



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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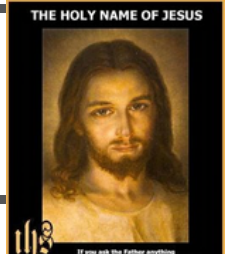


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - Compassionate and Loving



Dear parents and carers,

31st January 2025

Good afternoon, I have a few key things to talk about in today's newsletter and so I will use subheadings to help you find the information easily: - Please pay particular attention to my first item - I have received a lot of communication about irresponsible and dangerous parking over the past couple of weeks, including from: parents; local residents; the Police and Preet Gill MP. It has resulted in photos being taken, fines issued and a stronger Police Presence: -

Police warning for parents in regards to parking.

Staff in school are working closely with the Police to tackle unsafe driving, unsafe stopping and unsafe parking outside of school. We have been given an allocated police officer, who we will be reporting directly to. PC Anthony Henry, badge no 30847, will be patrolling Vivian Road frequently and wearing his camera. He is working with residents in Vivian Close; he has spoken with some of our families and recorded any incidences of unsafe stopping and parking, issuing fines.

PC Anthony Henry's presence is as a result of a series of warnings that have been ignored; and staff (and parents and residents), who have been verbally abused when tackling this problem. At school, we know that most parents drive and park safely. But, I have instructed staff to challenge any parking that is unsafe. I myself will be doing regular observations. It is important that you do not show aggression to staff who ask you to park and drive safely, we are trying to keep your children safe. Aggression aimed towards staff, will not be tolerated in any way.

We have also had communication from MP Preet Gill after a complaint from a resident. I have been written to with the license plates of offenders to speak to. This is a very difficult task. Key issues seem to be parents parking over the dropped kerbs, parking in the private parking bays, blocking driveways, and then being verbally abusive when asked to move - this must stop. Parents are not meant to park on single yellow lines or zig zags; or double park; or drop their children off in the middle of the road. This is incredibly dangerous. Please park safely - using Harborne cricket club, or Waitrose car park and walk the remainder of the way to school.

PC Henry praised the response many of our parents have shown by reporting incidences. He has asked me to remind you to continue to take photos and report unsafe driving, parking and stopping at 'operation snap'. so that together we will tackle the few who continue to make our environment unsafe for our children.

Year of the Jubilee - Pilgrims of Hope

On Friday 24th January, we had a fabulous Jubilee launch day in school, joining in with all Catholic Schools in the Diocese to learn more about what Catholics are expected to do during this special year. Archbishop Longley has asked all of us to focus on prayer, social action and fundraising in this year, so that we can help those who are poor and vulnerable, and those who need our help the most. All children have been given a badge to wear. The badge is for the children to wear throughout the entire school year to show that they strive to be pilgrims of hope.

Archbishop Visit

Archbishop Longley visited the parish of St. Mary's last weekend. It was such a wonderful celebration, where so many of St. Mary's community were present. Many of the staff and children were at the 9:30am family Mass and the choir sang beautifully. Following the Mass, families were welcomed in to school to have tea and cake with His Grace in our school hall. His Grace and Fr. Hilary were very complimentary of all the work that is going on in the Parish, and in the school to nurture the faith and behaviours of the children. I definitely had a proud Headteacher moment. Proud of the staff who go above and beyond; proud of the children; and proud of the special relationship that we have with the Church and priests. Long may this way of working continue.

Onjali Q. Rauf Visit

Today was another exciting day for children in Years 4 and 5, meeting author Onjali Rauf. They are really enjoying reading her books in class and it was an incredible opportunity to be able to find out more about her life; what inspires her; and why she feels so passionately about social action.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend, and look forward to another incredible week of learning next week. Keep those Power Projects coming in!

Mrs Yorke





Catholic Life



This week's Gospel and Prayer

1 Corinthians 12:27

*"Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one you is a part of it."*



Reflecting on this week's Second Reading, we learn:

- we are Christ's hands, feet and eyes in the world
- we are here to carry out Christ's mission of love and compassion

St Teresa of Avila's Prayer

Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which He looks lovingly on this world.

Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.

