



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.

February is dedicated to the Holy Family

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Faith-filled and Hopeful'



Dear parents and carers,

23rd February 2024

We have come to the end of our first week back following half-term and it has been an exciting week with our OPAL lunchtimes launch; Young Voices concert; and various dress up days. We really hope that the children love our new lunchtimes and I thank those of you who have donated so far. We have a dress down day on Monday for anybody who has donated or who has more items to donate. Keep those 'bingo' items coming in and if doing a Spring clean over the next few weeks, check with us - we may want your old stuff.

I am under pressure from the DfE and LA to ensure that children are in school everyday. Today, you will have been sent our new leave of absence forms by email. Please note that I am unable to allow any holiday time in term time. Please still communicate with us if your child is not in school so that we can mark the registers correctly.

We have begun our Lent charity work - please get involved where you can: - whether that is with sponsorship money, volunteering to litter pick with us; or just posting your photos on social media - it all helps us with our Catholic Life work. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Mark 1: 12-15

'After Jesus left the wilderness, He went to Galilee... He said "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News".'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- God gives us hope through His promises and through sending His son Jesus.
- Jesus is the fulfilment of all our hopes and we can bring that hope to others as we Give, Act and Pray, this Lent.

Dear Jesus,

You are our hope!

Thank you that no matter what we go through, we can always have hope and trust in you.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 6 Mass - 21.2.24 - 1st Week of Lent

Year 6 led us in our Mass

about penance and the importance of saying sorry.



Y4 Mass - 2nd Week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 28th February 2024, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 4 children will be leading our Mass and Year 3 children will attend too.

All parents are welcome to attend.



Catholic Social Teaching

Building the Kingdom

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

We are living out our mission by doing God's work in the Community...

Mrs Yorke visited D11 ward at City Hospital today to give out get well soon cards that Year 1 had made for the patients. The nurses were so happy to receive them.



Our SWB Family
Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust · 2 h · 🌍

Earlier today, Mrs Louise Price, headteacher from St. Mary's Catholic Primary School in Harborne visited City Hospital to drop off get well soon cards for our patients! 📖

The cards have been made by the 5-6-year-old students at the school with the aim to cheer up our patients who might be feeling unwell whilst in hospital. 🎨 📖 🍌

When asked about the get well cards, headteacher Louise said: "I'm incredibly proud of the children. They're compassionate and loving and want to help others. They understand at such a young age that small actions can make a huge difference in our world. Their actions show that we must not only consider their own happiness but the happiness of others. We really hope the cards will put smiles on the faces of the patients who receive them."

Thank you to all of students who created the cards for our patients! 🥰



Year 2 met with the residents at Field House and shared stories with them.



Our Lenten Journey has begun...

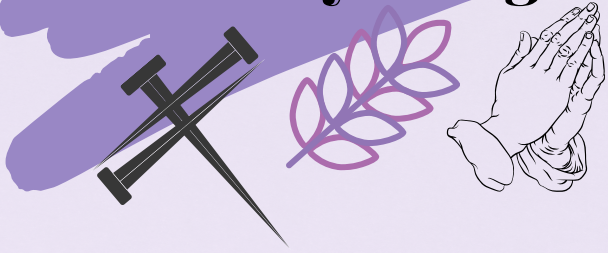
Religious Education

"During this Lent, let us all ask the Lord: Make our hearts like yours."

-Pope Francis



Lenten Prayer bags



Post your photos of prayer at home.

Charity: - CAFOD Just One World

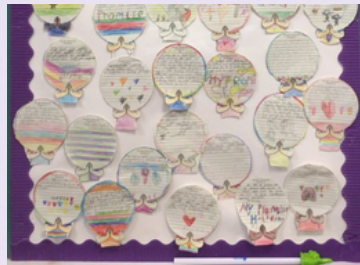


KS2 are walking 200km for CAFOD this Lent - please sponsor us!

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-big-lent-walk2025>

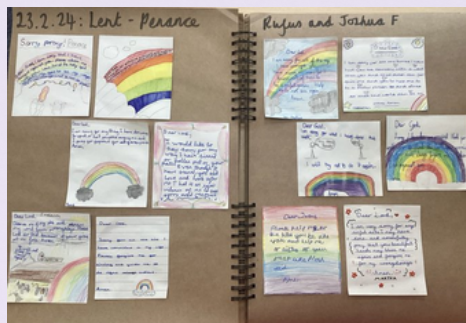


Promises



How can we be better this Lent?

