



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Parent Newsletter



September 2023

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Welcome

Welcome to the new school year, particularly our new children and families who have joined us in recent days - we very much look forward to working with you in the years ahead. We extend a warm welcome Miss Zhou who has joined the teaching team and we also welcome back Mrs Evans and Mrs Shore.

Term Dates: September 2023 – July 2024

Please find below the dates for this new academic year:

Autumn 1: Tues 5th September – Fri 27th October 2023

Autumn 2: Tues 7th November – Fri 22nd December 2023

Spring 1: Mon 8th January – Fri 9th February 2024

Spring 2: Mon 19th February – Fri 22nd March 2024

Summer 1: Tues 9th April – Fri 24th May 2024

Summer 2: Mon 3rd June – Thurs 18th July 2024

Staff training days (school is closed to pupils):

-Mon 6th November 2023 -Mon 8th April 2024

-Fri 19th July 2024 -Mon 22nd July 2024

There is also a closure to pupils on **Thursday 2nd May 2024** for local elections.

Congratulations Assemblies and Parent Reading

These events are a much valued part of school life and it was great to see their popularity last year. They restarted today and resume the same pattern as before:

Parent reading: 8.50 – 9.15

-This is held in classrooms (use the usual route taken by your child into the building).

-Parent reading is held when the class does not have a Congratulations assembly.

Congratulations Assemblies: 9.10 – 9.40

Access is via the internal door close to the school hall.

The assembly groups are as follows:

-**Encourage:** RWoodpeckers; 1Hares; 2Peacocks; 3Otters; 4Grasshoppers; 5Badgers; 6Wallabies

-**Inspire:** RKingfishers; 1Squirrels; 2Flamingos; 3Beavers; 4Dragonflies; 5Moles; 6Koalas

Dates for remaining Congratulations assemblies this term:

-**Encourage:** 29th September; 13th October; 10th and 24th November; 8th December.

-**Inspire:** 22nd September; 6th and 20th October; 17th November; 1st and 15th December.

Dates for Harvest Church Services this half-term are:

-**Encourage:** Thursday 26th October at 2.00pm.

-**Inspire:** Friday 27th October at 9.30am.

Looking to the future

One of the many exciting things about schools is that the people within them are always changing with arrivals and departures of children and adults alike.

Headteachers are no different and I wanted to let you know that I am moving on next summer having had the privilege of leading this school for the past 10 years.

Governors will begin organising the process for appointing a new Headteacher in due course and they will keep you updated with developments. Best wishes, Mr Smith.

Year 6 National Tests – 2023

Our recent Year 6 pupils showed fantastic enthusiasm and resilience during their final year and performed very well in their national tests. The proportions reaching the national expectation or better are shown in the figures below:

-**Reading:** 80% with 43% above (national – 73% and 29%)

-**Writing:** 80% with 30% above (national – 72% and 13%)

-**Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling:** 80% with 42% above (national - 72% and 30%)

-**Mathematics:** 92% with 45% above (national – 73% and 24%)

Communication

We use many ways to keep parents and families informed of what is going on in school:

-Weekly bulletins emailed to parents every Friday.

-Letters emailed to addresses held on our database.

-Text messages sent in the case of emergencies, unexpected events or late changes to planned events.

-Notices displayed in classroom windows and doors used for entry/exit. There are also noticeboards around the site that are updated regularly.

-Curriculum information sent home at the start of each term so you know what your child will be learning.

Communication only works well where we have up to date contact details (especially mobile numbers and email addresses). Please let us know if either of these has changed during the summer break.

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 contacting teaching members of staff:

teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Please do not contact any member of staff through other means such as social media or personal email addresses (including school addresses).

A Prayer

Dear God,

As we begin a new school year, we look for your guidance as we meet new challenges. Give us the generosity to share our help and time with one another as our journey together progresses through the year. Amen

Behaviour Code for Service and Site Users

Every effort is made to make sure that your child's experience is as good as it can be in a caring and safe setting. Equally, we want to ensure that school staff, the families of children and our visitors feel safe within the school environment. The final page of this newsletter contains the school's behaviour code for all adults who use or visit the school premises. We ask that you read this so there is a clear understanding of what is acceptable behaviour and what is not. Many thanks for your support.

