



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121 464 2141

Email: enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.



St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Solidarity and the Common Good'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Curious and Active'



Dear parents and carers,

19th May 2023

Thank you for your ongoing support this week. We have had a wonderful week where Year 6 children attended their residential and had a marvellous time. They have their Confirmation next week and are looking forward to Bishop David coming in to school ahead of this special time in their lives. This week has been mental health week in school and we have established a new way of children letting their teachers know how they are feeling as part of our pastoral care. Our new use of cups is an effective way for all children (including those who don't always speak up) to show staff if they are unhappy about something. Children have also been very active in walking and cycling to school and we have seen the positive impact this has had on how we feel before starting the school day. Well done to everybody who managed to walk, scoot or cycle to school this week. It has been so popular that the PTA are looking at ways to extend our cycle racks so that we can have even more cycling to school next year.

Next week, Year 2 children will be completing their statutory assessments. Please make sure that your Year 2 child is in school every day. Please may I also remind parents that if I am unavailable on a day that you would like to speak to an SLT member, the Deputy Headteacher - Mrs Davis and Assistant Headteacher - Mrs Keating are also available to speak to in my absence. Any safeguarding issues can be dealt with by any of our DSLs on school site.

Thank you and have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

John 14 : 18

"I will not leave you."

Dear Jesus,

Thank you that even though you went back up to Heaven, you made a plan to be close to us. We know that no matter how we're feeling, we'll never be alone because you are always with us.

Thank you for promising us your Holy Spirit.

Amen

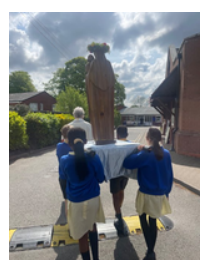
Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus promises never to leave us, even though He is not with us on Earth as He used to be.
- Because Jesus never leaves us, we can always know His joy, hope, peace and love.

Catholic Life in School

Whole School Mass - 17.5.23 - Ascension / May Procession

We had a wonderful whole-school Mass in school to reflect on Jesus' Ascension, followed by the crowing of Our Lady in our prayer garden.



Y6 Confirmation Mass - Wednesday 24th May at 7pm

There is **no Mass in the School day next week** as it is the Confirmation Mass for our Year 6 children on the evening. We look forward to welcoming Bishop David Evans, who will be visiting school and speaking to the children ahead of the Sacrament in the day.

Reception news: -

RT have had a fabulous time at the library this week, learning about how to borrow books. They have had a wonderful time sharing stories with each other.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 led a fabulous performance for their parents this morning! They retold the story of the Ascension of Jesus and talked about the importance of role models and friends.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 Scientists have been very busy studying plants.



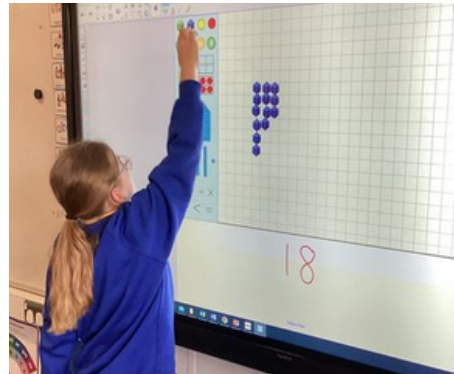
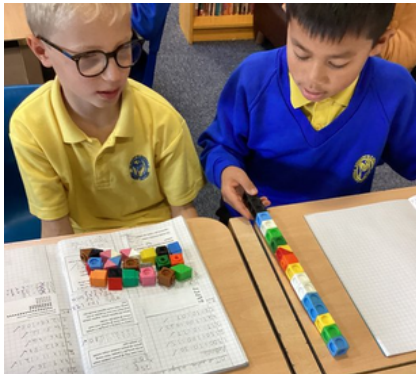
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 planned their own Collective Worship sessions to lead the rest of the class in.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about factor pairs by making arrays with cubes and on the interactive whiteboard.