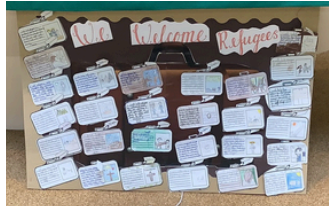
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes; you are His body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



Year 5 Mass - 22.1.25 - Mass for Refugees

Year 5 encouraged us to reflect on how the story of Mary and Joseph's flight to Egypt parallels the modern day plight of refugees in search of safety.



Year 2 Mass - 29.1.25 - Conversion of St. Paul

Year 2 taught us more about what it means to be Christ's Body and how we can share ourselves with others.



Our next Mass: - Y4 Mass - St. Josephine Bakhita

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 5th February 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 4 will be leading this Mass and Year 3 will be there too. All parents are welcome to attend.



Year 6 - trip to St. Chad's Cathedral

Year 6 had a wonderful day of formation at St. Chad's Cathedral. Our guides were inspiring and we learnt so much about the History of St. Chad's.





Catholic Life

Jubilee Launch Day - Friday 24th January

On Friday 24th January, all the Catholic schools and colleges in England celebrated the launch of the Jubilee.

We were so excited to be part of this special day.

Our house captains led our launch in school...

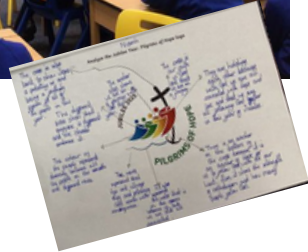
hope



The children then gathered in their house groups and watched the live stream together, before being led in a range of tasks by their house captains.



"God does not disappoint"



We are pilgrims of hope: and we are excited to wear our badges as an outward sign to everybody.

Catholic Life

Archbishop Bernard Longley visit

His Grace, Archbishop Longley visited St. Mary's, celebrating Masses, and meeting with the community.



Little acts of service:- our staff served the Community and even baked cakes. We hope that you enjoyed them!



We were all very excited to speak with His Grace, and tell him all about the work that takes place at St. Mary's.



Archbishop Longley expressed his gratitude at having the chance to see the school, meet the staff, and meet so many of our families.



A day to remember! Thank you to His Grace Archbishop Longley for visiting us, and to Fr Hilary, our Governors, staff, priests, families, & parishioners that help us to make St. Mary's such a special place to be!



Catholic Life

Author Onjali Q Rauf visit



Year 4 and Year 5 children are reading books written by Onjali Q Rauf. Both year groups today had the privilege of meeting the author and finding out more about her inspiration for writing the books.

Year 4 are currently reading "The Nightbus Hero". They engaged in an insightful Q&A session with Onjali, which made the book even more meaningful.

help! — and *love* ♡



It was fantastic to hear about the real people behind this book. Onjali's commitment to tackling homelessness and promoting social action really inspired the children. And they were thrilled to have her sign their copies of the book.



Year 5 were excited to meet Onjali and learn more about the real lives that inspired her amazing book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' Onjali is an inspiration and her commitment to social action and change is incredible.



The staff were inspired to day as well; and how we can all work together as one family and team to make a difference to our most poor and vulnerable through social action.

Welcome



Remarkable RE



You are Amazing!

Mrs Davis was delighted by the children's deep reflections and thoughtful questions in their RE books



Year 4 team were inspired by wonderful gifts from Jiantrine, brought in on St John Bosco feast day. Thank you.



Reception class were so excited to see Father Hilary and to talk to him about what he does to help the Parish community and the children sang one of their hymns to him.



Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme is; Know Yourself, Grow Yourself. This year, Children's mental health charity, Place2Be have focused on the Disney film 'Inside Out' to help teach children to identify their emotions.



Year 1 Harborne Library Visit - 4.2.25

Year 1 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

1F will leave at 8:45am

1L will leave at 10:15am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 1 staff know.

