



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN
Telephone: 0121-464 2141 Fax: 0121-464 8312
Email: enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk
www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss H.M. Cusack M.Ed.



31st October 2017

Dear Parent

Wednesday 1st November – Feast of All Saints

We shall gather as a school community tomorrow for Mass at 10:00. All Saints is a holyday of obligation and as such we should attend Mass. We pray that Heaven and all her Saints will pray for us and send us many blessings during the month of November.

Y5H Class Assembly

On Friday our Y5H children will lead our collective worship. They will remind us of the importance of praying for the Holy Souls (those we have loved in life who have gone before us) during November. Please join us – Assembly begins at 9:15am. All welcome.

Book Fair

The Book Fair was well supported, many thanks, as always, for your support. We have raised a substantial amount (we can confirm the final figure next week) and as a result will be able to buy books from the commission made. My thanks to Mrs Woulfe for organising and to our support staff for running it.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all who completed our questionnaire. We had 135 responses in total. Mr Blaney has collated the data, my thanks to him for this. The results will be published on the school website by Friday (as we are still receiving some 'late returns'). There are many areas that indicate that you are appreciative of what happens in school such as, My child enjoys coming to school – 97%; My child is well taught – 97%; My child is safe – 99%; however, there are areas that indicate we need to perhaps review some of our systems such as our ability to *listen to concerns and seek your views* which had only 81% positive response overall. **So now we are seeking your views on how you think we can improve this – ALL suggestions seriously considered.** There will be a suggestion box in the foyer and/ or you can email your suggestion to 'enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk' for the attention of Ms Cusack. Thank you.

Our PTA – needs a Committee Chairperson...

This is the first time in over 17 years that the PTA has not had a full committee who are prepared to lead on events and to work with the school and parents to organise fundraising and social events for our school family community. Thankfully, Mr. Cardin and Mrs Castle have stepped up to be treasurer and secretary. Please, please, if you have time and are willing to take the lead as Chair we would love to hear from you. Without a Committee our PTA will falter and with it the things that our school has been able to buy to enhance the children's learning experience and joy. **Please see Mr Blaney if you think you can help.**

PTA - Cauliflower cards for Christmas

Please return your child's artistic offering by **Monday 6th November** to enable the printers to provide you with a very professionally produced set of cards ready for Christmas. Each card will have the child's name on the back, attributing them as 'designer/ artist'.

There is also our own school 'Cool Cauliflower Card' competition with one prize per year group!

Thought for the week

**Cheerful givers do not count the cost of what they give.
Their hearts are set on pleasing and cheering the person
to whom the gift is given.**

Julian of Norwich

Parking Update

You will know how difficult the parking situation has been at the drop off and pick up times of the school day. As winter approaches and the light conditions produce more hazardous conditions for child and adult pedestrians, we have listened to the proposals of many parents to 'cone' off a large section of Vivian Road.

We appreciate that parents with cars will need a little more time to 'park and stride', but the safety of the children is our first priority.

Please – every parent who drives their child to and from school – support this initiative to change the way we park so that the whole school community benefits. We will be pleased to hear your feedback and further suggestions on this important issue (see Parent Questionnaire item above).



Reception classes: Newsletter Problems?

Some feedback from reception parents (via the Questionnaire) was that the emailed newsletter is not getting to them. The office has said that some email addresses originally provided (in written form) were hard to read and this may be the problem?

If you have requested an email version please EMAIL the school to enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk with NEWSLETTER in the message bar. Mrs Shepherd will then add you to the group from this link.

If the letter is going into your 'junk' folder you will need to sort that out at your end. Many thanks.

E-safety Tip of the Week

If you are using an app like WhatsApp or Snapchat, remember that people can and will save the pictures you post. **Be very careful about what you send.**

Mini Vinnies

We have had an overwhelming response for the Mini-Vinnies group from all classes in KS2 and we would like to thank you for agreeing to support your child in this work. Since the uptake has been so high, the children are in the process of voting for an Executive Committee who will meet weekly and then share any information with the other Mini-Vinnies in their class. Each class will have five members voted into the committee and the results of this will be shared to the children by the end of this week.



Poppy Appeal – we will begin this next week.

Yours sincerely,

H M Cusack

H M Cusack
Headteacher