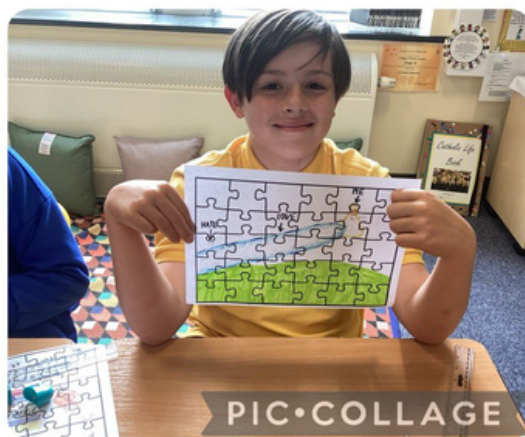
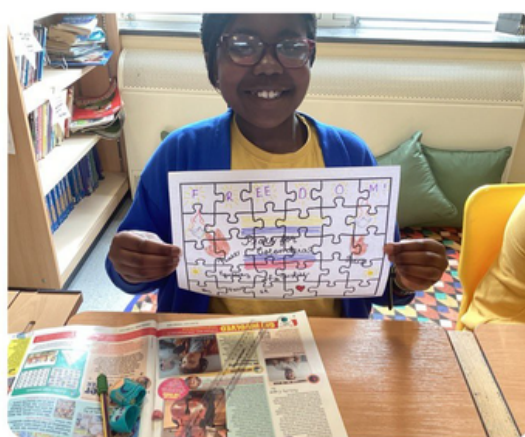
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been thinking about their mental health and how to cope with anxiety for mental health week. They enjoyed mindful meditation and learnt strategies to support their mental health.



Year 6 news: -

On the feast of the Ascension, Year 6 have completed their Go Forth from Prayer and Liturgy this week. Their patchwork shows how we can make Jesus' love present in our world today as we remember that we are Jesus' hands and feet on Earth.



Livesimply

Our children (and staff) are change makers!

This week, your Live Simply challenge is to cook with leftovers! Can you reduce food waste, by using left overs from your previous meal? Post of twitter with #LiveSimply if you accept the challenge!

Tips To Reduce Food Waste At Home

- Plan & Prep**
Plan your meals. Check your fridge before shopping. Shop Fruit & Veggie's ahead of time.
- Love Your Leftovers**
Date leftovers & take them to work for a simple lunch.
- Keep Track**
Post a list of perishables to be used on the fridge where you can see it.
- Make It Work!**
Use "Scrapside" recipes to use up what's left in your fridge. Quiches, stirfry and soups are all good options.

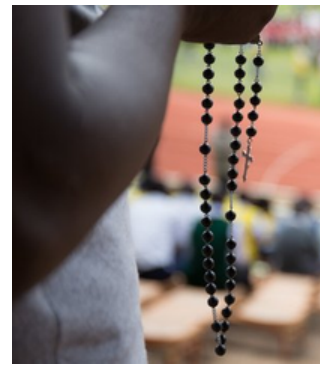
Father Archie @ Home
www.arcticapples.com
Arctic Apples

JOIN US AND HELP FIGHT FOOD WASTE!



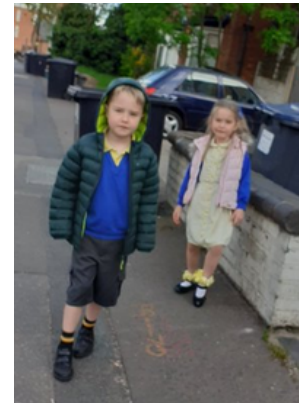
CAFOD Just one world

In the month of May, we ask Mary to intercede for us
Use our prayer bags to pray the joyful, sorrowful and luminous
mysteries of the rosary for the world, as a family at home.



Walk to School Week

Massive congratulations to all the children
that have made such a wonderful effort to
walk to school this week - you're doing a
great job at keeping yourselves healthy
and protecting our planet!



Year 6 Residential



ALTON
CASTLE



Year 6 have really enjoyed their very special trip to Alton Castle for three days! It was lovely to see so many parents who came to wave the children off.



Mealtimes were great and the food was really yummy!

It was great to have the opportunity to explore the castle grounds and to build on team-work skills!



The children enjoyed such wonderful activities - climbing, bike riding, trekking and survival... and just being out in the countryside with their friends.

