



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

## Parent Newsletter

### February 2022

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#### Important Dates

Half-term begins on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February** with children returning on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. Term dates for the remainder of the academic year are as follows:

**Spring term ends:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

**Children return:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**Half-term begins:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May

**Children return:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Summer term ends:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July

**Children return:** **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

#### In addition, school is closed on:

-**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May** for Local Elections.

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

#### A Spring Prayer

Dear God,  
Please help us to plant flowers in other people's lives.  
May we be encouragers and supporters.  
May we bring hope and light to all who we meet.  
Amen

#### Mobile Devices and Online Use

Children must not bring a mobile phone into school unless this has been agreed with a member of the school's senior leadership team. Items such as smart watches and Fitbits are not allowed in school as they are high value items. A further reminder to monitor your child's online use – as a guide these are the main issues we see when children have accessed content inappropriate for their age at home:

-Children allowed unsupervised internet access (this includes online gaming) without clear parental controls or expectations for safe use.

-Children accessing age-inappropriate platforms such as WhatsApp. Current guidance from the platform itself is that the minimum age for using this is 16.

-Older siblings introducing younger siblings to inappropriate content without the parent or carer's knowledge.

-Children allowed to use devices (especially smartphones) in their bedrooms. This leads to use at times that are neither suitable for primary aged children or safe (e.g. late at night or during the very early hours of the morning).

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE - PARKING

We continue to have issues with poor or illegal parking in local streets. We have had two incidents of concern reported in recent weeks: an emergency vehicle could not gain access to a local property before Christmas and a parent verbally abused a member of the local community when their dangerous parking was pointed out to them.

Any member of the public can report evidence directly to the police. If you do that, you will need the following:

- A photograph of the front and rear of the car including the registration plates.
- A timestamp of the photograph or evidence of the date and time when it was taken.
- A brief description of the obstruction/breach.

Once you have this:

- 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 then sent directly to the WM Police Central Ticket Office for processing and fines issued automatically.

#### Household Support Fund

The city council issued supermarket vouchers via schools to eligible families but this scheme has now closed. Information about further support can be found via the following link:  
<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/hsf>

#### Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings for the spring term will be held during the **week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> March**. Covid case rates this month have remained at a level where it is sensible to maintain online meetings and you will be able to book a slot in the coming weeks. The focus will be the progress that your child has made so far this year and to learn of the targets that will support further progress up until July. To support this, we will once again provide the opportunity for workbooks to be taken home towards the end of term.

#### Moving Forward

Over the coming weeks we will think about how we can begin returning to some regular events that have been an important part of school life in the past. The parent survey last July showed strong support for the return of Friday parent reading and Congratulations assemblies, it these that will be looked at first with further updates to follow.

#### Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child, contact the school or the Birmingham Children's Advice Service on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb        | Half Term holiday – school closed              |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February                                 | Teacher Training day – school closed to pupils |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March                                    | School re-opens to pupils                      |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March     | Book fair                                      |
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March – Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March  | Parent evening appointments – online           |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March                                    | Comic relief                                   |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May                                     | School closed to pupils – local elections      |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June        | Half Term holiday – school closed              |
| Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July                                     | Summer holidays begin – school closed          |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> September-Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> September | Y6 Viney Hill residential trip – group 1       |
| Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September    | Y6 Viney Hill residential trip – group 2       |
| Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October –Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct        | Y4 Viney Hill residential trip –group 1        |
| Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct       | Y4 Viney Hill residential trip – group 2       |

