



National Support School
designated by

National College
for Leadership of Schools
and Children's Services

Thought for the week

Newsletter No 38 15 July 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered nor will they come to mind.

Isaiah 65:17

Dance Festival

Well done to the children and staff for a superb Dance Festival last week on Thursday and Friday evening. There was a fantastic atmosphere and the children could feel the love coming from the audience. One or two parents have been asking why every child is not in the Dance Festival. Our Annual Dance Festival is primarily to showcase the talents of the children on our gifted and talented register for dance. Over the years it has been extended to include dances from our different assemblies throughout the year. It was never the intention that every child should perform in it. Our school policy is that every child does an annual performance in their class assembly and that is the opportunity for all parents to see their child in a public performance once every year as their entitlement. Thank you to parents for sharing your children with us. We have received a number of letters from visitors praising the children's very high standard of performance. Here is an extract from a letter from Sarah Smith, The Birmingham Diocese Director of Schools *"Thank you for the opportunity to come and be part of your audience at St Mary's Annual Dance Festival. I was totally wowed by the whole show, the children were fantastic, so talented... they really can dance. I loved the variety of dances, I really meant what I said about life in all its fullness at St Mary's. You embrace difference in such a positive way, affirming who the children are and helping them to be proud of themselves... and so they should be."* Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Class 1L Assembly—Resolving Conflict

Well done to class 1L for a superb assembly this morning. The children's performance was outstanding and a credit to themselves, the school and to parents. They demonstrated their excellent ability to perform in a range of ways. The message they gave was especially poignant as we are all shocked by the terrible tragedy in Nice, France. The message they gave was one of love and respect when resolving conflict. It was wonderful to see so many parents/carers who came to support the children. Well done to Mrs Lynch and all her helpers in making this morning's assembly such a success.

Celebrate & Appreciate Rio 2016

Handsworth Consortium of Schools hosted an exciting community project in recognition of the 2016 Rio Olympics called Celebrate and Appreciate. St Mary's School were invited to perform at this event on Wednesday 13 July 2016. The aim of the project is to celebrate and appreciate the diversity of the world and our community. St Mary's children demonstrated this at the event with their fabulous performances. Well done children and a big thank you to the parents who attended the event.

Children's Safety

I am very disappointed to see that the main school gate is still being left open throughout the day, despite notices informing parents/carers to keep the gate closed for the safety of the children. The gate is being left open by parents/carers who are not taking the safety of our children seriously enough. If I could please stress to parents the importance of keeping the gate closed throughout school day. Thank you for your co-operation.

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

On Thursday 14 July 2016 3/4S attended the CBSO Centre to perform with 3 other schools. The children performed a variety of songs that they helped to write, to commemorate World War I. The children's singing was beautiful and moved some of the audience to tears. Well done to all who took part.

Year 2 Transition

Today our year two children went to St Martin's church in the Bull Ring for a leavers' service for all the church school children who are moving to Key Stage 2 in September. The children were a credit to the school and enjoyed worshipping as part of the special service.

Have a lovely weekend

Ava Sturridge-Packer

Ava Sturridge-Packer CBE NLE

Executive Head Teacher

Celebration Assembly

The following children will receive certificates for good work and behaviour in Celebration Assembly on Monday 11 July 2016. All Parents/Carers are welcome to attend. If Parents/Carers do attend could I please ask them to stay until the assembly finishes. This demonstrates to all the children that the entire assembly is valued by Parents/ Carers. Thank you for your support.

O'shane Nursery For sequencing the lifecycle of a ladybird	Dante RW For designing and making his sandwich independently	Colin RB For making a neat picnic sandwich
Kathryn 1L For learning all her words so quickly for assembly	Kimyah 1S For trying really hard to improve her spellings	Taliyah 2C For working hard all year and becoming more confident in her own abilities
The Whole Class 2N For working hard to produce a fantastic assembly	Isma 3J For producing lovely work and making a scrumptious jacket potato	Whole Class 3/4S For fantastic performance and behaviour at the CBSO Centre
Jaida 4B For working sensibly in Design Technology week and making a tasty jacket potato	Trisha 5S For a fantastic design of 'Greek Bread' during Design Technology week	Emily 5/6W For designing and making delicious bread in Design Technology week
	Nshae 6B For super bread making!	