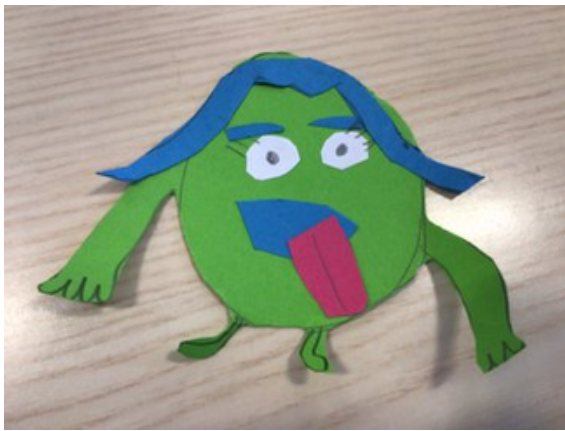


It was a fantastic experience had by all - even the teachers!

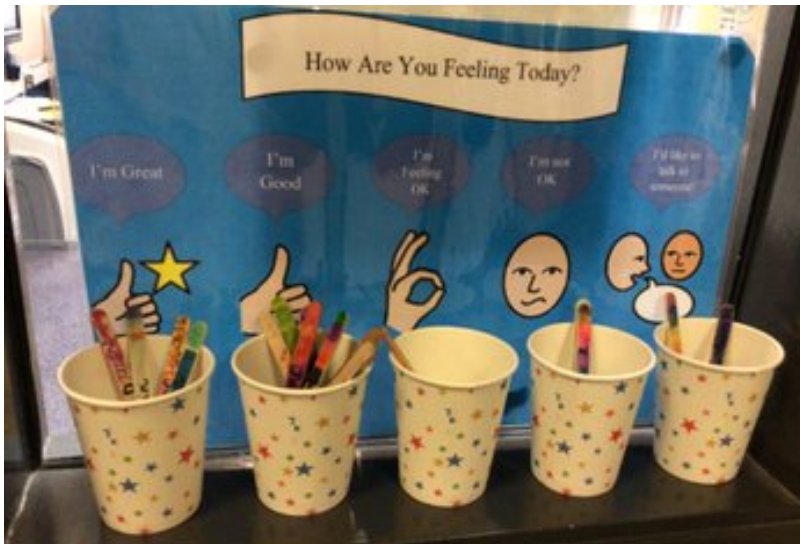
Mental Health Week-May 2023



We were trying various techniques to look after our mental health this week: learning serenity prayer, dancing, physical activity, walking, problem shared is a problem halved, mindful colouring to name just a few.



"We made Emotion Monsters to show how we feel. I made Joy." Eleanor



"We can share how we feel and know there is someone to talk to". Harry

"It's good that people can express their feelings". Rudi

"It's a good way to tell teachers how you feel." Maggie

Coping with anxiety

Place 2Be

Feeling anxious can happen when we feel nervous, frightened, or uneasy about something such as starting a new school, waiting for exam results or friendship issues.

It's perfectly normal to feel this way from time to time, as it's our body's natural response to a situation we are not comfortable with. But sometimes our anxiety gets the better of us and it can start getting in the way of the things we enjoy.

We've shared some advice below.



Name it to tame it

It can be useful to know how anxiety shows up for you. It might be, for example, that you get butterflies in your stomach, or feel sweaty or tongue-tied. In these moments, it can be useful to say (aloud or in your head) 'oh, hello anxiety, you're here to let me know you think something might threaten me - thank you'.



Remind yourself of when you've overcome anxiety in the past

Think back to a time when you've felt anxious about something, but eventually overcame these feelings. For example, if you're feeling anxious about returning to school after the weekend, think back to a time you overcame these feelings by going to school. It can sometimes help by saying something like "thanks anxiety, but I've got this!"



Tell a friend or a grown up

Think about whether you can tell a friend, or a grown up at home or school. Everyone experiences anxiety from time to time and people are there to help you, so it's important to reach out and connect with others. It could be good to share things that help you to feel less anxious - and even to practise some of them together.



Keep a diary

If you're feeling anxious, it can sometimes be helpful to write some of your feelings down in a diary or on your phone. Make notes of things that you find helpful, or things that seem to make you feel worse.



Get active

When we feel anxious, our bodies get ready to cope with something that may threaten us. This is called the 'fight or flight' response. Our hearts beat faster, we sweat more, and our muscles become tense. To release these feelings, it often helps to do something active. You may want to go for a walk, play football with friends, or go swimming.



