



Archdiocese of Birmingham
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
 SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price 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.



November is dedicated to the Holy Souls.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'The Dignity of the Human Person'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Learned and Wise'

Dear parents and carers,

26th November 2021

This week we have continued to host Inspire workshops and the children have really enjoyed having the opportunity to work with their parents in school. I would really like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and PTA for supporting these workshops. The PTA have been present every afternoon selling drinks and snacks and all the money raised allows for us to plan for and resource more of these opportunities.

This weekend, we enter in to the season of Advent, a time of spiritual preparation before Christmas. The first candle on our advent wreath - the "prophet's candle", represents 'hope', reminding us that Jesus is coming. Let us take time this weekend to explore this and to think about what we hope for as we prepare for Christmas.

Miss Louise Price

This week's Gospel and prayer

John 18: 33-37

"Pilate said, "So you are a king!" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born for this: to tell people about the truth... And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

- Our hearts can be 'ruled' by different influences
- Jesus invites us to make Him the king of our hearts

Dear Jesus,

Thank you that you are the best king we could ask for.
 Thank you that you love us and will always be with us.
 We invite you to be king of our hearts.
 Help us to follow your ways and live well in your kingdom.
 Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 5 Mass - Christ the King

Year 5 prepared a lovely Mass dedicated about Christ our King this week. We thought about all the different names and titles that we use for Jesus and times when he is called a 'king'.



Year 4 Mass in Church - 1.12.21 at 9:15am - Week 1 of Advent - Hope

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 1st December, starting promptly at 9:15am.

Year 4 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and **parents are welcome to attend** (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



advent workshops

Year 1 pupils had a wonderful time making angels with their parents at their workshop.



Year 2 parents and pupils enjoyed a fabulous afternoon creating festive handprint art.

We're not sure who had the most fun at the Reception workshop - the parents or the pupils!



Year 6 parents and pupils enjoyed a Christmassy afternoon of Cross-stitching Christmas trees.



Thank you to our Year 6 prefects, who were superb this week, leading our parents and pupils in prayer, at the start of our Inspire workshops.

This week's news

Chess

Our children are still enjoying their chess lessons every week.



In this month of November, we continue to add the names of our loved ones to our remembrance tree and we write their names in our remembrance book. To quote Fr. John today "although we miss them, they're probably more alive than we are" RIP



Non-school uniform / Guess the baby day in school

The children have had fun today, wearing their own clothes and having fun trying to guess the teacher from their baby photo, organised by our School Council.



All money raised is going towards our bollards to help stop the illegal stopping and parking taking place outside school.



Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas



Thank you to those who have donated new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham this Christmas. We are looking for all age groups ranging from 0-15 years and there is still time to get involved...

Toys can be handed in at the office.



Reception news: -

Reception are enjoying their owl babies learning.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been learning about money this week.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 are really enjoying their gymnastics lessons



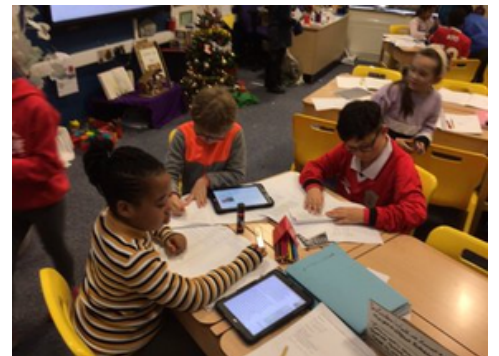
Year 4 news: -

Children in Year 4 have been classifying living things found in the school grounds.



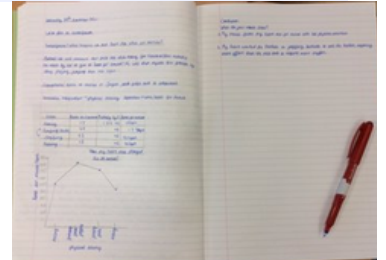
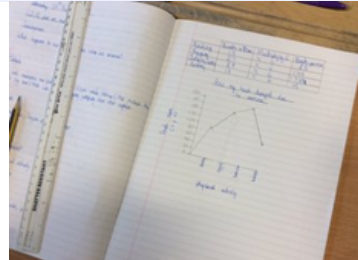
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been using i-pads to support their research this week.



Year 6 news: -

In Science, Year 6 have been investigating how different types of exercise impacts upon their heart rate and have drawn graphs to represent the data.



The staff wanted to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Hammond for her 7 years of service to St. Mary's. She will be very missed. We wish her all the best for the future and know that she will be back to visit.



TUESDAY 30TH NOV 7PM



Parents and friends, please join us for our wreath making workshop on

Tuesday 30th November from 7- 9pm in the school hall.

£20 per person - includes all your greenery, plus a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie on arrival!

Tickets available from your class reps / PTA committee

Please bring with you, your own secateurs and any baubles, lights or ribbons to personalise your wreath.

