

6 July 2012

Newsletter No 37



Dear Parents/Carers

Class 1H Assembly

Well done to all the children in 1H for a wonderful assembly this morning. Everyone enjoyed the lovely performance provided by the children. Thank you to Miss Bownass, Miss Platt and all the staff who supported the children.

Sailing and Canoeing

St Mary's children go sailing and canoeing at Edgbaston Reservoir on Fridays as an extra curricular activity in school time. If you are interested in taking your child sailing and canoeing on a Sunday at Edgbaston Reservoir then please get in touch with the school and we can give you further details.

Chess Tournament

Congratulations to Rehmel Brown for becoming the 'Chess Champion' of 2012. He beat Jagjeet Hayer in the final which was refereed by Oyinde Bascombe. Well done to all who took part. Rehmel will receive his winner's trophy in Celebration Assembly on Monday 9 July 2012.

Parents Questionnaires

I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who have completed the Parents Questionnaire. A special thank you to the many parents who also wrote letters of appreciation and thanks. We were delighted to read that the majority of parents - 98% - were happy with what the school provides. Fortunately we have a waiting list for all year groups.

The following issues have been raised in the questionnaires.

Play activities at lunchtime - A few parents said that these should be increased and we agree with this. Indeed we have recently been building up a resource of play equipment. Last month over £1,000 was spent on lunchtime play equipment which the children are now using. In addition to this, lunchtime supervisors and staff are encouraging the children to play games which are suitable and safe. Some lunchtime supervisors are being designated to act as play leaders for the children. We hope this will encourage all the children to be focused on safe and co-operative play.

Special assemblies - Two parents asked that we should give more notice about parents' special assemblies. We will now ensure that the dates of class assemblies are sent to parents on a termly basis. We are also updating our website to include these dates.

Learning to play a musical instrument - One parent asked for more variety in the choice of instruments to be learned. I would like to point out to parents that the children are selected by musical assessment and by their capacity to learn and to practice regularly. In nearly all schools in Birmingham, parents have to pay for the music lessons of the children selected. At St Mary's it has always been school policy to pay for music tuition and not ask for parents to contribute. The

following is a list of current instruments being taught in school: - Violin, Guitar, French Horn, Trumpet, Recorder and Asian Drumming. We will now be considering extending the repertoire of instruments that are being taught but parents will be asked to pay for this.

Parents who have commented on any other issues are being contacted to have further discussions with me so that we can all work together in partnership to make St Mary's C of E Primary School the very best that it can be.

A number of would like to know more about the Governors. The Governors have a display board in the entrance and can be contacted via the school. Governors are here to challenge and support the school on strategic issues and not those pertaining to individual children. Issues regarding individual children should be brought to the school's attention by following the procedures which states:

1. Talk to the class teacher first
2. Then the Head Teacher
3. If still not satisfied then refer to the Governing Body

Once again can I thank the many many supportive parents that we have at St Mary's who offer constructive views which we always try to act on. The following are examples of the school responding to parents views:- bike shed, increased homework, safety signs outside the school, increase of out of school clubs. In previous years there was a parent's comments box outside the school office. We will be resuming this system in September therefore any parents' views can be responded to on a regular basis. We do however insist that parents sign their names to any comments. We will then be able to respond appropriately.

Celebration Assembly

The following children will receive certificates for good work and behaviour in the Celebration Assembly on Monday 9 July 2012. Parents/Carers are welcome to attend.

Donald Duncan Nursery For making good progress in all areas of learning.	Aliza Khan RW For learning most of the 45 high frequency words.	Dalmar Coleman RG For an excellent description on how to look after a pet fish.
Whole Class 1H For a fantastic class assembly and excellent teamwork.	Deema Ali-Fatah 1/2L For making excellent progress in her reading.	Tania Mahandru 2S For writing an excellent description of a setting from 'Peter Pan'.
Sangeeta Sehjal 3L For working hard to develop her story writing in Literacy.	Nubia Shayaam-Smith 3/4MW For making and maintaining excellent progress with her reading.	Simran Mahandru 4W For excellent work in Science, planning an investigation.
Callum Peyton 5B For working well as part of a team to produce models of the old school buildings.	Coli Hall-Smith 5/6S For his work in Science.	Tasnia Islam 6SH For always putting 100% effort in all subject areas.

Kind and Thoughtful Person

The following children will receive the 'Kind and Thoughtful' certificate and care of a cuddly dog. The award will be presented in Celebration Assembly on Monday 9 July 2012. The lucky children will also have fruit and milk with Mrs Packer in her office.



KS1	KS2
Tijani Walsh RW For offering to give his plant to another child whose plant had broken.	Malachi Holmes-Burrell 5B For always being really helpful in class with ICT issues.



Weekly Certificates

Lining Up	4W
Spick and Span	1H
Movement Bird Award	3L
Gymnastics Monkey	1H
Attendance	5/6S
Dinner Time	Yummy Bear goes to 4W Runner up goes to 3/4MW

School Website address

Some parents/carers have said they have not seen the school website. If they would like to have a look, the web address is www.stmryb20.bham.sch.uk

200 Year Celebrations

Garden Party reminder

As part of St Mary's 200 year celebrations we are holding a Garden Party combined with St Mary's Church community. This will take place on Saturday 14 July 2012 at 3pm and Anita Bhalla OBE, a local celebrity, will be opening the event. There will be lots of activities for everyone to take part in. It would be wonderful if as many parents and children as possible come to support the occasion.

Social Networking Sites

Could I remind parents/carers to please supervise you child's use of the computer at home. Facebook and other social networking websites should not be used by children under 13 years of age.

Attendance

Parents/carers have been sent a reminder about holidays during school time. Can I please remind you about the importance of regular school attendance and that the school cannot authorise holidays during term time. We continue to remind parents/carers about regular attendance and punctuality.

Term Dates

End of Term	Children break up on Friday 20 July 2012
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Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ava Sturridge-Packer CBE
Head Teacher