

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC NURSERY
AND INFANTS SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**

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JANUARY 2016



Sunday 31st January - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Designated safeguarding officer in school is Mrs. M Quinn, Deputy Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Hulme and the Governor Safeguarding Officer is Mr. A. Scully. The school has a safeguarding & protection policy which can be viewed at the school office.

Although the sharing of photographs with family and friends is a great thing to do, please be reminded of the schools safeguarding procedures and refrain from taking pictures at school events. Thank you for your support regarding this as we all need to work together to look after our pupils.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to wish you and your families a really happy, successful and healthy 2016. May the Lord walk beside you in all that you do.

The pupils have returned with recharged batteries ready to work hard . We have already completed moderating exercises across the school and can see the progress. We can also see visible personal development in the way the children confidently engage with their work and in discussion with each other.

Pupil Academic Review meetings are booked in for the week before half term when you will be able to discuss success with the teachers and then its half term - another holiday!

Hopefully we will have escaped the snow but warm school coats with hoods are still necessary. Thank you to all of those families who have made a great effort to ensure that hats, gloves and scarves are school colours too, it really makes a difference to smartness.

Sadly we have seen unpleasant threats to schools over the past week, please be assured that this discussion in terms of health and safety has been a priority on our agenda this week. We look forward to seeing many of you in PAR week. Thank you for your continued support.

Spiritual Development

We began our spring term with all of the Infants walking to Holy Cross Church to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Thank you to all the parents who joined us.

Our school Chaplain Mrs Norbury started off our new school year with a liturgy showing us how we could be a missionary. She also talked to us about the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Parents and carers are welcome to join us for any Thursday liturgy 9.10 am in the hall.

This year we will be supporting the Catholic Children's Society Lenten Appeal, collecting boxes will be sent home before half term and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

Learning and Teaching

English: Thank you for all your support with the Book Fair held in Parents' Evening week. Your generosity means that the school will receive books to the value of £834! We have yet to finalise the books we would like, but will choose books to enrich the curriculum in all years. We will also ask children in each class to choose a book for their reading corner.

Handwriting and Reading Workshop: On Friday 5 February there will be a handwriting and early reading workshop with Mrs Ashdown at 9:05am in the hall. The workshop is aimed primarily at Nursery and Reception parents and carers, but all are welcome. You will be shown exactly how St Mary's cursive handwriting is formed and there will be a small handout for use at home. All resources shown will be available on the MLE for you to download and print. Letters have already gone home to Nursery and Reception parents about this workshop, and I do ask that reply slips are returned to class teachers NO LATER THAN Tuesday 2 February please. We need to print packs for you to take away and provide resources for the workshop itself, so it is vital we have an accurate idea of numbers attending.

World Book Day This year we will be holding our World Book Day on Friday 4 March, which will be the same day as the Junior School. As part of the World Book Day activities, the National Book Token scheme is running a competition to design a book token. We will be sending home templates from National Book Tokens in order that your child will be able to enter this competition should they wish to. One overall winner's design will be made into a real National Book Token! The first prize in each age range is £250 in National Book Tokens for the school, £100 in National Book Tokens for the child and £100 in National Book Tokens for the teacher. The runner's up prize is £150 National Book Tokens for the school, £50 National Book Tokens for the child and £50 National Book Tokens for the teacher. The closing date is 15 April, but it is as well to get our thinking caps on early to come up with some great ideas! All children will each receive a £1 National Book Token with which to buy one of the special £1 books that will be available in book shops and WH Smiths' stores during World Book Week. This token can also be put towards another book that your child might prefer.

Health & Safety

We appreciate how difficult it is sometimes to park close to the school but you really must not park in the carparks for the local public houses or across resident's drives please. I have had several complaints from neighbours with registration plates identified and if people don't respect this plea then we may have no alternative other than to publish car details. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Safeguarding

Further to our requests prior to Christmas we remind all parents and carers that taking photographs in school is not permitted without prior permission. To ensure this is being observed and to avoid any misunderstanding we ask that smart phones and other devices should not be used within the school grounds. For data protection reasons we also request that lists of children's names from school must not be held on any personal devices. If you do have any such list we ask you to delete these with immediate effect. Thank you for your understanding.

