



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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.

Year 2 newsletter - Spring 2

We'd like to extend a warm welcome back to all the children in Year 2 ahead of a very rewarding and busy half-term. This half-term, Year 2 will be busy exploring a variety of exciting topics!

In History, they will learn about the impact of coal mining on local communities with a trip to Cannock Chase booked in for 8th April. In Science, they will investigate materials and their properties. Maths lessons will focus on multiplication, division, length, and height, whilst in English, they will develop their writing skills through diary entries and narratives.

In R.E., children will deepen their understanding of Lent and Holy Week, reflecting on the theme of forgiveness. They will explore the key events of Holy Week, deepening their understanding of its significance in the Christian faith. Through discussions, reflections, and activities, children will consider how they can show kindness, forgiveness, and compassion in their daily lives. focusing on their Big Question:

How do we work together to make things better?

As part of their social action, Year 2 will celebrate their God-given talents and share their gifts with the community by visiting Heathcote House to engage with and serve others. They will explore how work contributes to the common good and how they can use their skills to help those around them.

We look forward to seeing them continue to grow and make a positive impact, throughout the rest of the Spring term! kind regards,

Year 2 staff

PE

PE days - Spring 2

Year 2

Thursday - Hands 2 - throwing

Friday - Rackets, bats and balls

CAFOD lent walk - every day Daily Mile



On PE days - the children come in wearing their PE uniform.

This is the gold t-shirt, royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and plain trainers. Please ensure that any jewellery is taken off for PE days for your child's (and others) safety. All long hair must be tied back in a ponytail.



Our RE learning for Spring 2 is: -

We will be studying the following units in our RE lessons: -

Lent

This unit is designed to develop children's knowledge and understanding of the Season of Lent and the importance of the theme of forgiveness during this time.

Holy Week

This unit is designed to further develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the events of Holy Week.

Curriculum Map - Spring 2

These are the topics that your child will be studying in Spring 2 -

Marvelous Middle

Place names of the class in a gift box – open the gift box and class discuss the gifts of that child. Each child takes a piece of paper and they write their special gift – fold paper – next child writes their gift. Celebrate their God-given gifts.

Science –

Materials
- Identifying and classifying materials and carrying out investigations to test materials properties.

English

Terrific Text

Last stop of Market Street
By Matt De La Peña

Writing Opportunities

Recount writing – diary entries
Narrative from different perspectives

Spoken Language opportunities

Year 2 Year group assembly
Talking to members of the community

Oracy

Practising Oracy actions and sentence stems e.g.: starting a discussion, building on a point of view and disagreeing with a perspective.

Maths

Multiplication and Division –
Recognise and make equal groups. Add equal groups. Introduce multiplication and division symbol. To look at 2s, 5s and 10 times table.

Length and Height- to recognise centimetres and metres. Compare length and height and ordering them.

Music – UNCRC Article 31

Traditional Instruments and Improvisation-Express feelings about music and identify preferences. Read and play musical notation for a rag. Improvise with a drone and tal. Play a rag and tal accurately with a drone. Sing from musical notation and lyrics. Sing and play in time with others, showing awareness of different parts.

Other Reading Opportunities

Non-chronological report
– mining
Comprehension reading

Year 2

R.E. UNCRC 14

Lent (Unit G)

Children will develop their knowledge and understanding of the Season of Lent and the importance of the theme of forgiveness during this time.

Holy Week (Unit H)

Children develop their knowledge and understanding of the events of Holy Week.

PSHE: UNCRC 5, 18

Careers Week

My Happy Mind- Celebrate

The children will look at their character strengths and understand what they are and then use them as much as possible.

RSE: Module 2: - Created to Live in Community

Unit 1: Religious Understanding

Session 1: Three in One

Session 2: Who is my Neighbour?

Dignity of Work

Work increases the common good.

Virtues:

Attentive and Discerning

Scripture Focus:

“So that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands” Deuteronomy 14:29

Prayer Focus:

Act of Faith
Mass Responses

Big Question –

How do we work together to make things better?

P.E. UNCRC 31

Hands 2- This unit of work will challenge pupils to apply their understanding of underarm and overarm throwing to beat their opponents.

Rackets, Bats and Balls - In this unit, children will refine their understanding of how they can use their hitting (striking) skills to send the ball into space in order to win a game.

Art – UNCRC Article 29

Warhol Hand Prints -
Children will create artwork in the style of Andy Warhol using techniques such as; printing, painting and mixed media.

MFL – UNCRC 27

Children will be able to counting to 20 and use vocabulary linked to school, work, holidays and travel.

History – UNCRC Article 32

Cannock Chase - Local Community History (Mining) *Trip

Substantive Knowledge: The history of coal mining at Cannock Chase and its impact on local communities. The Industrial Revolution and how it changed work, trade, and the environment. The reasons for the decline of coal mining and how it shaped the modern landscape.

Disciplinary Knowledge: Understanding chronology, placing mining events in order.

Identifying similarities and differences between past and present communities. Exploring historical sources to interpret mining life and its effects.