Parking Outside School reminder

Please can parents/carers park with care when dropping and collecting their children outside of school and parking with respect for our neighbours. Thank you



Kind and Thoughtful

One of our anti-bullying strategies

The following children will receive the 'Kind and Thoughtful' certificate and care of a cuddly teddy bear. The award will be presented in Celebration Assembly on Monday 18 July 2016. The lucky children will also have fruit and milk with Mrs Packer

Gurjot For volunteering his seat at the playdough table to another child	Takiyree For looking after a class mate when they had hurt them self
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School Library Books reminder

Could parents please check to see if there are any St Mary's library books at home. If so could they be returned as soon as possible, at the latest before Friday 22 July 2016 which is when school closes for the summer holidays

Mobile Phones Safeguarding reminder

For Health and Safety reasons can I please ask all parents/carers not to use their mobile phone within the school building. Thank you for your support.

Parking in the Rectory Car Park

Can I please remind parents/carers that parking in the rectory car park is not allowed. It is private property therefore should not be used by parents/carers. Thank you for your continued support.

Weekly certificates

These classes received their certificates in celebration assembly on Monday 11 July 2016.

Lining Up	2C
Spick and Span	RW
Movement Bird	1L
Gymnastic Monkey	4B
Attendance	5S - 92%
Punctuality	2C - 3 children late
Dinnertime	Yummy Bear 2N Runner Up 3J

Year 6 Leavers Events

- Leavers Assembly Monday 18 July 2016 6:00pm
- Leavers Church Service Tuesday 19 July 2016 11:15am
- Leavers Party Tuesday 19 July 2016 5:30pm

Safety online reminder

Could parents please, please supervise children when using the internet at home either on the computer, mobile phone or any other electronic device that can access the internet. We are doing everything that we can in school to ensure that our children are safe and constantly remind the children about e-safety. Following the tips listed below will help your child stay safe online.

- Have family rules about how the internet will be used at home and be clear about what information is safe to share online
- Discuss rules about communicating online with friends
- Make sure you know what your children are doing online, much like you would in 'real' life and use parental controls (on computers, mobile phones and game consoles) to help you. Remember that these cannot always be 100% effective
- Make sure that your children are aware that people or websites can lie online
- Make sure your child understands that online actions can have offline consequences

**Our
British Value
this week
is ;**

Mutual respect and tolerance
of those with different faiths
and beliefs

Sports Day reminder

Sports Day will take place on Monday 18 July 2016. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be in the morning from 9:30am. Year 3 to Year 6 will be in the afternoon from 1:30pm. Parents/Carers are welcome to attend.



Don't forget to follow us on twitter!

Attendance and Punctuality

Please support us in continuing to improve our attendance and punctuality by encouraging your children to come to school and be on time every day.

Term dates

End of Term	Children break up on Friday 22 July 2016 and return to school on Tuesday 6 September 2016
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Letter sent to Year 6 parents

Key Stage 2 SATs 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you will be aware that over the past two years there have been many changes in education and what is taught in schools. There have been the huge changes to the primary school curriculum and SATs tests. There have been a number of changes which have been implemented by the government. The changes include the following:

- These tests have been made much more difficult this year.
- A brand new National Curriculum has been introduced into schools – this is considerably more challenging than the previous one.
- The use of 'levels' were abolished. Schools were expected to establish their own assessment system.
- Brand new SATs tests were introduced this year, including a new arithmetic test.

This could mean that, despite their hard work and talent, some pupils will not reach the standards that they were expecting in the key stage tests. Please do not see this as any fault on the part of either your child or their teacher: rather, it is the outcome of changes to the national curriculum and a resetting of the expected standard. Many pupils who achieved the expected level last year, would not be able to achieve the new expected standard this year.

It is not just that the Year 6 results that are not comparable to those in previous years. The bar has been raised so high that it may seem that your child has "dropped" or "is not good enough" or is "below average". This is demoralising for pupils, parents and teachers alike. You may have seen in the news that only 53% of children in the country have met the expected standard for Reading, Writing and Maths. I believe that our pupils have done an amazing job given the pressures and stress that they have faced and the expectations placed upon them at such a young age. Teachers have also done all that they can to try to achieve the new standards in a short space of time. For the government to raise standards and then presume that all children will confidently meet *all* expectations in such a short time-frame is I feel unreasonable.

I truly believe that our pupils are more than the sum of the test results. Let us celebrate their achievements as they move on to secondary school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Ava Sturridge-Packer CBE

Head Teacher