



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

## Parent Newsletter



July 2024

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### End of term

Term finishes at the end of the day on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July** but there are several events happening between now and then. Further details are on the next page.

### Farewells

The end of a school year always brings goodbyes as both children and adults move onto new chapters:

- We wish our Year 6 children every success as they leave St Mary's to begin the next stage of their school journey. They will be missed but we know that they leave with lots of achievements and adventures to enjoy in the coming years.
- Best wishes to those families whose association with St Mary's is coming to an end, we thank you for your support.
- We say a temporary farewell to Miss Avery, our senior school secretary, as she begins maternity leave. We wish her well and look forward to hearing happy news in the coming weeks.
- We say goodbye to Mrs Keenan who leaves St Mary's after 4 years of teaching across the school. We thank her for all that she has done and wish her well in the future.
- We say goodbye to Mrs Callaghan-Shomi who has been an excellent member of our lunchtime team for several years.
- And finally, we wish Mr Tromans a happy and very well-deserved retirement after 25 years of service to the St Mary's community. He has been part of the lives of hundreds of children during his time here and will be very much missed. Thank you, Mr T.

### Staffing from September

Information about next year's teachers and classes will be sent out in a separate letter later today. Each class will spend next Wednesday morning with their new teaching team in their new classroom (please take them to their usual drop-off point though).

The school looks forward to welcoming new members of staff in September:

- Miss Siegwart, who has been teaching 1 Hares alongside Mrs James for a large part of this term, joins the school permanently for the new academic year.
- Miss Poynton and Miss Zafar join the school to replace those teachers who are currently on maternity leave.
- Miss Collins joins the school's office team while Miss Avery is on maternity leave.

### An End of Year Prayer

Dear God,  
We thank you for the strength you have given to all of us during this school year.  
We think of all of those who will be moving on from St Mary's and we ask you to bless them in your love as they begin new journeys and new challenges.  
Amen

### Attendance

This is an area of national concern with declining attendance at both primary and secondary level. The figures here are above local and national averages but much lower compared to what we have seen in the past.

**Overall attendance:** 95.2% (National: 94.1%)

The breakdown for each year group is as follows:

<b>Reception:</b> 91.9%	<b>Year 1:</b> 94.7%	<b>Year 2:</b> 96.1%
<b>Year 3:</b> 95.1%	<b>Year 4:</b> 95.5%	<b>Year 5:</b> 96.1%
<b>Year 6:</b> 96.2%		

Leave in term time is only authorised in exceptional circumstances and only after a written request has been made and agreed by the school in advance. A list of term dates for the next two academic years is on the next page. These are intended to give plenty of notice so holidays can be taken outside term time.

New government regulations for attendance will be in force from September. These are tougher than those currently in place so there will be a continued focus on this area.

### News from St Mary's Church

#### Celebrate life events at St Mary's

We are very happy to welcome you to St Mary's Church for christenings, weddings and funerals, as well as memorial services to remember loved ones. There is no charge for baptisms, which are held on the second Sunday of each month at 12 noon. If you would like to talk with us about bookings, you are welcome to drop into St Mary's church any Wednesday evening between 6.15 and 7.15pm.

#### 'Blessing of the Backpacks Service' with special prayers for Mr Warland

On Sunday September 8th at 10am we have an All Age Eucharist where children are invited to bring along their backpacks to be blessed at the start of the new school year. This year we welcome Mr Warland as he begins his new role as headteacher, and we also hope to welcome a new part-time Children and Families worker based at St Mary's Church. School junior choir will be singing during this special service. All are very welcome, do come along as we celebrate these new beginnings at church and in school. There will be cake and a glass of something celebratory after the service!

### Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

Our summer fair takes place straight after school next Friday (5<sup>th</sup> July). This always raises much needed funds to provide those additional enhancements for the children.

## **End of term events – July 2024**

### **ExpressFest concert**

This takes place on Tuesday afternoon between 4.00 and 5.15 in the school hall.

**FOSM summer fair:** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July (3.30 – 5.00)

### **Sports days (both 9.30 – 11.00)**

These are being held at the field next to St Mary's Church. Access is from Weoley Park Road (please park on the main part of the road and not on the service roads in front of houses). Drainage work has been carried out on part of the field recently - large areas of this are currently out of use so a modified programme of events may need to take place.

-KS2: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

-Reception and KS1: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July

### **Expresshibitions (3.00 – 4.30)**

This is an opportunity to view samples of children's work from this term. This takes place in classrooms and no booking is required.

-Encourage: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

-Inspire: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July

**Annual reports issued to parents:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July

### **ExpressFest (1.45 to 3.15)**

This is an opportunity to see examples of singing and dance that the children have been working on this term. No booking is required.

-Encourage: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

-Inspire: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July

### **Year 6 end of year events (these are for Year 6 families only)**

-Leavers' Production: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July/Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July (both at 2.00 in the school hall).

-Leavers' Service (at St Mary's Church): Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July (9.30)

## **Term Dates 2024 - 2026**

**Autumn 1:** Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2024 – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024

**Autumn 2:** Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 – Fri 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Spring 1:** Tues 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Fri 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Spring 2:** Tues 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Fri 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Summer 1:** Mon 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

**Summer 2:** Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### **School is closed for staff training on the following days:**

-Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024    -Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

-Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025    -Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

-Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

In addition, please find below term dates for the **2025/2026 academic year:**

**Autumn 1:** Mon 1<sup>st</sup> September – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Autumn 2:** Mon 1<sup>st</sup> November – Fri 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Spring 1:** Mon 5<sup>th</sup> January – Fri 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Spring 2:** Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Summer 1:** Mon 13<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

**Summer 2:** Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June – Mon 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

(Training days will be confirmed in due course)

## **Safeguarding**

If you have any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child during the summer break, then contact the Birmingham Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121-303-1888.