



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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18th October 2016

Dear Parent

Y3 Class Assembly – Mr Clinton's Class

Please join us at 9.15 as our Y3JC lead the school collective worship on Friday 21st October 2016. All welcome so please join us.

Book Fair

All welcome to attend our annual School Book Fair and earn free books for the school. The School Book Fair will be held in the School Hall this week from 3.15 to 4.00 pm until Thursday 20th October. You should be able to choose a lovely book to read over half term from the fantastic selection of over 200 books. This is an ideal opportunity to choose a book with your child – especially younger children – to share with them. The importance of reading with your child cannot be overstated and we do urge all parents to do so as part of your responsibility for your child's education. My thanks to Mrs Woulfe for arranging and running the Book Fair.

Dark Nights

When we return to school the clocks will have changed – having gone back one hour – thus making the end of day darker. We ask that you prepare the children and ensure that they have some sort of reflectors on their clothing so that they can be easily visible to motorists. We have limited stock of reflectors in the office at a cost of £1.50 each.

Attendance this half term :

class	attendance %	class	attendance %
YRC	98.1	3C	97.6
YRW	98.4	4J	98.9
1GS	98.3	4M	96.9
1SM	96.5	5M	97.0
2D	96.7	5H	97.3
2P	97.5	6	96.7
3JC	97.8		
WHOLE SCHOOL		97.4	



Well done to all classes – let's aim even higher next half term!

End of Day arrangements survey

We carried out a survey over the two evenings of parents' consultations and asked a simple question: "Are you happy with the end of day arrangements?"

97% of responses were YES and 3% NO. This shows an overwhelming approval for the arrangements put in place since September. Of course, it is still 'early days' and we now have the darker afternoons to cope with which may make the handover process more difficult. We will continue to refine the system and thank you for your assistance in this.

Thought for this week

Autumn is the season to find contentment...by paying attention to what we already have!



School Photos

On Thursday 20th October, there will be individual photos of the children and their siblings group as appropriate. Pre-school children can join with their siblings for photos from 8.30 am.

Lost Property

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the lost property that grows so quickly in our school entrance container will be disposed of over half term so that we can begin afresh next half term. Please check lost property before Friday 21st should your child be missing a jumper, cardigan, a coat or even a pair of shoes! Please label your child's items over half term so that finding and returning lost items is more straightforward.

Changes after half term

Goodbye Mrs Lakin...

Mrs Lakin, admin assistant in the school office, will be leaving us on Friday to begin a new position in a private sector company's office. Mrs Lakin has worked at St Mary's for 14 years as a teaching assistant and, more recently, in the school office. She will be hugely missed by us all for her thoroughness to detail and commitment to our school. Au revoir, Mrs Lakin, and enjoy your new role. We give you great thanks and our very best wishes.

Hello Miss Maynard...

We welcome back Miss Maynard who will be returning from maternity leave on Monday 31st October. Her role will be primarily to support across the infant department and she may find herself in Reception, Y1 or Y2 as she settles back into the routines of school life.

Money ...

...from 31st October, after half term, money must be sent to school on **MONDAYS only**. This is our collection, counting and banking day in our very busy office. Please do not send in money at other times as we will not be able to accept it. **Dinner money** for next half term is £81.70, cheques payable to Birmingham City Council.

New entrance security system...

In line with latest safeguarding best practice, we are further improving our access systems at the front of our school. This will mean that parents and visitors will need to be 'buzzed in' at the exterior doors to access the outer foyer.

Additionally, parents whose children arrive **late** will have to log their child's attendance electronically at the office – therefore, we strongly recommend that children be in the school playground no later than 8.40 am to avoid this requirement.

Half Term

We break up for half term on Friday 21st October and return to school on Monday 31st October. Please collect your child on time at the end of day on Friday. Staff deserve to be able to leave the premises promptly without having to wait with children who have not been collected. Thank you for your consideration. **As previously communicated, children who have not been collected will be placed with Kidz.comm but there is a charge.**

Letter from Chair of Governors

Our newly elected Chair of Governors, Mr David Collins, has asked me to let you know that he will be sending out a letter to all families before the end of this half term.

PTA – New Committee

Many thanks to the parents who attended the PTA's AGM last Wednesday. The Chairs of the PTA committee will be communicating with all families shortly.

Yours sincerely



H M Cusack
Headteacher

