



St Mary's CofE Primary School

Parent Newsletter

December 2021

Tel: 0121 675 1729

Email: enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk or teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Web: www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk

Twitter: @stmarysb29



Christmas Events

In the absence of large face-to-face events, we are holding a series of smaller outdoor ones **during the final week of term.**

Singing Around the Christmas Tree

From Monday to Thursday, children will be singing by the Christmas trees in both playgrounds at the start and end of the school day. The order is as follows:

Monday 13th – Year 4 (before school)/**Year 2** at 3pm

Tuesday 14th – Year 6 (before school)/**Year 1** at 3pm

Wednesday 15th – Year 3 (before school)/**Reception** at 3pm

Thursday 16th – Year 5 (before school)

Choir Concerts

On Thursday 16th, Junior and Senior Choirs will hold short concerts at the end of the school day:

Junior Choir – 3.05pm to 3.25pm (Frederick Road playground).

Senior Choir – 3.25pm to 3.40 pm (Lodge Hill Road playground).

FOSM will also be providing refreshments in return for a small donation on this day.

Children's parties will take place on **Wednesday 15th** and this is a non-uniform day. Further details will follow next week.

Christmas at St Mary's Church

Please find below the events happening at St Mary's Church over the Christmas period.

Saturday 11th December 10.00 – 11.30

Christmas activity for children aged 4 to 11 (arts, crafts, cakes, refreshments).

Sunday 19th December

10am: All age Communion Service with Junior Church Nativity

6.30pm: Carol Service with readings and music.

Friday 24th December

-Crib service at 5pm

-Midnight Mass at 11.30pm in church

Saturday 25th December

10am Parish Communion

Sunday 26th December – Feast of St Stephen

10am Parish Communion

A Christmas Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for Christmas and thank you for our families and friends.

Please help us to think about those who are in need at this special time of year and to help in any way that we can.

Amen.

Helping Others

The responses to both our Harvest appeal and the recent non-uniform day for Children in Need were fantastic.

The amount of food donated showed the generosity of the school community and we raised £635 for Children in Need. Both will help to support those in need both locally and beyond. Many thanks for your support.

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) Raffle Winners

Many thanks to everyone involved with FOSM for their efforts in raising funds for the school despite not being able to hold large events.

One of the activities is a raffle for Christmas Hampers formed by donations made by families today. The hampers will be created next week with winning tickets drawn before the end of term.

Many thanks for all of the donations - all funds go directly towards enhancing the children's experience of school and details to follow later this year.

Staffing Changes

We say farewell to Mrs Neal who is retiring at the end of term. She has been with the school for almost 20 years and countless numbers of children have benefitted from her support during this time. We thank her for everything she has contributed to St Mary's and wish her a happy and enjoyable retirement.

We will also be saying farewell to Mr Warfield as he has been successful in gaining a promotion to a post in another Birmingham school. We thank him for his contribution over the past 18 months (his second spell with us) and wish him every success in the future.

Finally, we will be saying a temporary farewell to Mrs Robinson who is expecting a baby in the Spring term and we wish her well in the coming weeks and months.

In January, we welcome Mrs Neild who will replace Mrs Robinson for the rest of the academic year and Mrs Keenan, who has been teaching a number of classes across the school in recent months, will be replacing Mr Warfield until July.

Thank You

This is the final newsletter of the term and on behalf of all staff and governors, we would like to wish all of our families a peaceful Christmas break. Your support this term has been much appreciated. **Children return on Wednesday 5th January.**

Parents' Consultations and Pupils' Work

Thankfully, disruption to learning has been rare since our return in September. As explained in a letter sent home last month, parents will have the opportunity to look at their child's work on **Wednesday 15th December** when their current books are brought home overnight. This is intended to support the recent parents' consultations.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity and have not yet let us know, please contact the school office and a letter will be sent to you with a form to complete - we are unable to send books home unless we have a form returned to us.

Covid-19 Contact Tracing

Schools no longer have responsibility for notifying contacts of pupils who test positively for Covid-19 as this now rests with NHS Contact Tracers.

However, we know many families will be visiting relatives and friends in the first week of the break. We will alert you if we become aware of cases where pupils may have been exposed to infection during the closing days of term so you can monitor your child and take action if needed.

If your child develops symptoms between 3.30pm on Friday 17th December and 3.30pm on Sunday 19th December and **subsequently tests positively for Covid-19**, please let us know via the following email address:

school.opening@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

(Negative or pending test results do not need to be reported)

This inbox will be checked daily and an email sent to families in any affected year groups. It will not be monitored after **Tuesday 21st December**.

Communication with Staff

If you need to contact a member of the teaching staff, do so through the school office. There is a dedicated email address for this: teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Emails are forwarded to the relevant staff member but we ask for patience in receiving a response. Primary schools are busy places with staff members usually having multiple jobs and responsibilities – we do promise that staff will always respond as soon as they can.

If you have a concern about your child:

- 1) Raise this with the class teacher in the first instance.
- 2) If this does not provide a solution, the relevant phase leader will become involved (Mrs Holmes - Reception; Miss Swann - Years 2/4/6; Mr Tromans - Years 1/3/5).
- 3) If the matter remains unresolved after stage 2, a senior leader will support resolution of the issue.

Please follow this system as it allows concerns to be dealt with at the earliest possible stage and avoids any delay in resolving the situation at hand.

School Uniform

A reminder that trainers are not part of school uniform and shoes must be worn. Regarding jewellery, we discourage children from wearing jewellery to school but we do allow 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. Smart watches are discouraged.

Hair accessories such as bands, grips etc. but these must be plain and without extensions or additional elements.

-Items worn for religious reasons. We discourage the wearing of items around the neck as they can cause injury if they get caught on something or be easily broken. If an item of this type is worn, it should be tucked below clothing.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PARKING

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 the WM Police Central Ticket Office for processing.

Term dates for the rest of the year:

Half-term: Monday 21st February

Children return: Tuesday 1st March

Spring term ends: Friday 8th April (at end of school day)

Children return: Monday 25th April

Half-term begins: Monday 30th May

Children return: Monday 6th June

Summer term ends: Thursday 21st July (end of school day)

Children return for the new academic year: Tuesday 6th September

School is closed for training on the following days:

-Tuesday 4th January

-Monday 28th February

In addition, we are closed on:

-**Thursday 5th May** for Local Elections (these are postponed elections from last year)

-**Friday 22nd July** (designated as a holiday in Birmingham schools to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee)

Data Protection

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

