Dear Parents

9 January 2020

We warmly welcome everyone back to school after the Christmas break. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas with your families and on behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2020.

Thank you to all the parents and families who joined us in Church on Wednesday for our first whole school Mass of 2020 for Epiphany. Our advent calendar reminds us that this is the time we celebrate the journey of the three wise men as they followed the star to see Jesus. We are also reminded of the gifts they brought and asked what gifts we can bring. One of the gifts we can offer is to be kind to one another and treat each other as we would like to be treated.

Sacramental Preparation Parents’ Meeting – Tuesday, 4 February.
Letters have today been sent home with children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who will be preparing for their Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion during this school year inviting their parents to a Sacrament Preparation Meeting on Tuesday, 4 February and Father Joe will be in attendance. Parents of children concerned must make every effort to attend as this is a very important stage of their life and development. Thank you.

Year 6 Day Retreat to Alton Castle – Thursday, 23 January.
Letters were sent home with Year 6 children regarding this visit that will be a Day Retreat rather than a residential visit. The day which be focussed around team building and will involve various games including at least one outdoor activity. Consent and Payment is needed by Friday, 17 January with payment being made by ParentMail.
Reception Intake September 2020
Please remember that if you have a child who will be starting school in September 2020, you need to apply online for a school place. Applications are to be made online at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) and the closing date for applications is **15 January 2020**. Please be aware that attendance at a nursery class does not give a child automatic priority for a place at school – you still need to make your application for a school place.

**After School Clubs.** Please note the following clubs that are restarting next week and all clubs finish at **4.15 pm**:
- Polish Club – Monday
- Art Club – Monday
- PE Club for Girls – Monday
- Year 2 PE Club - Tuesday
- PE Club for Year 3 & Year 4 - Wednesday
- Choir - Thursday

Please note that only children who have received a letter this week are to attend the PE Clubs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Monday, 13 January - Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)** will be coming to school to talk to children in Year 5 and Year 6 about the danger of knife crime. I am sure we are all aware that educating children on this matter is valuable.

**Snow and bad weather closure arrangements:** As it is now winter we have to plan for what would happen if (for the health and safety of the schools' community) the school had to close due to bad weather. We have in previous years made decisions as early as possible using the website and text messages and such decisions will apply to all schools within the Multi-Academy. We will continue to use these mediums of fast communication if it becomes necessary. It can be quite difficult to get through to the local radio stations in the absence of a city wide decision, but please check these sources of information if you have difficulty accessing the internet or a message. **This information will come through on ParentMail so please register as soon as possible if you have not already done so and download the ParentMail App.** Please also ensure the school has your correct up to date mobile number.
Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays over the next week:

- Aleksandra (Nursery)
- Praisegod (J2)
- Elizabeth (J1)
- Hayden (M3)
- Olivia-Beau (MR)
- Diamond (M5)
- Tiago (M3)
- Freddie-George (MR)
- Raees Aslam (J1)
- Louee (M4)
- Nadia (MR)
- Maja (J6)
- Amber (M1)
- Jesse (M4)

Birthday Celebrations!
We know that many parents like their child’s class to join in with birthday celebrations and often bring cakes or sweets into school for this purpose. However, due to our school’s policy on being a NUT FREE ZONE we would prefer it if you would send sweets into school rather than a cake. However, if you do send a cake please note that it will have to be cut and wrapped into individual portions before it arrives in school as school staff do not have the time to do this during the school day. Thank you.

Inset Day – Monday, 24 February 2020. Please make a note that school will be closed to pupils on this day.

Early May Bank Holiday – Please note that this year the Bank Holiday has been changed to Friday, 8 May 2020 to coincide with Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) which marks the 75th anniversary of the formal end of World War II. It will be the first day of a long weekend featuring numerous commemoratives events across the country.

Attendance Prizes for Autumn Term 2019.
Names of children with good attendance were put into two draws in the last week of term; one for KS1 children and one for KS2 children. I am delighted to announce that Kurtis (M2) and Kyle (J4) were the lucky winners of a bike each!

I was also very pleased to be able to send out letters congratulating a number of children on achieving 100% attendance for the Autumn Term. Well done!

Wishing all our families an enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Lynch and the SS Mary & John Team
Principal
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Good reasons for missing school - THERE ARE NONE

95% attendance is still 2 weeks of missed school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Days Absence</th>
<th>Weeks Absence</th>
<th>Lessons Missed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>9 Days</td>
<td>2 Weeks</td>
<td>50 Lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>19 Days</td>
<td>4 Weeks</td>
<td>100 Lessons</td>
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<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>29 Days</td>
<td>6 Weeks</td>
<td>150 Lessons</td>
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Attendance is closely monitored at school and letters are currently being sent out to parents whose children’s low attendance is of concern and parents’ appointments arranged at school where necessary.

Government legislation states that a child with an attendance of 90% and below is categorised as a “Persistent Absence Pupil”. An attendance figure of 90% equates to missing half a day every week that means four weeks of missed school work across the whole year.