School Office

Please be reminded that only prescribed medicines can be given in school by school staff (if prescribed four times a day). All other medicine will need to be administered by a parent or nominated person. For those with asthma, we have been advised that all children should have a small spacer in school and your child should know how to use the inhaler and spacer. This should be in a sealed clear plastic bag with your child's name on and you are responsible for taking this home half termly to clean.

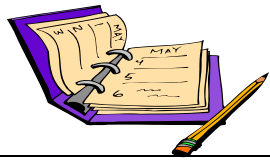
The school website is currently under development. Please be aware that not all items will be up to date and we will let you know when it is. Thank you.

Governors

The next full Governing body meeting is on Tuesday 22nd March.

School Uniform

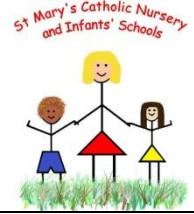
Now that winter is upon us, please ensure that your child's coat is labelled clearly with their name. As you can imagine, having 90 identical coats in a year group makes it quite tricky if they are not named! This also applies to Nursery please.



St Mary's Nursery & Infant's School

Dates for your Diary

Dated 4th February 2016



Spring Term 2016	
Thursday 4 th February	Horses Class Liturgy 9am Parents welcome
Thursday 4 th February	E-safety meeting for parents 7pm (at the Junior School)
Friday 5 th February	Handwriting & Reading workshop for parents of Nursery & Reception children 9.05am - NEW DATE
Saturday 6 th February	Family Portrait Day
MONDAY 8 TH February	Parents meetings for Nursery only 9am to 11.50am
Monday 8 th February	Parents Evening 5-8pm
Tuesday 9 th February	Parents Evening 2-5pm School closes at 2pm
Thursday 11 th February	Owls Class Liturgy 9am Parents welcome
Friday 12 th February	Year 2's Got Talent (children only)
Friday 12 th February	Year 2's Got Talent for Parents of year 2 children 2.45pm NEW DATE
Friday 12 th February	Year 1 SMIF Cake Sale after school
Friday 12 th February	SMIF Sponsored read over half term
15 th - 19 th February	Half Term
Monday 22 nd February	School starts 8.55am
Monday 22 nd February	Reception children height & weight measurements
Friday 4 th March	World Book Day
Monday 7 th March	Maths Workshop in class 2.30pm Parents welcome
Tuesday 8 th March	Maths Workshop in class 2.30pm Parents welcome (repeat)
Wednesday 9 th March	English Workshop in class 2.30pm Parents welcome
Thursday 10 th March	English Workshop in class 2.30pm Parents welcome (repeat)
Saturday 12 th March	International Food Day 2-4pm
Tuesday 22 nd March	Full Governing Body meeting 7pm
Thursday 24 th March	Last Day of Spring Term - 2.00pm finish
Summer Term 2016	
Monday 11 th April	INSET Day 4 - Staff Training
Tuesday 12 th April	School starts 8.55am
Friday 15 th April	SMIF Second Hand Uniform Sale after school
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 11 th May	Crowning of Mary Mass 9.30am
Friday 20 th May	Flossie the Clown after school

Friday 27 th May	SMIF Reception class cake sale after school
30 th May -3 rd June	Half Term
Monday 6 th June	School starts 8.55am
Wednesday 8 th June	Full Governing Body meeting 7pm
Wednesday 15 th June	School Art Gallery - details to follow
Thursday 16 th June	School Art Gallery - details to follow
Monday 27 th June	INSET DAY 5
Tuesday 5 th July	Infants Sports Day AM
Saturday 9 th July	Infant & Junior joint summer fete
Wednesday 20 th July	Nursery Last Day of Summer Term
Thursday 21 st July	Last Day of Summer Term - 2.00pm finish
Autumn Term 2016	
Monday 5 th September	INSET DAY 1
Tuesday 6 th September	School starts 8.55am
Tuesday 18 th October	Individual & Sibling Photos Nursery, Infant & Junior Schools