Child-led prayer



Saying Sorry



Prayer and Liturgy



Lent Reflection

During Lent we are reminded of Jesus' time in the desert. Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. Despite the tempter appearing to Jesus and tempting Him, Jesus remained strong and trusted in God.



Fast

scripture

*"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." -
Matthew 4:4*

reflection

We need God's word to truly live. Although we can be tempted, we must be like Jesus and resist temptation, make the right choices and have faith in God.

open question

What will you fast from and feed on, during Lent?

Task

***A Creative Reflection** Express your thoughts and ideas in whatever way you wish. You may create a picture, a prayer, a poem or a promise to show what you will give up and try to do, in order to be closer to God. Share your creations with us. All collective work will be displayed in the school hall.*



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



This week's news

Reception news: -

Reception class have learnt about the different transport farmers use to help them do jobs this week and worked in teams to build the transport outside using community play.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been learning about the story of Zacchaeus.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been enjoying reading for pleasure this week.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 are enjoying their dance lessons. They start by warming up their bodies and then explore movements they could make as natural weather. For example, earthquakes and lava.



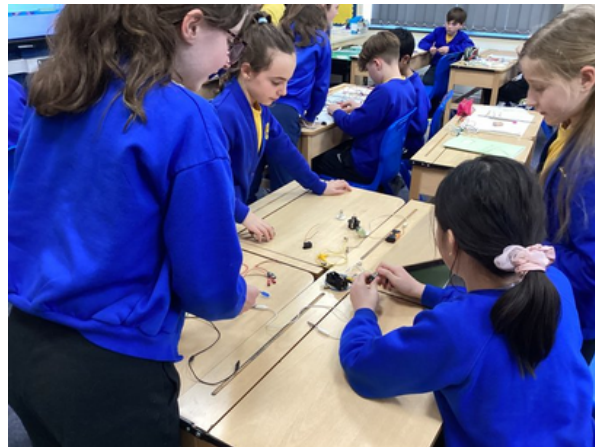
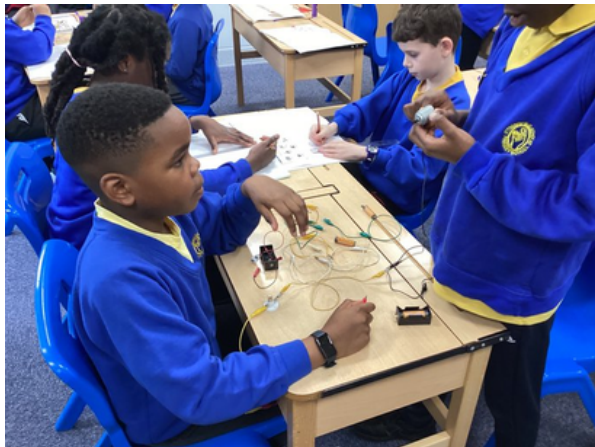
Year 4 news: -

Scientists in Year 4 explored their local environment looking for invertebrates.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been learning about how to draw the circuits that they are making, using the correct circuit symbols.



Well done St. Alphonsa house for having the most house points last term and earning a special treat today.



Year 1 had a wonderful day celebrating their 'marvellous middle'. The children came in to school in their 'castles' dress up on Friday 23rd February 2024. We had kings, princesses, cooks, servants, knights, jesters, even the castle itself. What fabulous outfits!



On 'World Thinking Day' Girl Guides, Rangers, Brownies and Rainbows came to school wearing their Girlguiding uniform to show that they are committed to international friendship and understanding.



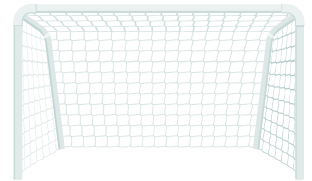


Our St. Mary's choir were amazing singing with 5000 other children at Resorts World last night. They all had such a wonderful time. Thank you to the staff who accompanied them! It was magical!



U9 football

A big well done to our U9 footballers who came third in their group and fourth overall at the Harborne District Cup on Tuesday.



Other News

Chinese New Year Theme Menu in school - 26th February 2024

If your child isn't normally school dinners, but would like to have our Chinese New Year menu - please let the school office know via Gateway by 23rd February 2024.



*Menu - Chicken Fried rice with vegetable spring roll; vegetable fried rice with vegetable spring roll; BBQ sauce; fish finger with potato wedges; prawn crackers
Fortune cookie*

*Supporting our Lenten charities: -
FOCUS Birmingham, CAFOD, homeless charities...*

**Year
R**

Reception class will be baking cakes to sell at our Easter bonnet parade. Children will bake the cakes at home with their parents and money made will go to local charity - FOCUS Birmingham



**Year
1**

Year 1 will be visiting our residents at Field House during Lent - gifting them with their time. The children are looking forward to reading, singing and playing games with the residents.



