

St Mary's CofE Primary School Parent Newsletter



Tel: 0121 675 1729 Email: enquiry@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk or teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Web: <u>www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk</u> Twitter: @stmarysb29



Christmas Celebrations

Below is a list of the key dates for our Christmas celebrations:

FOSM Christmas Fair (see panel on the right):

Friday 7^{th} (5.00 – 7.00)

KS1 Christmas Performances:

Monday 17^{th} - 9.30 (this is a dress rehearsal open to families with

pre-school children).

Monday 17th - 2.00 Tuesday 18th - 9.30 **Christmas Parties:** Wednesday 19th (pm) - details to follow.

KS2 Christmas Concert:

Thursday 20th - 6.00 (at St Mary's Church)

Christmas Services (at St Mary's Church)

Friday 21st December (Encourage at 9.30 and Inspire at 2.30)

Thank You

A very big thank you to Zara Reed for all her time and hard work raising funds whilst she was Chair of FOSM.

The kindness of our families has been clearly evident in recent weeks. Firstly, we were overwhelmed with donations to our Harvest appeal at the end of October and we were able to take a huge number of items to a local foodbank enabling the most vulnerable in our community to benefit.

Secondly, the Book Fair held during early October raised £1053 which enabled the school to gain £260 in new library books.

Administration of Medicines

At the start of this month the NHS in Birmingham and Solihull notified all Birmingham schools of a clarification to their policy regarding a school's duty in administering medication to pupils. This has prompted some changes to the type of written consent we now require from parents/carers prior to administering any type of medicine. There are also some additional responsibilities on the part of parents/carers in collecting and disposing of unused medication (these are clearly stated on the new forms we are now using). These changes take effect immediately.

Term Dates 2018 - 2019

School closes for the Christmas break at the end of the day on **Friday 21**st **December** and reopens on **Tuesday 8**th **January.**

The remaining term dates for the academic year are:

Spr 1: Tues 8th January – Fri 15th February Spr 2: Tues 26th February – Fri 12th April Sum 1: Mon 29th April – Fri 24th May Sum 2: Mon 3rd June – Fri 19th July

The school is closed for staff training on:

Mon 7th January; Mon 25th February and Mon 22nd July.

Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

Many thanks to our FOSM volunteers for making the discos possible earlier in the term and thank you to our families for supporting them.

The next major event is the Christmas Fair on **Friday 7**th **December**. We have had an excellent response from parents coming forward to help organise this and support the work of FOSM more widely but any help and support no matter how much or how little is greatly welcomed. Please contact the school if you are interested in getting involved.

A good way of helping is to donate an item for the Christmas Fair tombola. This is a long-established tradition and linked to a non-uniform day which will take place on **Wednesday 28th November**. Please send all donations to school on this day in exchange for vour child not wearing uniform. Thank vou!

Adverse Weather

As we head into the winter, a reminder of our arrangements should we have heavy snow or other problems with the weather.

-Assume school is open unless you hear otherwise.
-If school is closed, we will send a text message to all families (the messaging system only works if we have up-to-date mobile numbers so please let us know if your details change). We will also update the school website and post on our Twitter feed.

-We will let you know in good time of reopening arrangements. Please check these sources in the first instance, do not contact school as there will be nobody in the building to take your call.

Email Contact

From time to time, parents use email to contact their child's teacher with queries. We have set up an email address especially for this purpose which you can use from this Monday onwards. It is:

@teacher.info@stmryb29.bham.sch.uk

Please mark the subject heading 'FAO (staff member's name)' so it will reach them quickly. We also ask that you do not send emails to staff personally. Please continue to use the 'enquiry@...' address for any other queries. Many thanks.

A Prayer

We received the very sad news recently that Sarah Underwood, a former parent and governor at the school, passed away just before half-term. The family had a very long association with St Mary's which only came to an end in July. Sarah was unstinting in her support of the school and we ask that you remember both her and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Important Dates

Friday 23rd November Non uniform day (shine &

show sparkle for antibullying week)

Friday 23rd November Flu vaccines in school YR –

Y5

Wednesday 28th November Non uniform day in

exchange for donations for Christmas fair

Thursday 29th November Y3&Y4 to Theatre (see

letter on website)

Friday 30th November Y5&Y6 to Theatre (see letter on website)

Friday 7th December FOSM Christmas fair
Monday 17th December KS1 Nativity performance

9.30am & 2pm

Tuesday 18th December KS1 Nativity performance

9.30am

Wednesday 19th December Party day (afternoon)

KS2 Christmas concert at St Mary's Church 6.00pm School closed to pupils

Wednesday 9th January YR& Y1 Theatre visit (see letter on website)

Thursday 10th January Y2 Theatre visit (see letter

on website)

Food Allergies and Packed Lunches

In recent days, we have noticed a number of children who have brought packed lunches to school which contain nut-based products (a popular one being chocolate/hazelnut spread).

As a school which encourages healthy eating, the benefits of such items is questionable but more importantly, they pose a risk to the many pupils we have in school who have different types of nut allergy. Products which contain nuts of any kind must <u>not</u> be brought to school or included as part of packed lunches as there is a real risk that a pupil will have an adverse reaction which could be serious. Thank you your support in this matter.

Attendance

Our attendance figure for the term so far this year is 97.5%. 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:

R Moles 95.5% R Badgers 97.9%
1 Wallabies 97.2% 1 Koalas 97.6%
2 Penguins 96.4% 2 Seals 97.4%
3 Turtles 97.5% 3 Whales 98%
4 Eagles 98% 4 Falcons 98.5%
5 Dolphins 98.6% 5 Starfish 98.4%
6 Lions 96% 6 Giraffes 97.8%

Registration for Pupil Premium

Thursday 20th December

Monday 7th January

For some years now, governments have provided additional funding to schools based upon the number of pupils who receive a free school meal or have had in the past 6 years (known as Pupil Premium Funding). This is aimed at improving the achievement of these pupils regardless of their economic background or academic ability.

Since 2014 the government has provided every infant aged child with a free meal regardless of income, this has meant that families of younger children who may have been entitled to a free meal no longer need to register. This is positive for the child and their family but it has had the long-term effect of lowering the number of pupils who benefit from this funding in our school.

If you have a child in either Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and believe that they may have been entitled to a free school meal had you needed to register, please contact us in confidence – it may be that we access funding for your child.

Alternatively, if you have children in other year groups and believe that they may be entitled to a free meal, please do the same, we do not want any child to miss out on any additional support that can be provided for them.

Please note that children of families who claim for free school meals are not identified publicly in any way and all information provided by parents is treated in the strictest confidence.

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

Forthcoming Events at St Mary's Church

If you live in the parish, you are entitled to the services of St Mary's Church. There are many different activities and groups that are offered to the community. We have a monthly Men's Group and Women's Group as well as coffee mornings, soup lunches and social events. For details of baptisms, weddings and funerals, please see the church website

:http://www.stmarysellyoak.org.uk

As we approach Christmas, there are lots of different events happening in December:

Sat 8th (10-11.30): Children's Christmas Activity

Morning

Sun 16th (10am): Nativity Tableau Sun 16th (6.30pm): Carol Service Mon 24th (11.30pm): Midnight Mass Tues 25th (10am): Christmas Communion

School Admissions

A reminder that if you have a child who is due to start in Reception next September, the deadline for applications is **15**th **January 2019.** Applications are now made online and for further information on both procedures, please visit the following link: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school a dmissions

We would be grateful if current parents could pass this information onto those families who may be looking for a place here for the first time.

