



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss H.M. Cusack M.Ed.



13th July 2021

Dear Parent

July is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood



Y6 Leavers' Mass – Friday 16th July 2021 at 9.30am

We celebrate the life of our Y6 children and pray for their future hopes, dreams and successes through the Mass on Friday. This Mass will be livestreamed so while we are limited as to how many can attend the church, we know that many will participate via internet – and encourage you to do so. Only the Y6 children and two adults (per child) will now be attending the mass in church. We will also allow any school siblings (who are actually in school i.e. not isolating) to attend mass and sit with their parent.

Our customary 'bridge' of children's hands will not be allowed either, but there will be a 'guard of honour' of some kind for our Y6 children as they leave us at the end of the day.

COVID Update

Unfortunately, alongside all our local schools, we are now seeing more and more positive results in children. We have, as of now, had to isolate two year groups – Y4 and Y5. This is the very last thing we have wanted and it is heart-breaking for them and for us!

NB: I am sorry to say, that as your child is isolating, you cannot travel before the isolating termination date you have been provided with.

Farewell Mr Clinton (at least for now)

The Archdiocesan Education Service has offered Mr Clinton a secondment as Head of School of another Catholic school in the Birmingham area. This opportunity was welcomed by Mr Clinton and our Governors as a means to encourage his development of leadership and management that will more fully enable him to take on the substantive headship of a school in the future. The secondment is for the next academic year.

It goes without saying that Mr Clinton will be hugely missed by all staff and pupils of St Mary's in his absence. We do, however, wish him every success in this opportunity and look forward to hearing from him from time to time during the year.

Mr Clinton, has grown considerably in his 7 years at St Mary's and has been a tremendous support during Mrs Davis' maternity leave and especially the COVID-19 crisis that hit us all some 16 months ago. I could, quite simply, not have coped without him. Mr Clinton deserves this wonderful opportunity and I am personally and professionally so pleased for him. I want to thank him on my own behalf and on behalf of his fellow colleagues, who will miss him dreadfully, as he is such a huge member of our school team. May God bless him and guide him in this new venture and may it lead him to a new 'calling' and great success.

Kidz.comm – support at end of term – summer opening

In the week commencing Monday 19th July, Jane Lewis (Kidz.comm) is offering cover to parents who require childcare for that week. The provision will be available between 7.30am and 5.00pm each day. If you want to take up this offer, please go directly to Kidz.comm on **07736 399789**.

Mrs Lewis is opening Kidz.comm for the first two weeks. **PLEASE go directly to her for all information.**

End of Day Timings – September 2021

Miss Price has asked me to notify you that, with effect from 6th September (when the children return to school), the end of school day timings will revert to our pre-Covid times. However, it is her intention to confirm the detail of this via text message/email on 2nd or 3rd September and once there is far more information available to school leaders about expectations and protocols. Please keep an eye on your messaging facility.

Reading Books and School Resources

All school owned items should be returned before Friday, thank you! ALSO, children should take home all of their belongings. Again, thank you!

And it's a goodbye from me ...

It is with a heavy heart that I leave this exceptional school and life experience. I am still overwhelmed by the privilege that was gifted to me so many years ago and I hope that my service has been fitting.

I have so much I want to say but, in reality, all that is necessary is **thank you!** Thank you for entrusting us with your children. Of them, I have learned much - they have been, sometimes, a challenge, a lesson, a test of patience ... but, most of all, the greatest joy. I can honestly say I love each and every one for whatever they have brought to my life. I have so many memories that I shall treasure in the coming years. I pray I have been what I needed to be for them. Thank you, too, for your kindness and support, patience and forgiveness, generosity and good will. Our school is what it is because of you – please do not underestimate the importance of parental support to all of our staff (as well as your children)– it makes what is an awesome responsibility that much lighter.

Thank you, to, to all the wonderful staff who have passed along my way. I have worked with some exceptional colleagues and learned much from them. I, and the school, have been so blessed by their professionalism, diligence and commitment to their vocation and to our children. I am so proud of them and the team we have created together!

Thank you to the many governors who have guided and supported the school across 21 years of my headship. I have been so fortunate to have been accompanied in this overwhelming responsibility by so many caring, challenging and competent people. People who go above and beyond in terms of time (all voluntary), support provided to staff, children and the building itself; alongside the awesome responsibility of strategic accountability. They deserve gratitude from the whole community.

Finally, from beginning to end, I am so grateful to God for entrusting me with this honour – Holy is His name.

May God bless you all as you journey forward, may He bless our children with love, peace and joy. May our school be forever blessed in every way.

Stay safe and well over the holidays and remember the children return to school on MONDAY, 6th September 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Helena Mary Cusack
Headteacher