

# ST MARY'S CE(C) FIRST SCHOOL & NURSERY

Helping Each Other To Do Our Best

Newsletter 14

5th January, 2018



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back!

What an amazing end to the year we had at St. Mary's at the end of the Autumn term. The Christmas Fayre was a huge success raising over £400 plus an additional £550 raised by our fantastic P.T.A. As always, we would like to note our thanks to our PTA and parent helpers for their support. We also raised £63 from our Christmas Jumper day. I am sure you will agree that our Nativity plays and Songs by Candlelight event, which included a wonderful performance by our Year 3 and 4 pupils, were simply superb! We are so proud of our children and we are sure you must be too. If you no longer require or will use your child's nativity outfit would you consider donating this to the school? We would be very grateful.

So much was achieved last term and we are looking forward to building on this this term. There has already been much to celebrate this academic year and there is certainly a sense that the school is continuing to move forward. May we take this opportunity to thank the many parents who have taken the time to share their comments with us since September. Your positivity and support is very much appreciated and helps us all as we continue to work together to ensure that the children at St Mary's grow and flourish.

## Key dates Spring term 2018

<b>Week commencing: - 3rd January</b>	First Day back in school.
<b>Monday 8th January</b> 	Rocksteady Music Assembly 9am Rocksteady Music workshops from 9:30am W-shop 1 for Rec, YR1 and YR2 pupils will be 9.30 to 10am and W-shop 2 for YR 3/4 pupils will be 10 to 10.30. <b>Parents are welcome to attend both the assembly and the workshops to find out more about this fantastic opportunity for our children. Please return your form or inform the office if you will be attending.</b>
<b>Wednesday 10th January</b>	Miss Taylor, will start her dance club, every Wednesday from 3.15—4.15 p.m., for years 3/4 in preparation for Wolgarston High School's Annual Dance Show.  Major Minor music lessons start again.

## Our amazing achievements

The fantastic writing of some of our Year 3 and 4 pupils has been entered into the latest Young Writers national writing competitions. We are pleased to announce that, once again, a number of the short 'mini-sagas' and poems written by our children have been selected for publication.

The mini sagas have now been published in a book of short stories titled 'Crazy Creatures' which is available for you to view in the main school entrance along with previous publications by our pupils. Our book of poetry will be published towards the end of February.

Please join us in congratulating our talented writers - what a fantastic achievement.

We are extremely proud of you all!

## Clubs:

### Football

Yrs 2,3 & 4

2018

January 11th,  
18th, 25th

Thursdays

February 1st,  
8th, 15th

### Multi Sports

Yrs 1, 2,3 & 4

2018

January 8th,  
15th, 22nd  
29th

Mondays

February 5th  
and 12th

### EKO

Yrs 2,3 & 4

2018

9th January—  
27th March.

Tuesdays

**PLEASE NOTE  
CHANGE OF  
DAY**

### J-Team

Yrs 3 & 4—age  
7 and up

2018

January 17th,  
24th and 31st

Wednesdays

February 7th &  
28th

**PLEASE NOTE  
CHANGE OF  
DAY**

March 7th,  
14th, & 21st

## St Mary's school improvement updates.

### Local Authority and external reviews

As you may be aware, over the course of the Autumn term the school received several monitoring and moderation visits from the local authority and the Diocese of Lichfield to review the progress made by the school since our monitoring inspection in July 2017.

We are extremely pleased and proud to announce that the outcomes of each of these visits were positive and all recognised the swift and positive actions taken by the school to address the key issues identified in our previous inspection. Please find below just some of the comments made which reflect the hard work and commitment of all staff at St Mary's.

*"Senior leaders have fostered a positive culture for change and all staff have engaged with school and self- improvement."*

*"There is a determined drive to move the school forwards."*

*"There is a clear focus on values and basic skills. The school has a calm feel."*

Congratulations to the staff and pupils at St Mary's and thank you to our whole school community for your continued hard work and support. Please find below a message from our Chair of Governors which provides further information.

### Message from our Chair of Governors

I am sure that you will have noticed the significant changes and the new charged atmosphere when you walk into St Mary's. Our teachers, under the direction and strong leadership of Mrs Stanford, have moved our school forward; this continues to be recognised by external validation, in particular Mr Derek Aitken (Entrust Consultant) who stated " Learning and Moderation processes are now much tighter, there is a renewed sense of self belief, energy, focus and ambition across all leaders now evident"

This new sense of rigour and positive belief in our school has had an impact on your children's learning, which is further evident through your support of your school. The behaviour and standards across the whole school have seen significant improvements which continues to be evidenced from parents' comments and the fantastic Nativity plays presented by your children.

I am both honoured and privileged to be your Chair of Governors and have such excellent teaching and learning outcomes for every child.

On behalf of all Governors we wish you all a Happy New Year.

Kind Regards

Peter Haywood  
Chair of Governors



**2018 Newsletter** Please be advised that from January 2018, the school Newsletter will be sent out by email. This will help to reduce copying costs. To ensure that you are kept informed, would all parents please ensure that the school has their most up to date email address on record. Thank you for your support.

## Uniform!

Please ensure that on return to school in January, that all children are wearing the correct regulation school uniform and it is labelled with your child's name.

Thank you.

## TERM DATES

3rd January, 2018	First Day back at school
15th February, 2018	Last Day at school
	Break up for Half Term
16th February, 2018	School closed for pupils
	INSET Day for staff



As you may remember, the children in Year 3/4 completed some art work which was entered into the Halls Young Artist Competition 2017 and several of our children were selected to have their art work displayed in an exhibition at Weston Park's Granary Art Gallery. This artwork has been on display throughout December.

Please join us in congratulating our outstanding artist **HARRY LEWIS** whose artwork has been awarded first prize in the primary category out of all the schools which entered.

Harry will be presented with his prize at a presentation ceremony at Weston Park on Sunday 7th January! Wow! What an achievement Harry—you are a star.

## Important Parent Pay update

Please check your Parent Pay account and ensure that all balances are cleared. Failure to clear balances will mean that we will not be able to honour bookings for clubs, Nursery, Breakfast and after school club in January 2018. All sessions will need to be confirmed and paid with 24h notice by either childcare vouchers or on Parent Pay. This enables us to plan our staff to child ratios.

## Health and Safety,

Please ensure that your children are supervised on the car park and at the school gate. Pupils must not be left to wait at the gate without the supervision of an adult.

## Attendance and punctuality

**Your child's attendance and punctuality are key to improving the educational progress and attainment.**

Should you need to make contact with the school you can do this by either Phone on **01785 840314**, Email **office@st-marys-wheatonaston.staffs.sch.uk** or you can send a text by **ParentPay**.

We are pleased to welcome back Miss Shinton who returns to Reception class from January 2018. She will teach the class on Monday to Wednesday sharing with Miss Clarke who will teach the class on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Williams, our Year 1 teacher will continue to teach the Year 1 class for the rest of the academic year.

*D.I. Swift*

*C Stanford*

Mr. D.I. Swift, Executive Head teacher

Mrs. C. Stanford, Senior Teacher