Any information required please contact

ptaofstmarys@hotmail.com

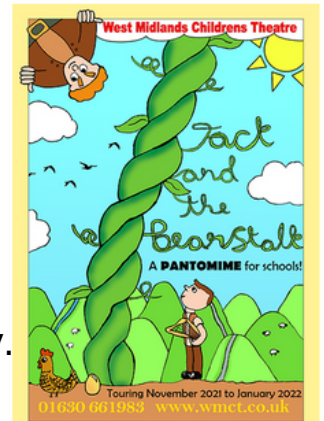
Christmas Pantomime in School

Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum!

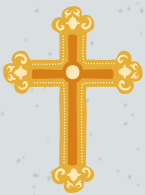
We are very excited to inform you that we are welcoming West Midlands Theatre Company into school to perform Jack and the Beanstalk to all children on Thursday 2nd December 2021.

The cost of this is £2 per child which can be paid via School Gateway.

Please make payment by the end of today: - Friday 26th November



Parish News



9:30 family Mass

St Mary's Sunday 9.30 Family Mass: Children of Reception Class age and pre-School children can go straight to the Parish Centre at 9.30am this Sunday for 15 minutes of the Children's Liturgy/Church before then going into the Church for rest of the Mass.

This is for the next few Sundays of Advent: 28th Nov, 5, 12, 19 December.



Face Masks

Masks are needed please when attending all Masses at St. Mary's.

This includes the Wednesday school Mass at 9:15am.

Please do not sit in the front row on the left hand side (that is where the HT sits).



St. Mary's Piety Stall

St Mary's Church Piety Stall, after 9.30am, 11am and 5pm Mass:
Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Walk with Me booklets...and much more

Schoolgateway

Quick and easy to use

Access messages and payments all in one place

In order to improve our links with you and keep everyone up-to-date and well informed we are now using Schoolgateway as our means of sending out written communications.

This will enable you to receive information from school quickly and reliably. We can send letters by email to your inbox and short messages directly to your mobile phone as a text message, or if you have an Apple or Android mobile phone, by app message.

You will:

- *Receive letters more reliably and promptly*
- *See letters in your inbox like any other email*
- *Get a short text or app message if we need to contact you urgently*
- *Not need to rely on your child for delivery*

We can:

- *Send more letters and information*
- *Save on admin time, printing and paper*
- *Contact you urgently when necessary*

We will continue to use Schoolgateway for online payments as this has proven to be an effective, efficient and convenient system, which puts you in control and saves us time and money.

Download the free smartphone app

Parents, welcome to:

Schoolgateway

Keeping you informed of what's going on at school.



Download the app Android and iPhone

or visit the website:
www.schoolgateway.com

Activate your account today!



The easiest and fastest way to stay in touch with school.

By downloading the app you will help us save money too!

- *Go to your app store and search for "School Gateway" and download the app*
- *Once downloaded, select the "I'm a New User" button; enter your email address and mobile number that we have on record for you. Select Send PIN and a PIN number will be text to your mobile phone*
- *Log in with your email address and the PIN, your account is now active and you will receive instant notifications of messages in your notifications bar*
- *If you change your contact details please let the school know as soon as possible*

If you have any questions about this, please contact the school office.

Children photos for presents



If you would like to order school photos of your children as Christmas presents, please make sure that you have placed your order in plenty of time to avoid disappointment.

Last order date to ensure delivery before Christmas is **5th December**.

Correct Uniform

The children should now be wearing their winter uniform i.e. shirts/blouses and ties.

We also ask that children come to school in their winter PE kit on the days that they have PE. Again children should be in uniform for PE which is black/blue plain jogging bottoms (not patterned / not another colour), yellow t-shirt, school jumper and **black trainers**.



Jewellery



To **ensure the safety of all children**, we will only allow children to wear small stud earrings (not dangly earrings) and a watch, on the days that they are not doing PE.

On PE days we are asking that children do not wear any jewellery, so that it is not lost if they are asked to remove it for physical lessons. Thank you for supporting us with this, your child's safety is at the forefront of our uniform decisions. .

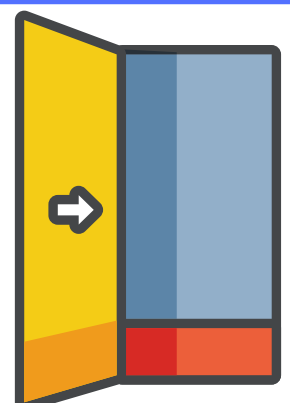
SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022.

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

Open door policy

We have an open door policy at St. Mary's. A member of SLT (Miss. Price, Mrs. Davis or Mrs. Jones) is available at the start and end of every day for quick queries – or if a meeting is needed, please arrange through the enquiry email or the office. SLT do not use e-schools in the same way teachers do, so please do not contact us on there, as your query may be missed. Thank you.



Additional school clubs

We have several school clubs running in school now

Before school clubs

Wednesdays (7:45-8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4

Thursdays (7:45-8:45) – Karate – For Y4, Y5 and Y6

Fridays (7:45-8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2 and Y3 (*this club is full*).