**Year
2**

Year 2 will be inviting members of the parish and local community in to school for a special tea party to celebrate their learning about Queen Victoria



KS2

*KS2 are taking part in The Big Lent Walk!
All KS2 children will be asking for sponsorship to walk 200km collaboratively over Lent. Your donations can change lives! All money raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.*



**Year
5**

Year 5 will be learning about rivers in Summer and water distribution around the World. They will explore the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' This Lent, Year 5 will complete their Big Lent CAFOD walk, carrying buckets of water, to raise awareness of water poverty.



**Year
4**

Additionally, Year 4 children will continue their collection for homeless charities. Year 4 have been reading 'The nightbus hero in class' and would like to support local homeless charities during Lent - they will be asking for donations and working closely with parents.



**Spiritual
Council**

Community tidy up - litter picking in our local area around St. Mary's and high street - parents welcome to join us! Staff too!





We have such a range of play and activities for the children to do at lunchtime now and the response has been fantastic. We look forward to expanding this over the upcoming weeks and months.



Next week - WB 26.2.24



Dress Down Day on **Monday 26th February** in exchange for donations for OPAL!

Simply bring in one item (or more!) from the 'Bingo' card below in exchange for wearing your own clothes for the day.

Fancy Dress Costumes



Scarves



Telephones



Hats



Duplo, Lego etc



Suitcases



Handbags



Small World Toys



Buckets



Computer keyboard/mouse



Plastic Containers



Plastic Jugs



Kitchen Utensils





Year 5 Harborne Library Visit - 27.2.24

Year 5 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

5F will leave at 9:00am

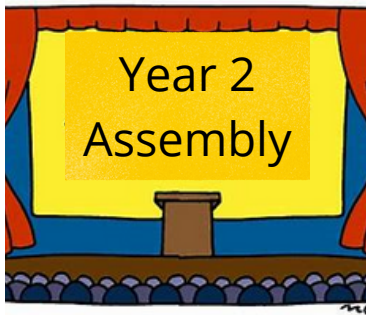
5M will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 5 staff know.



Reception trip - 28.2.24

This term, Reception class are learning about farms. To support their learning, they have a planned trip to Attwell Farm Park on Wednesday 28th February 2024. Thank you to parents who support our school fund - we will be using some of this fund to support the cost of the trip.



Year 2 Year Group Prayer and Liturgy Assembly

- 1.3.24 at 9:15am

On Friday 1st March 2024, parents of children in Year 2 are invited to attend school to watch their children in their prayer and liturgy assembly exploring our Lenten themes.

Other key dates

National Careers Week - Week beginning 4th March 2024

We are having a week in school where a range of careers will be celebrated.

We would like to get the children excited by the breadth of careers available to them when they are older. We welcome anybody who would be willing to talk to the children about a job they do.



Praying for Vocations to the Religious life - WB 4.3.24

This week, we will pray a daily Prayer for our seminarians, men in formation for the permanent diaconate and for a greater awareness of God's call in our homes, parishes, schools and universities.

Heavenly Father,

We ask you to send labourers into your harvest.

Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

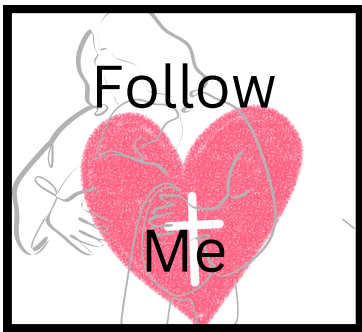
WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2024

This year, children may come to school in their pyjamas and will share a 'bedtime story' with hot chocolate! Reading and books will be celebrated throughout the day with lots of activities planned by teachers. Our next book fair will be in school the week of parents' evening WB 18.3.24.



Remember Me - Whole School Lent Retreat - 8.3.24

On Friday 8th March, the staff and children will be taking part in a retreat day during this important season of Lent. OneLife Music lead engaging, provoking and enthusiastic retreats designed specifically for this important and precious time of observance. We will use this opportune time to reflect as a school family on what it means to be a follower of Christ. There will be opportunity for prayer, giving and acting on our beliefs through music, sharing and offering.



Signposting



Harborne Academy Easter Holiday Camps

We're delighted to continue running our highly successful holiday camp at Harborne Academy. We are again offering two camps to choose from, either Multi-Activity or Football. Our Multi-Activity Camp offers a wide range of different sessions (from Archery to Fencing alongside many other sports/team games and enrichment activities) for children to enjoy. Our Football Camp will look to develop children's football skills each day with plenty of opportunities for games and lots of teamwork.