Admissions to Reception and Year 7 (2024)

Application windows for places in next year's Reception and Year 7 are either open (Year 7) or open soon (Reception). For Reception, the child must have been born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. Deadlines for applications are usually mid-January for Reception and 31st October for Year 7. We suggest you check the following link in the coming days if either applies to you: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions

High Value Items

The school cannot take responsibility for damage to (or loss of) valuable items that children bring in. The important tests are to ask whether there would be upset caused should the 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.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child, contact the Birmingham Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121-303-1888. We take our safeguarding duty seriously. The safety and welfare of a child is paramount and there may be occasions where we seek advice from external agencies prior to informing parents or guardians of concerns.

Data Protection

As part of our legal duty to inform parents of how their data and that of their child is processed, we are required to signpost you to our Privacy Notices. These can be found at: <https://www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk/key-information/data-protection/>

St Mary's CofE Primary School – Uniform Expectations (September 2023)

Expectations for uniform remain unchanged. Please note that items of clothing do not need to have the school logo on them.

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). -Polo shirts do not have to have the school logo on them.
-Royal blue sweatshirts, cardigans, jumpers or fleece jackets.	-Royal blue is St Mary's chosen school colour. -Items do not need to have the school logo on them.
-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 ONLY)	-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.

Regular sales of good quality second-hand uniform are held throughout the year and will be publicised in weekly bulletins/newsletters and other communication.

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.

Behaviour Code for Service and Site Users

Our Ethos and Values

Our school is committed to bringing out the best in each other so that every member of the school community can know 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10). Through learning of the teachings of Jesus, we believe that our children can explore and develop their understanding of Core Christian values as markers and guides for their own lives. We aim for the school's Core Christian values to inform and influence our pupils' moral compass and allow them to enjoy 'life in all its fullness'. These values are known as the 'Sunshine 6'. They are: Forgiveness, Perseverance, Honesty, Compassion, Courage and Respect.

Introduction

This behaviour code is intended to secure an environment where everyone is treated with respect, kindness and courtesy.

What you can expect of us

School staff will:

- Treat visitors to our premises with the respect to which they are entitled.
- Do all they reasonably can to ensure that the school site is a safe and welcoming environment.
- Act in accordance with all of our safeguarding policies and procedures.

What we expect of you

Service and site users must:

- Take responsibility for their own actions.
- Treat members of the school community, the school environment and property with respect.
- Follow reasonable requests from school staff.
- Report anything that may put an individual at risk.
- In the case of parents, accept responsibility for their child's behaviour and safety while they are on the school premises.

Unacceptable behaviour

The school will apply the Department for Education's definition of minimum risk: 'It is enough for a member of staff or a pupil to feel threatened'.

The school extends this definition to all site users and will decide on a case by case basis whether an individual's behaviour meets this definition.

Unacceptable behaviour may include:

- Disrupting the usual business of the school (e.g. refusing to follow reasonable requests).
- Communication with a member of staff that is malicious, threatening or abusive. This can be in person, over the telephone, in writing or via social media.
- Aggressive or threatening speech (e.g. swearing, threatening or shouting at others).
- Aggressive or threatening behaviour (e.g. taking an intimidatory stance, threatening to strike or assault another person).
- Damage to school property.
- Behaviour that could be considered racist, sexist, homophobic or similarly offensive.
- Smoking, vaping or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst on the school site or attending a school event off-site.
- Being in possession of a weapon of any kind.
- Using a mobile device to capture images or record the voice of another person without their consent.

In instances where behaviour is deemed to be of concern:

- The school will attempt to remedy the situation by contacting the individual concerned. There may be no further action.
- Where there is dispute over what has occurred, or if the alleged incident is complex or serious, the school will conduct a formal investigation to establish the facts and determine if any action should be taken.

If it is decided that an individual's behaviour has been unacceptable, the school may decide to:

- Informally warn the visitor about their behaviour (this would usually be through a conversation).
- Seek further advice from Birmingham City Council's School and Governor Support team.
- Issue a formal, written warning to the individual.
- Ban the visitor from the school premises for a specified period.
- Report the behaviour to the Police.

This is not a sequential process. The school may judge an incident to require one of the above remedies without reference to those preceding it. If the individual disagrees with action taken by the school, they will be entitled to make representations to the governing body using the school's complaints procedure.