After school clubs

Mondays (3:20 – 4:20) – Rugby – For Y1 and Y2 (*still spaces*)

Wednesdays (3:30 – 4:30) – Netball – For Y5 and Y6

(3:30 – 4:30) – Football – For Y6

(3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y3

Thursdays (3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y4, Y5, Y6



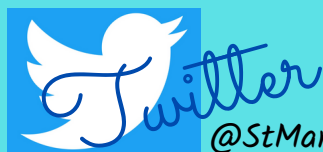
This is an Operation Encompass School

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.

KEEPING SAFE

Online Safety



Stay up to date with everything that is happening at St. Mary's by following us on our Twitter Page and giving us more likes!!!

Teach your child about evaluating information and being critically aware of information found online. Most children use the internet to improve and develop their knowledge in relation to schoolwork and personal interests. Children should be aware that not all information found online is correct, accurate or relevant. Show your child how to check information they find by comparing it to alternative sources on the same topic. Show them trusted sites they can use to compare information.

Dates for the diary

30th November 2021 - 6:45 - 8:45pm

1st December 2021 - 9:15am -

2nd December 2021 - morning

3rd December 2021 - 9:15am -

3rd December 2021 - morning

7th December 2021 - 3:15 - 4:15 -

9th December 2021 - 3:30 - 4:30 -

10th December 2021 - all day

17th December 2021

WB 13.12.21 - Nativities in school

PTA Wreath making workshop for parents in school.

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome).

Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime in school.

Year 5L Class Assembly in school (5L parents welcome).

Flu immunisation day

Reception and KS1 disco in school

KS2 disco in school

Christmas jumper day and Fr. Christmas in school

Break up for Christmas break!

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes



Year Reception

13.12.21 at 9:30pm
in the Church

WRIGGLY
NATIVITY

Being so excited for
Jesus' birthday that we
just can't keep still.

Years 1 and 2

14.12.21 at 9:15am
and at 2:15pm
in the School hall

BETHLEHEM'S
BUZZIN'

Join our Holy Family as
they look for room at the
Inn so that Mary can
have her child.

Years 3 and 4

15.12.21 at 9:15am
and at 2:15pm
in the School hall

BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem the Musical: a
story of how opening our
hearts to others is the
true gift of Christmas.

Years 5 and 6

16.12.21 at 1:45pm
in the Church

CAROL
SERVICE

Traditional and modern
carols that recount the
story of Jesus' birth.

Term
Dates




Autumn Term 2021	Spring Term 2022	Summer Term 2022
Autumn 1	Spring 1	Summer 1
<p>Thursday 2nd September - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Friday 3rd September - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Monday 6th September - Children return to school</p> <p>Ends: Friday 22nd October</p>	<p>Monday 3rd January - Bank Holiday</p> <p>Tuesday 4th January - Children return to school</p> <p>Tuesday 1st February - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Ends: Friday 18th February</p>	<p>May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May</p> <p>Tuesday 3rd May - Children return to school</p> <p>Thursday 5th May - Closed for Local Election Day</p> <p>Ends: Friday 27th May</p>
<p>Half-Term: Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2021</p>	<p>Half-Term: Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February 2022</p>	<p>Half-Term: Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022</p>
Autumn 2	Spring 2	Summer 2
<p>Starts: Monday 1st November Ends: Friday 17th December</p>	<p>Starts: Monday 28th February</p> <p>Monday 28th March - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Ends: Thursday 14th April 2022</p>	<p>Starts: Monday 6th June</p> <p>Tuesday 5th July - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Ends: Thursday 21st July 2022</p> <p>Friday 22nd July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee</p>
<p>Christmas Holidays: Monday 20th December to Friday 31st December 2021</p>	<p>Easter Holiday: Monday 18th April to Friday 29th April 2022</p>	<p>Summer Holidays: Start Monday 25th July 2022</p>

Star of the week

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

Year RL	Joshua	trying really hard with his writing this week, improving his sentences.
Year RF	Raina	fantastic listening in phonics this week.
Year 1L	Daniel	trying his best all week and for improving his handwriting.
Year 1F	Alarna	amazing precision and concentration in art lessons.
Year 2L	Raman	perseverance and determination.
Year 2F	Marquis	wowing Mrs. Hammond with his English planning.
Year 3L	Rodrigo	living out the school virtues in everything that he does.
Year 3F	Marley-Marie	having exemplary manners and showing perseverance.
Year 4L	Iris	excellent contributions to class discussions.
Year 4F	Adrian	having a positive attitude to learning.
Year 5L	Jaden	being enthusiastic in class and a good role model to everybody else.
Year 5F	Sammy	great participation during lessons.
Year 6L	Liam	always being an excellent role model for others.
Year 6F	Erin	being so kind and polite.



<p>When should my child self-isolate or miss school?</p> 	 <p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should <u>stay at home</u> and should book a PRC test, <u>NOT</u> a Lateral Flow test. If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PRC test. If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.
	 <p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children MUST attend school unless they are ill. From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.