



# St Mary's News 2021 January Issue 4

*"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"*

Dear Parents,

**This week** ... And yet another very busy week in school! Staff are managing some very difficult lesson sequences, extremely well. Thanks to them for their tenacity and resilience shown.

**Covid** -Numbers in school who are testing +ve are gradually reducing, thank goodness. We are now at 9.3% of our school population testing +ve. Our best wishes to all those who are unwell, currently. Despite the lifting of Plan B at Government level, please find attached the advice from Walsall LA, which we will be adhering to in school. We respectfully remind all parents that these rules remain in and around the school building; wearing masks and maintaining a reasonable distance are our way of keeping others safe. Please continue to help us to protect those most vulnerable. Thank you in anticipation.

**Birthday treats** – Parents, staff are really working hard to reduce the level of cross contamination in school. We are absolutely rigid regarding hand washing and sanitising. For that reason, we respectfully remind you that we are not accepting sweets, cakes, or party bags, to be distributed to other children, during this pandemic. When we are able to lift this restriction, we will let you know. Please be prepared to have the items returned with our apologies if you overlook the restriction in error.

**Attendance** - stands at a healthy 96% across school.

**School Fund** - Since September, you have raised £873 for School Fund. This includes your £130 contributions since January. Thank you very much. We look forward to further examples of your generosity this term.

**Parking** - Thank you for sharing the unsafe parking, this morning. The person who unintentionally caused the hold up has been made aware and has redressed the situation for this evening's safe collection of children.

## Upcoming events:

**Friday 11/2/22** Children can wear an item of their choice in a colour of their choice, as part of Positive Mental Health Week. Look out on Class pages for more details. (Thank you Mrs Hayes- in anticipation)

**Sunday 13/2/22** - 6pm and 9.30am Y3 Mass of Commitment for those receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the summer term.

**Thursday 17/2/22** - School finishes for half term for all children on this day.

**Friday 18/2/22** INSET Day for all staff.

**Thursday 3/3/22** - Confirmation for Y6 at 7pm in St Mary of the Angels Church- **A Zoom Meeting for all parents of Y6 Confirmation candidates** will take place on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm**. We look forward to a good turnout.

**Tuesday 15/3/22** - Y3 Parents Meeting to prepare for Reconciliation at 6pm (virtual, currently but subject to change).

**Friday 1/4/22- Y3** Sacrament of Reconciliation – 1.30 Venue TBC

**Friday 8/4/22** - School closes for the Easter break- all children need to be collected from school at 1.30pm on this day.

**Wednesday 27/4/22 and Thursday 28/4/22** Parents Consultations in school between 4pm and 7pm each evening

## Other news

In honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, this June, all schools have been given an additional day, in lieu of the planned additional national bank holiday. This means that school will finish at St Mary's on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022, instead of on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. I consider it to be something to celebrate!

## And Finally...

Next Wednesday, we remember the Feast of the "Presentation of the Lord". We recall the joy of the old couple in the temple, Simeon and Anna, when they saw the tiny baby brought in by His parents. Help us to feel that joy despite the many trying times that are happening around us, currently.

