

# St Mary Magdalene CE Primary School

## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2008



### Welcome Back To Everyone

An extra special welcome to all of our new children and their families who have joined us. We hope that you will quickly make new friends and really feel part of our community.

We are looking forward to another successful year, where school, home and children work together so that pupils achieve their full potential.

We warmly welcome our new staff in school this term. They are: -

Miss Scott	Year 4 Teacher
Mrs Ford	Reception Classroom Support
Miss Warner	Year 4 Classroom Support
Mrs Myatt	Reception and Year 3 Classroom Support

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### Uniform

**WELL DONE!!**

Children have returned very smartly and I trust that this will continue with school uniform proudly worn by all.

I believe that if children look good and feel smart, they feel good and work better.

Please help us to reduce the amount of lost property by ensuring that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Can we try and avoid wearing trainers for school! I don't feel that they are appropriate and would certainly not be acceptable in Secondary schools.

Definitely unacceptable are the trainers with wheels. These are not suitable for school and will not be tolerated!

Also big heels on girls shoes are not appropriate around school.

### School Hours

School starts at 9.00am and ends at 3.30pm. It is most important that children arrive on time and are collected promptly at the end of each day.

If children are not collected by 3.40pm they will be placed in the privately run after school club. Should this occur it will result in a charge of £2.50.

### NEW WEBSITE

We now have a new school website: [www.st-marymagdalene.sandwell.sch.uk](http://www.st-marymagdalene.sandwell.sch.uk)

This is down to the hard work of Mr Kumar, father of Harvinder and Ajay. We are very grateful to him for his efforts and are delighted with the new look, and I'm sure it will be well used!!

Why not pay it a visit?

## READING BOOKS

Once your child is allocated with a reading book for home use, please ensure that it is brought back into school daily so that their progress can be reviewed and the book changed if necessary.



### School grounds

Our school is a no smoking site so please refrain from smoking.

Dogs are also not permitted within the school grounds for Health and Safety reasons.

## HOMEWORK

Just a reminder of our school homework procedures.

One piece of literacy and numeracy will be issued on a Thursday evening and should be brought back into school completed on a Monday morning.

## PROSPECTUS

To save paper and be more eco-friendly we have decided not to print all families a copy of the updated version for 2008-09. It is on the website in the download section. However if you do not have internet access and would like a copy please contact the school office and they will ensure you get a paper copy.

### 6 Towns Credit Union

As many of you will know 2 parents currently volunteer their services on a Monday morning for an hour to run our 6 towns Credit Union savings scheme for pupils. Unfortunately one of the ladies is having to step down because of a change in her working hours. Therefore we are on the lookout for someone who would be kind enough to volunteer an hour of their time each Monday morning to ensure that this service continues. If you are interested in helping out then please contact the school office.



### PE KIT

Please make sure your child has a PE kit in school this must consist of a white t-shirt, dark shorts and a pair of black pumps or trainers. **All kit must be named and in a named bag please.**

*If it stays in school until half term it avoids it being forgotten.*

The days your child is timetabled for PE are as follows: -

- Nursery— Tuesday
- Reception— Thursday and Friday
- Year 1— Monday and Tuesday
- Year 2— Monday and Friday
- Year 3— Tuesday and Thursday
- Year 4— Wednesday and Thursday
- Year 5— Thursday and Friday
- Year 6— Wednesday and Friday

### Break time Snacks



**I am very concerned about many of the snacks the children bring to eat at break times.**

**We would like to encourage all children to bring 'healthier' snacks. We suggest fruit, vegetables, low-sugar cereal bars and/or healthy options.**

**We discourage crisps, chocolate or sugar-based sweets. Our aim is not only to promote healthy eating, but also to reduce litter on the school grounds.**

**We really see a big difference in some children's behaviour when they have snacks and drinks with lots of E numbers.**

### Attendance and Timekeeping

There continues to be a big focus on attendance and timekeeping in school. Strict targets are set for us by the Department of Education, and we have to prove that we are doing our utmost to meet these.

We were disturbed to note how many children, last year, were late for school on a regular basis. We are sympathetic where there is a genuine reason, but regular lateness is not acceptable. It is essential that school commences promptly at 9.00 am each morning. Children coming into class late disrupts the work of the other pupils which, I am sure you will agree, is very unfair.

We will be informing Educational Welfare of any persistent offenders!!

### Parking outside school

For a long time now, we have had complaints and expressions of concern from parents and also local residents about the traffic outside school at the beginning and end of the day. Reports have reached us of vehicles reversing onto the pavement to turn around in the road. Some people are also parking on the zig zag lines outside the gate. These incidences are blatant violations of traffic regulations and clearly put the safety of all our children at risk. Last year the police became involved and parking tickets were issued.

**Please, Please** be sensible in your driving, as well as considerate of the local residents and keep our children safe!

NB: The licensee of the Red Lion pub kindly lets us use his car park at the beginning and end of the school day, to help ease the problems of parking on the road.



## Help in school

We are always glad to have parents help in school with all kinds of activities including running clubs, listening to children read, helping with art work or special days, accompanying children on visits etc.

Everyone working with children now has to receive police clearance. This is quite a lengthy process so if you are interested in joining our team of helpers then please have a chat with Mrs Vale in our office who will give you the necessary paperwork.

