

**St Mary’s CE Primary School**

**Parent Newsletter**

**October 2016**

**Collective Worship and Assemblies**

The combination of older and younger children coming together for worship is working well and we have had many positive comments from parents.

The School Council were given the task of naming the two different groups and after much deliberation, a decision was made:

-The group comprising 6M; 4L; 3S; 2R; 1F; RZ will now be known as **Encourage.**

-The group comprising 5T; 4G; 3D; 2B; 1H; RE will now be known as **Inspire.**

Many thanks to Eva Smith in 5Tigers who came up with the final idea.

We have had an excellent number of parents at our Friday ‘Congratulations’ assemblies this term, it is fantastic to see such support for the school. We have extended the amount of notice parents receive if their child is going to be included in the assembly for that particular week and now send home a slip on Wednesday if your child is due to take part. Hopefully this enables as many parents to come along as possible to see their child’s achievements recognised.

**Parents’ Evenings**

We had an excellent level of attendance for both meetings held earlier this week. The partnership between home and school is so important and the benefits of sharing information about progress (and the work needed to support this) have a huge impact on a child’s achievements.

As part of the individual meeting, teachers issued a leaflet outlining the knowledge and skills that a child is expected to demonstrate by the end of the academic year. These are the standards that we report against in July.

If you did not receive one of these, please contact your child’s teacher and they can supply one of these to you.

**Parking**

The school now has 360 pupils on site so the issue of parking and road safety becomes more significant. Please consider parking a distance 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.

Unfortunately, we’ve seen far too many examples of this not being the case since our return in September and have notified the police where necessary.

**Lost Property**

A reminder that the lost property store is in the cube at the start and end of the school day if your child has lost any items.

**A Harvest Prayer** 

Dear God,

We thank you for all the gifts of ripened fruit and vegetables you give to us at Harvest time.

For the bread and cereals on our table every day and for all the other good things we have to eat.

Help those who are less fortunate and grant us all your peace this day and for evermore.

Amen

**English Lessons**

A reminder that a group of parent volunteers now run sessions in school aimed at developing practical skills in using and understanding English every Tuesday at 9.15. Please contact the office if you are interested or know somebody who may be.

**School Admissions**

A reminder that if you have a child in Year 6 or a child who is due to begin school for the first time next September, the admissions process for both Primary and Secondary education is now open and underway. Please visit **https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\_admissions** for further information.

Open sessions for parents who are interested in a Reception place at this school for September 2017 will be held on **Thursday 10th November at 9.45** and **Thursday 17th November at 9.45.** Only one session need be attended as they are repeated.

**Attendance**

Our attendance figure for the first 5 weeks of the year was 96.7%. A reminder that any late children are to report to the office and not the classroom doors as office staff must have an accurate picture of attendance each day. The figures for each class are below:

**Elephants: 95.9% Zebras: 95.2%**

**Foxes: 96.7% Hedgehogs: 98.4%**

**Robins: 95.1% Bluebirds: 96.5%**

**Dolphins: 95.6% Starfish: 97.6%**

**Giraffes: 97.3% Lions: 94.8%**

**Tigers: 98.5% Monkeys: 98.2%**

**Important Dates**

Some key dates for the remainder of this term:

Monday 17th October – 4G to Viney Hill

Tuesday 18th October – Y3 Greek day

Wednesday 19th October – 4L to Viney Hill

Wednesday 19th October – YR parent meeting 6 – 7pm

Thursday 20th October – 5Tigers class assembly

Thursday 20th October – FOSM drop in session 2.30pm

Friday 21st October – St Mary’s Church community service 9.30am

Monday 24th October – Half term

Monday 31st October – School closed

Tuesday 1st November – school reopens

Thursday 3rd November – bonfire themed lunch

Wednesday 9th November – 6Monkeys class assembly

Thursday 10th November – Open morning for children starting school in 2017 – 9.45am

Friday 11th November – 5T Family workshop 9am

Friday 11th November – FOSM 2nd hand uniform sale

14th – 18th November – anti bullying week

Thursday 17th November – open morning for children starting school in 2017 – 9.45am

Wednesday 23rd November – Y1 & Y2 multi skills at Shenley School

Friday 25th November – Flu vaccinations Y1, Y2 & Y3

**Term Dates 2016 – 2017**

School closes for the half-term break on Friday 21st October and re-opens on **Tuesday 1st November.** The remaining terms for the academic year are below:

**Aut 2:** Tue 1st November – Fri 16th December

**Spr 1:** Wed 4th January – Fri 17th February

**Spr 2:** Mon 27th February – Fri 7th April

**Sum 1:** Mon 24th April – Fri 26th May

**Sum 2:** Mon 5th June – Fri 21st July

The school is closed on the following dates for staff training:

Monday 31st October; Tuesday 3rd January; Monday 24th July and Tuesday 25th July.

**The school is also closed on 4th May 2017 due to local elections.**

Looking forward to next summer, **if your child is in Year 6 please note that the test week for the 2017 Sats is the week beginning Monday 8th May.**

**Site Safety**

Please ensure that your child does not ride a scooter or a bicycle on the school site. The playground areas and pathways do get very busy before and after school and naturally we wish to avoid any accidents.

We would also appreciate vigilance on the part of parents and carers in ensuring that children are not climbing on play equipment or railings at these times (especially those by the steps leading to Lodge Hill Road). Many thanks for your support.

**Forthcoming Events at St Mary’s Church**

**November**

**6th Service of Memory (4.30pm)**

A service to remember our loved-ones who have died.

**13th Remembrance Day Service (10am)**

With bugler.

**27th Advent Sunday (6.30pm**)

Advent Carols and reflections.

**December**

**18th Main Carol Service (6.30pm)**

With mince pies and punch.

**24th Crib Service (5pm)**

A traditional retelling of the Christmas Story for children)

**Midnight Communion (11.30pm)**

The first ‘mass’ of Christmas.

We also have a monthly Men’s Group and Women’s Group as well as coffee mornings and social events. For details of baptisms, weddings and funerals, please see the church website (<http://www.stmarysellyoak.org.uk>) or ring the vicarage. If you live in the parish, you are entitled to the services of St Mary’s church.

**Harvest Donations**

We will be offering food donations to Birmingham City Mission during our Harvest service on the 21st October and will welcome any tinned or packed items brought to school on Thursday 20th October or to Church on the morning itself. Thank you for supporting this appeal.

**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 (CASS) on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

**Friends of St Mary’s (FOSM)**

As mentioned in last month’s newsletter the funds raised by FOSM during the past year have enabled the school to carry out a number of projects that would not have been possible without parental support.

The AGM was held at the end of September and the calendar for this year’s events agreed. The next major event is the Christmas Fair on **Friday 2nd December**. If you are interested in helping to support this, we are holding a planning meeting in school on **Friday 4th November at 9.15am.** We are also looking for a Treasurer, if this role is of interest to you, please contact the school.

If you are interested in working as a lunchtime supervisor here at St Mary’s School

please call in at the school office for an application form, or phone 0121 675 1729,

or email- r.price@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Hours: 11.35am – 1.30pm 5 days per week, Term time only

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Closing date Friday 21st October

Birmingham City Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the

welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this

commitment. An enhanced DBS check is required for all successful applicants.

 Successful applicant(s) will need to provide evidence of their Identity and

 Right to Work in the UK.