Practise strategies that work well for you

Try different strategies that may help you to manage your anxiety. Finding and practising what works best for you can help reduce your anxiety quicker.

If you have tried these tips and still feel overwhelmed by your anxiety, then it is important to tell your parent or carer and to ask whether you need to get a GP appointment.

If you're feeling overwhelmed and need to talk:

Text CONNECT to 85258 for free to speak to Shout

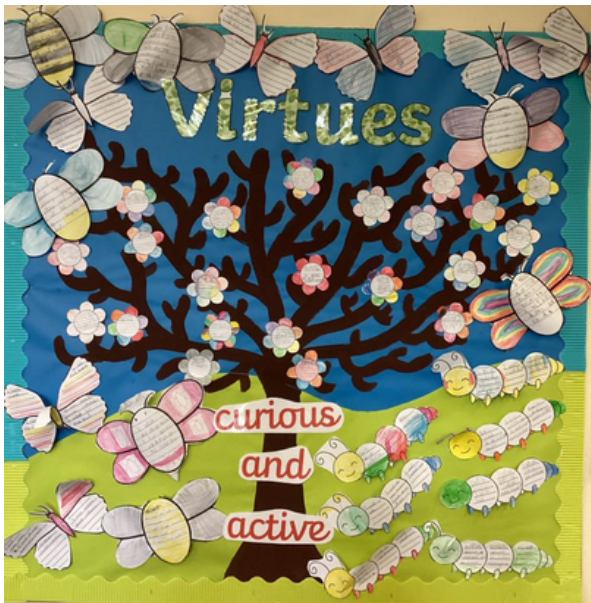
Call 0800 1111 to speak to Childline, or visit childline.org.uk for their free online chat

Visit place2be.org.uk/help for more advice



Our U11s Girls Footballers played so well this week. They showed great teamwork and determination. We are so proud of them! ... and don't they look superb in their new school kits?!

Other News



We're so proud of our prayer areas and RE displays in school.

Jesus be Our Centre...
Jesus be Our Role-model
Jesus may we be like You

Thank you

Thank you to all our parents who donated plants for our prayer garden as part of our May procession. Our Lady has beautiful flowers surrounding her now.





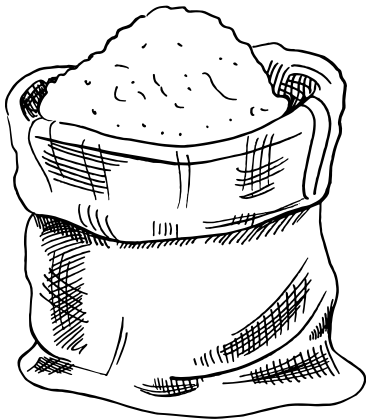
Confirmation Workshop – 22nd May 2023
We will be holding a Confirmation Workshop on Monday 22nd May. It would be wonderful if we one adult can attend with every child.



Phonics screening check workshop for year 1 parents – Tuesday 23rd of May at 2.30pm



Year 6 Confirmation in Church
Wednesday the 24th at 7.00pm
The bishop will be visiting the school in the afternoon.



Year 5 will visit Sarehole mill next week on Thursday the 25th (5M) and Friday the 26th (5F)
Please refer to your school letter for details.



Friday the 26th we will be breaking up for the half term holiday.

SAVE THE DATE AS
★ St.Mary's RC school PTA hosts our ★

SUMMER FAIR

★ Friday 16th June ★
3.30pm-6.30pm

CHILDREN MUST
BE SUPERVISED
BY AN ADULT AT
ALL TIMES

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

GERMAN SAUSAGES ,
BEER & PROSECCO

Helter skelter, Ariel artist,
Costume Characters,
Glitter Artist & much more

Join us for lots of family fun- Inflatables, Entertainment,
Music, Stalls, Food, Bar, Raffle, Sweets, Games.

Tickets available from your class reps from Mon 22nd May.
Family ticket £12. Individual ticket £3.
Cash only event
Volunteers required!