Children will need to bring a packed lunch, water bottle and appropriate clothing for plenty of FUN activities!

To book either our Multi-Activity or Football specific camp, see details below:

Venue	Date	Age	Time	Discounted Price
Harborne Academy, Harborne Road, B15 3JL	Monday 25 th March – Friday 5 th April 2024	4 -11 years old	9am-4pm*	£18.83 (30% off)
*4-year-old children are welcome and can attend our camps between 9 am – 1 pm (£10.76)				

Scan the QR Code to book online:



For any queries, please contact our Community Lead, Evan Heritage:

eheritage@premier-education.com

Spurgeons @SpurgeonsUK · 4h

Did you know you can access parenting skills and tips including free, accessible online wellbeing resources for families and the professionals who work with them?

Find out more here: ow.ly/CBZW50QBKIo

#Autism #Prisonsupport #Families #Spurgeons #Counselling #Parenting



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 produces 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. Good attendance is 96% and above 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 –

19th February – 23rd February 2024

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99.1%	98.3 %	96.2%	98.3%	95 %	95 %	96.6%	98.3%	99.1%	97 %	92.5%	100 %	96.3%	96.9%
Lates	5	0	4	4	0	0	1	2	3	0	4	1	3	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%		School Target				97%		

Well done Y5F: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for this term

19th February 2024 - all day

20th February 2024 - 8:45am

20th February 2024 - 1:00pm

21st February 2024 - 9:15am

21st February 2024 - 2:30pm

22nd February 2024 - all day

22nd February 2024 - 4pm

22nd February 2024 - evening

23rd February 2024 - all day

27th February 2024 - am

28th February 2024 - all day

28th February 2024 - 9:15am

29th February 2024 - am

1st March 2024 - 9:15am

WB 4.3.24

WB 4.3.24

5th March 2024 - am

6th March 2024 - 9:15am

7th March 2024 - all day

8th March 2024 - 9:15am

8th March 2024 - all day

8th March 2024 - all day

WB 11.3.24

12th March 2024 - am

12th March 2024 - all day

13th March 2024 - all day

13th March 2024 - 9:15am

13th March 2024 - 10:00am

15th March 2024 - 9:00am

28th March 2024 -

INSET DAY - school closed to children

Children return to school at normal time

U9s boys/girls football tournament

Year 6 Mass in Church (and Year 5 classes attend) - parents welcome

Year 4 multiplication check parent workshop

World Thinking Day - Guides, Rangers, Brownies and Rainbows wear uniform

U11s football game

Young Voices Concert - will leave school after lunch (separate letter)

Year 1 Kings and Queens dress up day

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 SF and 11:00 SM)

Reception trip to Attwell Farm

Year 4 Mass in Church (and Year 3 classes attend) - parents welcome

Y3/4 badminton festival

Year 2 year group prayer and liturgy assembly for parents

Careers Week in school with key speakers

Pray for vocations to the religious life

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4M and 11:00 4J)

Year 2 Mass in Church (and Year 1 classes attend) - parents welcome

World Book day - children may come to school dressed in their pyjamas

5-a-side girls football tournament

One Life Lent Retreat 'Remember Me'

International Women's day

British Science Week

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (9:15 2E and 11:00 2G)

Mothers' Day Inspire workshops in school

Malypics Day in school

Reception class Mass in Church (alongside their Year 6 buddies) - parents too

School Council visit to the Council House

Year 6 prayer service for parents

Break up for Easter holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Mahin	For some excellent independent writing this week!
Year RT	Pablo	For thinking of his own thoughtful prayer in RE this week
Year 1F	Edward	For showing good looking, good sitting, good listening and good lining up!
Year 1L	Shawn	For showing good looking, good sitting, good listening and good lining up!
Year 2E	Cillian	For a super effort in R.E this week
Year 2G	Rina	For fantastic effort in her learning recently, well done for working hard!
Year 3L	Noah	For trying hard in his learning and being a good role model to others
Year 3T	Danny	For super effort in his learning and trying to challenge himself!
Year 4J	Pariza	For always being a super role model for behaviour and attitude towards learning
Year 4M	Mariam	For always living out the school virtues
Year 5F	Jack	For being an amazing representative of our school during Young Voices
Year 5M	Cecile	For amazing attitude in her learning this week and an amazing performance during NPP
Year 6O	Martina	For being a wonderful representative of our school.
Year 6R	Adrian	For reading really well in Mass



