

SMA News

Upcoming Events

Month	Sacramental and Parish linked activities	School trips/visits	In School events	Additional Parental support	Extra curricular events
January			Wk beg 6/1 Induction Week 10/1 John Mc Corkell- Disability Awareness speaker in today 16/1 Banish the winter "blues" Themed Lunch 17/1 Y5 prayer service 2.45pm 24/1 School Council "Lunchbox watch" 20/1 Y6 "Safer Me" programme recommences	27/1 @ 7.30pm Confirmation/E safety meeting for Y6 parents	15/1 PTA Meeting 7.30pm Wk beg 13/1 Football (Yx & x) And Multi Skills(Yx & x) recommence (Bryan Small) Wk Beg 13/1 Dance Class commences for Y1 and 2
February	9/2- 9.30am Family Mass/Y3 Mass of Commitment 24/2 Confessions for Y6 27/2- Y6 Confirmation 7pm 26/2 Ash Wednesday KS2 children to Mass am KS1 children penitential service in school pm	5/2 Reception trip to the Sea life Centre	7/2 Y3 prayer service 2.45pm 11/2 Safer Internet Day assemblies and lesson focus today 14/2 -St Valentine's day themed School lunch (see Newsletters and flyers) 14/2- Art exhibition in school am (details to follow) 28/2 Y3 class led assembly	12/2 Y3 Reconciliation Parents' talk 6.30pm	
March	20/3 2pm in church Sacrament of Reconciliation for Y3 22/3 -9.30 am Mothering Sunday Mass (Y1 & Y2) 6/3 Y4 Sacrament of Reconciliation 1.30pm 13/3 Y5 sacrament of Reconciliation	6/3- Fitness and Wellbeing day in School 25/3 Stations of the Cross Walsall Catholic Cluster schools service at St Mary the Mount Church 1.30pm 18/3 Y4 trip to	6/3 Y4 prayer service 2.45pm 9/3 School Council "Lunchbox watch" 2 13/3 Y2 prayer service 2.45pm 20/3 Y1 prayer service 2.45pm 27/3- Y2 Class led Assembly 9/10am 27/3- EYFS prayer service 2.45pm 30/3- INSET Day – No Pupils in School Wk beg 31/3- R.E through Literacy	3/3 Phonics workshop for EYFS 2.45-3.15pm 31/3 and 1/4 Parents' Consultations after school	20/3- Mothers' Day Gift Shop (PTA) Details to follow

And Finally ...

We look forward to a great turn out for our Family Mass on Sunday 9th February at 9.30am.

We especially look forward to a full turnout from Y3, as it is their Mass of Commitment, in preparation for their Holy Communion and Sacrament of Reconciliation. If they cannot attend, they will need to make this commitment at another Mass, and liaise with Fr Craig directly.

And Finally, finally.... We welcome Mrs Anderson onto our board of Governors, this week. She will be our new foundation Governor, replacing Mr Brennan. Welcome back to her – she will be a great attribute, I am sure.

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Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another

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January 20



WORKING TOGETHER

There are many examples of good team work between school and home parents; we genuinely recognise your vital role in teaching your children a good set of moral values and expectations.

There are, however, a few behaviours which we need to rectify, with your full support. I have listed them below:

- As from Monday 4th February, no pencil cases will be allowed into class, from R-Y5. Children can have their cases in their lockers, but only when teachers allow them, will they be able to bring them into class. The same applies to note books etc. Please ensure that children empty unnecessary equipment from their school bags in readiness for Monday. Many thanks.
- Children who are dismissed from school at 3.15pm will not be allowed back into the building to "get" things. They will need to wait until all children have been dismissed and will then need to be accompanied by a member of staff, as part of our safeguarding practices. This wastes staff time . Please be quite definite with your child and expect them to bring all of their belongings out with them. Independence is an essential life skill which some are just not trying with.
- If your child's clothing is not labelled, then unfortunately, clothing cannot be returned to you. Independent dressing is an Early Year's objective; some children in Y1-Y5 are just not trying. Please chat with your child about losing their clothing; please label everything, also. Thank you, once again.



Proposed play equipment for KS1/2

Attendance

Thanks to the many parents who completely follow the Government expectations to ensure that their child is in school, as part of their parental responsibilities. Your child, in almost all cases will have better friendships, better resilience and a better chance with their education

An up to date Attendance Policy for all parents' information is available on the website, under "Useful Information". It outlines the reasons behind school decisions, in line with Government expectations.

Can I just remind all parents that it is also a limiting judgment in Ofsted terms; if you are choosing to flout rules, that has an effect on the Ofsted judgments for the school. For that reason, I am sure you will respect my insistence on your child being at school when they are well enough.

Next week, I will table the current attendances for your reference.

Homework

Huge thanks to the very large majority of parents who take their parental responsibility seriously, regarding homework and research. Some of the talk for writing, wider learning project research and self driven learning, here at St Mary's is outstanding. These lucky children develop in self belief and confidence and challenge themselves more and more. They go on to be successful at secondary school and to be fulfilled in life.

Where parents are not giving regular time to support expectations in homework – ranging from a drive in Y2 to really improve handwriting, to a drive in Y4 to improve tables, children will lag behind. This then impacts on their happiness, their wellbeing and on their feeling of self worth. Parents, simply, please give your child the time they deserve to build those early skills of discipline and routine. Expect them to complete their homework properly and challenge them when they do not. Do not believe, " we don't get homework" and please do not be " too busy" to help. Many thanks in anticipation.

Apologies

Apologies to Y2 parents; your Y2 prayer service was misprinted on last week's letter. It is correct this week... I promise!

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