians of concerns.

Collective worship and assemblies

We will be assessing the situation over the next two weeks before we take a final decision on when we reintroduce face-to-face collective worship and Congratulations assemblies in the hall. In the meantime, we will continue to hold virtual assemblies.

Parking

The issue of parking and road safety remains a significant one. If you travel by car, please park away from school and walk 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.

Admissions to Reception and Year 7 (2022)

Application windows for places in next year's Reception and Year 7 are due to open very soon. For a Reception place, the child must have been born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018. For Year 7, the child must currently be in Year 6. Detailed information is not available at the time of writing but deadlines for applications are usually mid-January for Reception and 31st October for Year 7. We suggest you check the following link regularly in the coming days:
<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/schooladmissions>

Summer works

During the summer break, the school had improvements carried out to the building and site:

- The area outside the Reception classrooms has been extensively redeveloped to create a spacious, better-equipped outdoor learning environment.
- The 2013 extension was repainted in full.
- New signage was installed in and around school to reflect the school's refreshed vision and values.
- Work to further improve the security of the site also took place.

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.

St Mary's CofE Primary School – Uniform Expectations (September 2021)

ITEM OF UNIFORM	GUIDANCE NOTES
-Plain dark grey or black trousers, skirt, culottes or pinafore. -Plain dark grey or black trousers or shorts.	-Trousers and shorts must be a tailored fit (e.g. no jogging bottoms or sports shorts). -Skirts should be no higher than 5cm above the knee.
-White or light blue shirt, blouse or polo shirt.	-Items specified must have a collar (no T-shirts)
-Royal blue sweatshirts, cardigans, jumpers or fleece jackets.	-Royal Blue is St Mary's chosen school colour.
-Blue and white dresses.	-Dress length should be no higher than 5cm above the knee.
-Plain socks (no higher than below the knee). -Blue, white, grey or black tights.	-Patterned tights are not permitted. -Socks/tights must be worn at school.
FOOTWEAR	
-Black shoe or ankle boots. -Black, white or blue sandals – SUMMER OPTION.	-Trainers or other sportswear not permitted. -Shoes must be predominantly black, e.g. no visible patterns/logos. -Sandals must have backs to them, e.g. not slip on sandals. -Open-toed footwear must not be worn.

Jewellery:

We discourage children from wearing jewellery to school but we do permit 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.
- Hair accessories such as bands, grips etc. but these must be plain and without extensions or additional elements.
- Items worn for strictly religious reasons.

Unsuitable:

We do not consider the following to be suitable for school:

- Nail varnish/nail decorations
- Make-up/tattoos
- Extreme hairstyles, e.g. lines/patterns shaved into hair. Hair should also be of natural colour
- Football shirts, including those worn underneath school uniform
- Heeled shoes and heeled sandals

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14th September	Y6 Viney Hill parent meeting in hall 3.30pm
Wednesday 22nd September	School photographer in for individual pupil photos
Monday 20th – Wednesday 22ndSept.	6Turtles to Viney Hill
Wednesday 22nd – 24th September	6 Whales to Viney Hill
Monday 27th September	Y6 photographer in for individual pupil photos
Tuesday 28th September	Y4 Viney Hill parent meeting in hall 3.30pm
Monday 25th- Friday 29th October	School closed – half term holiday
Monday 1st November	School closed – staff training day
Thursday 11th November	Open morning 9.15am for reception 2022 more details will follow
Thursday 18th November	Open morning 9.15am for reception 2022 more details will follow