Procedural Knowledge: Using artefacts, photographs, and written accounts to investigate history. Asking and answering historical enquiry questions about change and continuity. Developing critical thinking skills by evaluating the impact of coal mining on people and the environment

Other Opportunities

British Science Week **UNCRC 29**
World Book Day **UNCRC 17&31**
One Life Retreat **UNCRC 14**
Lent **UNCRC 14**
Holy Week **UNCRC 14**
Trip to Cannock Chase for visit the Mine.

Computing - UNCRC 17

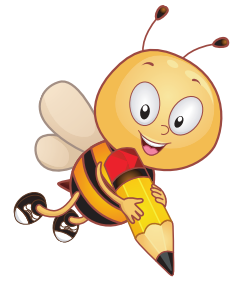
Scratch Jr.

In this unit children will:
- Explore Scratch Jr. independently.
- Recognise a loop in coding and why it is useful.
- Use code to create an animation that moves.
- Use code to follow and create an algorithm.

Fantastic Finish

Children will share their special gift with the world by visiting Heathcote House and serving others by using their gift to build up God's world.

Homework - spelling



Week 1-

1. here
2. hear
3. sun
4. son
5. one
6. won
7. new
8. knew
9. night
10. knight

Week 2-

1. knowledge
2. knot
3. knit
4. knight
5. knife
6. knock
7. gnaw
8. gnome
9. gnash
10. knitting

Week 3-

1. cry
2. dry
3. try
4. reply
5. July
6. Fly
7. By
8. Could
9. Should
10. Would

Week 4-

1. Didn't
2. Can't
3. hasn't
4. its
5. couldn't
6. ill
7. they're
8. shouldn't
9. wouldn't
10. apple

Week 5-

1. cable
2. ladle
3. table
4. whole
5. scale
6. title
7. eating
8. planned
9. teacher
10. highest

Homework

Phonics Screening Check Year 2

For children yet to take/pass the Phonics Screening Check in Year 2, we encourage you to support your child by practicing phonics regularly at home. Focus on sounding out and blending words, including both real and 'nonsense' words. Help them with digraphs (sh, ch, th) and split digraphs (a-e, i-e, o-e), and encourage them to read aloud daily. Fun phonics games and spotting tricky sounds in books can also boost their confidence. Your support makes a big difference—thank you for helping your child on their reading journey!

Supporting Your Child for the Year 2 SATs

As the Year 2 SATs approach, we encourage parents to support their child's learning at home in a fun and stress-free way. Regular reading practice, discussing stories, and asking questions about what they've read can boost comprehension skills. In Maths, focus on number bonds, simple addition and subtraction, counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s, and solving word problems. Encourage your child to be on x-table rockstars every night and support them to improve their x-table knowledge and quick arithmetic skills.

Encouraging practice with past papers or quizzes can help build confidence.

These can be found online:-

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/primary-books/ks1/ks1-sats-buster>

<https://www.satspapers.org.uk/Page.aspx?TId=4>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrybvk7#z8nbkhv>

Most importantly, keep learning positive—praise their efforts, ensure they get plenty of rest, and remind them that they are doing a fantastic job!

Homework - Power Project - RE - Y2

Lent - Our power projects this half term have an RE theme.

We would like children to embrace their Lent journey with learning and prayer time in school and within their homes too...

Complete the task and bring your project in for our Lent displays and prayer areas



Lent Reflection

During Lent, we are given the opportunity to renew our relationship with God and one another, as it is a time to say sorry for things that we have done wrong and seek forgiveness. At this time, we try to be a little more like Jesus and we say sorry for the times that we get things wrong.

Sorry

scripture

"Yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance." -

2 Corinthians 7:9

reflection

Lent is a time when we try to get closer to God. One of the ways we can do this is by saying sorry for the times when we have made the wrong choices. It is important to remember that God still loves us, even if we have made the wrong choices, but we must say sorry and ask God for his forgiveness.

open question

What are you truly sorry for?

Task

A Creative Reflection *Think about why it is important to say sorry- express your thoughts and aspirations in creative ways. This could be through artwork, poetry, prayer, photos or a short video, or any form that resonates with your family.*

Share your creations with us.



Dates for this half term - Year 2

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

24th February 2025 - 8:45am

28th February 2025 - all day

28th February 2025 - 2:30pm

WB 3.3.25

5th March 2025 - 10:00am

6th March 2025 - all day

WB 10.3.25

11th March 2025 - am

14th March 2025 - 9:15am

17th March 2025 - all day

19th March 2025 - 9:15am

20th March 2025 - all day

21st March 2025 - all day

27th March 2025 - all day

1st April 2025 - pm

3rd April 2025 - pm

8th April 2025 - all day

9th April 2025 - 9:30am

WB 14.4.25

17th April 2025 - 11:00am

17th April 2025

Dignity of Work

Attentive and Discerning

Children return to school at normal time

Pet Day - animal theme dress up - see separate letter

Reception parent workshop about Maths

Careers Week / Vocations week

Whole school Mass in Church for Ash Wednesday - parents welcome

World book day - wear pyjamas

British Science Week

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (8:45 2G and 10:15 2E)

Y2 Year group assembly

INSET day - school closed for all pupils

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

One life Pilgrims of Hope Retreat for whole school

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

Parent Consultation Evening

Parent Consultation Evening

Year 2 school trip - Coal mining tour

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

Holy Week

Year 6 Stations of the Cross in Church for KS2 and parent

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