## Thank you

A big thank you from me and all the staff for all the lovely gifts and cards we received at the end of last term. We were overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and kindness.

### KS2 results for 2008

We can now confirm our results for this year. (Cohort of 29 children each worth 3.4%)

***Level 4 or above: Science 97%, Maths 93% and English 90%.***

We are delighted with these results as they are the best set of results the school has achieved. A big well done to all the children who were in last year's Year 6 on their success.

Based on provisional data provided by the Local Authority we appear to have achieved in the top 7 schools across Sandwell, and the top in West Bromwich. This is a great achievement for the school and is down to a lot of continued hard work by a lot of people over a number of years. These results simply don't happen by chance!

## **IMPORTANT—YEAR 6 SATS TESTING**

Parents of Year 6 children please note that the SATS testing will take place during the week beginning Monday 11th May 2009. No family holidays for Year 6 will be authorised by the school during this week.

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

The cost of school meals has now increased to £1.70 per day, or £8.50 per week per child.

PLEASE NOTE!!

On the subject of payment, we ask that you send the correct amount, in an envelope with your child's name and class written on it, into school on a Monday morning, for the class teacher. If payment is not received by the Friday following your child receiving meals all week, a letter will be sent and no further meals will be provided until payment has been received.

Because of the computerised system which is in use in school, it is not possible for children to switch from School Dinners/Sandwiches/Home Dinners mid-week. Whatever option is taken at the start of the week must be taken until notification of change is accepted at the School Office. If you would like your child to change from one meal type to another, we ask that you notify the School Office on Friday mornings, ready for the following week.

Please help us to help you—this procedure prevents administrative errors, and therefore misunderstandings about lunch arrangements.

## Mobile Phones, iPods and MP3 players

We do not encourage mobile phones to be brought into school. As you will appreciate they can cause a lot of concern particularly as they are easily lost, stolen or misused. If your child must bring a phone, please discuss the reasons with a member of staff, and then each day the phone must be taken by the child to the school office for safe keeping until the end of the day.

Many children are now bringing in iPods and MP3 players into school as well. These are not appropriate in school and we do not want to see them here! We will confiscate any which are brought into school.

## Letters Home

**All important letters home will now be placed on the Letters Home section of our website for you to access. This should be helpful to you if your child is one of the many who fails to deliver letters home successfully.**

**If you have Internet access it may well be useful to check this section of the site on a regular basis.**

## Monies into school

Our school office and entrance is very small. When there are a lot of parents waiting to pay in dinner monies and trip money it proves very difficult and becomes very congested.

Therefore we would ask that all money is sent via your child's class teacher in a sealed envelope clearly labelled with your child's name and class, reason for the money and the amount enclosed.

Many thanks in advance for your support with this matter.

## JEWELLERY

*Can I please remind you that the school rules are that children may wear one ear stud in each ear only and one flat ring. Health and safety regulations require children to remove their own ear studs for all PE activities or cover them with micro pore tape, provided by the child.*

*Necklaces, bracelets and other rings aren't appropriate in school and are not permitted. Children who are wearing these items will have them taken off them and returned to them at the end of the day.*

# Yearly Diary for Parents

## September

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Training Day
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Children in for 1<sup>st</sup> Day
  
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Edgmond Hall Residential (Yrs 4,5 & 6)
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> - Working party – school grounds 10am to 1pm.

## October

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening 6pm to 8pm
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening 4pm to 6pm
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Harvest Festival in church 9.30am
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Break up

## November

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Return to school
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Individual Photos 8.30am onwards
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Diversity Day
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> - Children In Need Day
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> - Science Investigation week

## December

- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Infant Concert Dress Rehearsal 2pm
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Infant Concert 2pm
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Carol Service in church 9.30am  
Infant Concert 2pm
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Parties
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Playground Carol Service 2pm  
Break Up

## January

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Training Day
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Children return to school

## February

- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening 6 to 8pm
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> - Parents Evening 4 to 6pm
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - Break Up
  
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Return to school

## March

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - Red Nose Day
- w/b Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Practice KS2 SATS week for Year 6

## April

- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Break up for Easter
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - Training Day
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Day back for children
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> - World Book Day
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - KS1 SATS start for Year 2

## May

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	-	MAY DAY- School Closed
w/b Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	-	Assessment Week for whole school
w/b Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	-	KS2 SATS WEEK for Year 6
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	-	KS1 & KS2 SATS finish
w/b Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	-	ARTS WEEK
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	-	Break Up

## June

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	-	Return to school
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	-	KS2 Production Dress Rehearsal 2pm
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	-	KS2 Production 2pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	-	KS2 Production 10am and 6pm

## July

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	Annual Reports to Parents
W/B Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	-	Health Week
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	-	KS1 Sports Day
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	-	KS2 Sports Day
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	-	Parents Evening 4pm to 7pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	-	Leavers Graduation
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	-	Break Up – Leavers Assembly

## WORKING PARTY FOR SCHOOL GROUNDS

In recent years we have really tried to improve our school grounds and environment and have received a great deal of support from all areas of the community. On Saturday the 27th September we are planning to hold another working party to do odd jobs around the school grounds before the onset of Winter. We would be most grateful for any support Parents could offer us on this morning between 10am and 1pm so that as many jobs can be completed as possible. All help would be greatly appreciated!!

Further details will be given nearer the time.