



# St Mary's Catholic Academy

Newsletter No.3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term holiday with your children. This is my favourite half term, closely followed by the summer term with the beautiful weather, trips and exciting school events. This half term, the children will be discussing COP21 and identifying ways in which we can be Eco Warriors in our daily lives. It won't be long before Advent is upon us too, when there will be much warmth, prayer and anticipation throughout the school.

Please have a good read of this newsletter. There is information about what is taking place in school and also some action, following feedback from the parent survey you completed in October at Parents' Evening.

## Dates for your diary

Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	All Souls Liturgy in classes
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Individual Photographs
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 3:15pm	F2 Family Story Share
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 3pm	Phonics workshop for parents
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10am-2pm	Primary Parliament – Eco Meet
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Advent Retreat – non uniform
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10:30am & 2pm	EYFS Christmas Songs
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas dinner/jumper day
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Performance – time TBC
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Christmas Performance
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Break-up from school
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2022	Return to School

## Advent Term



This half term is one the most magical times in the school year. Now the children have settled in to their new classes and have really started to make progress, school feels good!

Towards the end of November we will be entering Advent, full of hope and joy ready to open our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The sound of beautiful singing and the sight of nativity costumes will once again bring a warmth to the winter chill.

The festive season will begin with our Advent Retreat Day on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Look at the calendar dates for when your child's Christmas celebration takes place.

## Parents Survey Action

The parent feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. Please see a summary overleaf.



A few responses asked for parents to be informed of what children are learning in school. We do this via the school website and the class newsletter each half term. But in case this is not working for you, we have simplified the information on the newsletter to be specific about what your child will be learning (the knowledge that your child needs to know) and the vocabulary they will be encouraged to use. I hope these are helpful to you.

In addition, one of our school improvement areas this year is to develop the teaching and learning of oracy – how the children listen and talk in different situations. You should have received a **'Chatterbox' email** already. Every week (as best we can!), you will receive this, containing a question a day associated with what children are learning in class. We hope this will help you to start up conversations with your child about school and provide you with a window into their school day. I hope you find this useful and I will seek your feedback in a few weeks' time.



## Parent Questionnaire Feedback

- 97 out of 98 responses agreed their child or children are happy at school. 90% strongly agreed.
- 99% agreed their child feels safe at school.
- 99% believe we have strong Christian values that are evident throughout school.
- 100% identified that our teachers communicate what children are learning each term.
- 100% stated the curriculum is exciting, interesting and meaningful to children.
- 81% strongly agreed and 19% agreed that St Mary's pupils are well behaved.
- 100% that chose to comment selected that their child is doing well at school.
- 98% stated that 'my child is encouraged to think positively about themselves and others'
- 100% identified that we communicate effectively with parents about your child's progress.
- 91% stated that issues were dealt with properly when raised. 8% did not comment – one stated that they had not been required to raise anything so far.
- 99% selected strongly agreed and agreed that the school is managed well.
- 90% stated the school deals effectively with bullying and inappropriate behaviour. 10% identified the response 'not applicable'.
- 99% stated that they would recommend St Mary's to another parent/carer.

### Flu Vaccinations

The vaccinations were postponed last half term. We are still waiting for a new date from the School Aged Immunisation Team.

### St Mary's – a Mobile Phone Free School

Please can we ask that you keep your mobile phones tucked away in your bag or pocket while on the school site. This is a safeguarding concern – sometimes teachers worry that parents have not acknowledged when their child has been dismissed to their care. Also, as you collect your child, it is a great chance to check in and find out if your child has had a good day. Please do not be offended if we ask you to pop your phone away.



### Thank you Teachers and all St Mary's staff

With such fantastic responses to the parent survey, I hope you don't mind me taking this opportunity to thank all staff, but especially our teaching staff for their unwavering hard work and the contribution they make to St Mary's Academy.

We constantly seek to improve and offer outstanding provision and opportunities for your children, but the planning and provision required takes considerable time. I hope you will join me in recognising all they do!

Thank you! 😊

Thank you for your on-going support.

Kind regards,

*Anne-Marie Bell*