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

THE COLUMBAN WAY PILGRIMAGE 24-27 MAY 2023

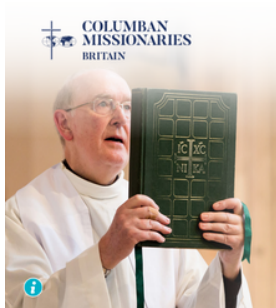
The Columban Missionaries invite you to celebrate Pentecost and Laudato Si' Week by joining them on a pilgrimage to reflect on 'the cry of the Earth, the cry of the poor'. A Columban group of ordained and lay pilgrims, led by Fr John Boles, will walk in the footsteps of St. Columban from Padstow to Fowey in Cornwall from 24-27 May 2023.

You are invited to join them as 'virtual' pilgrims and you can also sponsor them.

Visit the event page at www.columbans.co.uk or email to: columbanway2023@columbans.co.uk for more details and to register.

You can find out more by going direct to the website via the following link - <https://columbans.co.uk/mission/12352/the-columban-way-pilgrimage-2023/>

The team donation page is - <https://www.justgiving.com/team/columban-way-pilgrims-2023>



This is an Operation Encompass School

KEEPING SAFE

We are an operation encompass school. Therefore school is working alongside the police to ensure support for any child who has been involved in or witness to domestic abuse.

Please find more information about this on our website or contact the school office.

Pastoral Team

If you require any support from school please speak to a member of our pastoral team



Is YouTube safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube>

Do not book holidays during term time

This is a reminder that holidays during term time are unauthorised. If you intend to take your child out of school during term time, we ask that you complete a holiday request form at least 2 weeks prior to the leave date where possible. Parents may be fined by the Local Authority for taking unauthorised leave of absence. Children need to be in school every day so please ensure holidays are only booked during school holiday time.

Good attendance, continues to be a school and government priority.

Remember below 95% is a concern and below 90% is classed as persistent absence. If you have any problems with regards to getting your child to school or you are struggling to improve your child's attendance, please speak to Mrs. Yorke or Mrs. Davis.

We will announce the attendance for the previous week in this section of the newsletter each week.

Attendance and Punctuality: -

Our attendance for last week was -

Week 8th May – 12th May

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O	
%	99.6%	99.6%	98.8%	94.2%	100%	100%	98.3%	98.3%	97.5%	98.3%	98.4%	96.9%	95.8%	99.6%	
Lates	3	7	1	1	1	0	5	1	0	1	4	3	0	0	
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.6%		School Target				97%			

Well done Y2E and Y2G: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for next term

Summer theme -

Summer 1 Virtues

WB 22.5.2023 - all week

22nd May 2023 - 1:45pm

23rd May 2023 - 2:30pm

24th May 2023 - 2:30pm

24th May 2023 - 7pm

25th May 2023 - all day

26th May 2023 - all day

26th May 2023 - am

26th May 2023

Solidarity and the Common Good

Curious and Active

Year 2 SATs week - Year 2 children must be in school every day

Year 6 children/parent Confirmation workshop in school

Year 1 phonics workshop for parents in school

Bishop David to visit school ahead of the Confirmation

Confirmation Mass for Year 6 children

Class SM visit to Sarehole Mill

Class SF visit to Sarehole Mill

IF visit to library

Finish for May half-term (normal time)

Star of the week

Congratulations to the following children who have shone in school over the last week:

Year RB	Jahjmi	For super reading and blending this week in his reading group
Year RT	Patryk	For super reading and blending this week in his reading group
Year IF	Ada	For overcoming her nerves in the assembly!
Year IL	Tess	For a fabulous performance today!
Year 2E	Nathan	For working hard and being a kind and helpful member of 2E.
Year 2G	Alvin	For always being polite and using his manners
Year 3L	Rudi	For always showing attentive listening.
Year 3T	Matthew	For his superb manners to all and for contributing positively to lessons.
Year 4J	Jack	Showing good self-discipline and focus in lessons.
Year 4M	Adam	For always trying his very best in everything he does.
Year 5F	Joanna	Great contributions in class and representing the school in football.
Year 5M	Catherine	For a brilliantly written Mayan myth. Fantastic work!
Year 6O	Edjay	For his enthusiasm and willingness to have a go at everything at Alton Castle.
Year 6R	Isabella	For demonstration resilience and determination during the residential at Alton Castle.

