



St Mary's C of E Primary School

Parent Newsletter

May 2022

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Opening Up

The return to face-to-face assemblies and the restart of Congratulations assemblies in the hall have gone well. Parents and families will be able to join us for the Congratulations assemblies from June and we will also restart Parent Reading sessions at this point. **Further details appear at the end of this newsletter.**

Staffing Update

We welcome Miss Whelan who has joined us as Mrs Shore begins adoption leave and we also welcomed back Mrs Lehal from maternity leave at the start of term.

Miss Rooney, who has been with the school as a teaching assistant for 5 years has also left us this month and we wish her well for the future.

We say farewell to Mrs Thomson, our senior school secretary, next month. After 17 years of service to the school, she is moving to another part of the UK. We thank her for everything she has done and wish her every happiness in her new adventures.

Out and About

As things return to normal, greater opportunities for children to get involved with activities beyond school have increased: Year 5 enjoyed a canal boat trip into the city centre as part of their Learning Journey at the end of last term and other year groups have taken part in learning off-site.

Our Strings Ensemble performed at the University of Birmingham as part of an area-wide concert. They were brilliant and wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Finally, some of our Year 4 and 5 pupils have started their training as Junior PCSOs under the watchful eye of our community police team. They will be carrying out a range of duties including parking patrols at the start and end of the school day – look out for them!

School Uniform

-A reminder that trainers are not part of school uniform and shoes must be worn.

-Rings, necklaces and bracelets must not be worn but the following are allowed:

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 and grips 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.

Family Support

We are able to either provide or signpost families to support across a range of different areas. Parenting, emotional and mental health, school attendance, accessing different services, financial issues and housing are just some of the areas in which we are able to help.

All support comes free of charge and we would urge any parent who feels they need advice or support to contact the school in the strictest confidence, we are here to help.

Final Week Events

Church Services

We had a fantastic response to our services just before Easter with a full church for both. Our next set of services will celebrate Pentecost with dates and times as follows:

Inspire (RF, 1B, 2D, 3M, 4K, 5S, 6W):

Thursday 26th May (2.00).

Encourage (RP, 1O, 2G, 3B, 4W, 5P, 6T):

Friday 27th May (9.30)

Platinum Jubilee

Although the main celebrations take place during the half-term break, we are going to mark the occasion on **Friday 27th May:**

-It will be a non-uniform day with children encouraged to wear either something brightly coloured or something with a royal theme.

-There will be a special school lunch (details issued recently).

-The children will make/produce something in the afternoon that they can take away as a souvenir of this historic landmark.

A Pentecost Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to remember that you have promised to be with us, wherever we are.

Give us the strength to stand up for what is right, help those who are in need and help us to follow the example of Jesus,

Amen

Safeguarding

The school takes its safeguarding duty 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 on 0121-303-1888 in confidence.

Congratulations Assemblies and Parent Reading

We are pleased to have reached the point where we can admit larger numbers of parents and family members to the building and the above events have long been a popular and important part of school life. They will work opposite one another so we can manage them effectively and both will take place on **Friday mornings**. The only exception is when Church services are being held where neither Congratulations assemblies or reading will take place.

Congratulations Assemblies

- These will begin at 9.10 and take place in the hall. They will last approximately 30 minutes.
- All parents and family members can attend with those of children receiving specific awards being invited in advance.
- The entrance point is via the doors in the centre of school (the cube) and you will be required to sign-in on entry.

Parent Reading

- This is an opportunity for a parent or family member to share a reading book in the classroom with their child.
- It is open to all year groups.
- Sessions will begin at the start of the school day (8.50) and will finish at 9.15.
- Attendance is limited to one parent or family member per child and they must enter the classroom with their child at 8.50.
- We ask that the adult stays for the full length of the session so the building can be secured.

Dates

Encourage (RP, 1O, 2G, 3B, 4W, 5P, 6T):

Congratulations: 10th June; 24th June; 6th July
Parent Reading: 17th June; 1st July; 15th July

Inspire (RF, 1B, 2D, 3M, 4K, 5S, 6W)

Congratulations: 17th June; 1st July; 15th July
Parent Reading: 10th June; 24th June; 6th July

Meetings

We can now accommodate face-to-face meetings in school once more. However, we will offer the choice between a meeting in school and a remote meeting where this is appropriate. Feedback received from parents over the past year has shown that the option of a remote meeting is a positive development in terms of convenience.

Term Dates (this year and next)

Half-term begins on **Friday 27th May** with children returning on **Monday 6th June**. The summer break begins on **Thursday 21st July**.

Dates for the 2022/2023 academic year

Autumn 1: Tues 6th September – Fri 21st October 2022
Autumn 2: Tues 1st November – Fri 16th December 2022
Spring 1: Weds 4th January – Fri 17th February 2023
Spring 2: Mon 27th February – Fri 31st March 2023
Summer 1: Mon 17th April – Fri 26th May 2023
Summer 2: Mon 5th June – Fri 21st July 2023

Staff training days (where school will be closed) are:

Monday 5 th September 2022	Monday 31 st October 2022	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023
Monday 24 th July 2023	Tuesday 25 th July 2023	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY TILL JULY 2022

Monday 16 th May	Y6 trip to Waterworld – leaves school at 9am
Monday 30 th May – Friday 5 th June	Half term holiday – school closed to pupils
Wednesday 15 th June	Class photos
Friday 27 th May	Platinum Jubilee day – children to wear bright clothes
Saturday 25 th June	Junior Choir performance at Selly Oak Methodist Church 7 – 9pm
Thursday 30 th June	Stay & play for NEW reception class parents 2-3pm