School Council organised dress down day - 4.2.25 For mental Health awareness

On Tuesday 4th February, children can come to school dressed as an Emotion Colour. The School Council have organised what colour the classes will be, they are as follows:

Reception - RED

Year 1 - YELLOW

Year 2 - PINK

Year 3 - GREEN

Year 4 - ORANGE

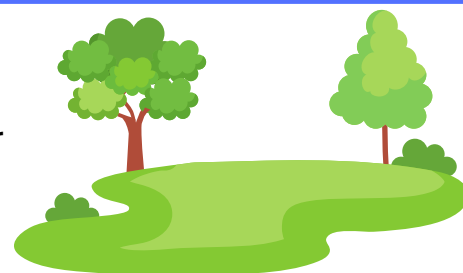
Year 5 - PURPLE

Year 6 - BLUE



Year 1 visit to Grove Park - 5th February

On the afternoon of Wednesday 5th February, Year 1 will be completing their field work and data collection as part of their geography learning based on 'My local area'. They will do this by observing the human and physical features in Grove Park.



Year 2 INSPIRE Workshop for parents - 1:30pm

Year 2 will be hosting an afternoon for parents to celebrate their achievements at home and in school. Children will share their learning from their History and Geography unit 'India' and their Design and Technology 'Food' unit. You will have the opportunity to work together with your child to make a healthy Indian style snack. To conclude the afternoon, the children will perform a 'Bollywood' inspired dance which they have learnt during their dance unit.



PTA meeting - 3:30pm on Thursday 6th February

Any parent can join us for a coffee and biscuit next Thursday, straight after school; and help plan PTA events. Our PTA is instrumental in raising vital funds for school and we're always looking for new ideas and volunteers to join our exceptional team.



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

If you have a concern that a child is being harmed, is at risk of harm, or you receive a disclosure (intentionally or unintentionally) you must contact one of the following staff members as quickly as possible:



Amy Davis	Louise Yorke	Rachel Jones	Rachel Richards	Sharon Tame	Laura Noone	Jade Preedy
Deputy Headteacher	Headteacher	Senior Teacher	EYFS Lead	School Counsellor	AHT	AHT
Lead DSL	Deputy DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL

Alternatively, email DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

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 –

Week 27/01/25-31/01/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	92.33	94.6	98.6	94.6	92.3	96.5	95.6	98.2	94	93.3	99.3	97	95.5	99.3
Lates	6	1	1	5	4	4	3	3	1	0	2	7	4	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%			School Target				97%	

Well done 5M and 6O: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this half-term

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

WB 3.2.2025

4th February 2025 - all day

4th February 2025 - am

5th February 2025 - 9:15am

6th February 2025 - 1:30pm

6th February 2025 - 3:30pm

WB 10.2.25

11th February 2025 - all day

12th February 2025 - am

14th February 2025 - 9:15am

14th February 2025 - end of day

Dignity of Work

Grateful and Generous

Children's Mental Health Week

World Mental Health dress-up day (organised by school council - see letter)

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:45 IF and 10:15 IL)

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

Year 2 INSPIRE workshop for parents

PTA meeting

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day

Reception Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome

Year 3 Year group Assembly

Break up for half-term break - normal time

Term Dates for Spring and Summer 2025: -

Spring Term	Monday 6 th January - Friday 14 th February
	Half-term
	Monday 24 th February - Thursday 17 th April
Summer Term	Tuesday 6 th May - Friday 23 rd May
	Half-term
	Monday 2 nd June - Friday 18 th July

INSET DAYS

- Monday 17th March 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025 and Tuesday 22nd July 2025



Star of the week

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

Year RB	Martin	For working really hard on his letter formation and making his handwriting neat.
Year RT	Chloe	For her fantastic independent learning decomposing 5 in different ways
Year IF	Sebastian	Striving for excellence with his work by completing extra challenges and being a super helper in the classroom.
Year 1L	Diako	For his excellent efforts in his learning and trying his best to complete every task well.
Year 2E	Sophie	For always trying hard to improve her work!
Year 2G	Ian	For trying really hard to create a collage of the 'Calming of the Sea', in RE!
Year 3L	Vaanie	For her super attitude to learning and super behaviour!
Year 3T	Danaya	For writing a wonderful retell in exciting writing, using lots of different sentence types!
Year 4J	Ella	For being focused and working really hard sentence structure in English
Year 4M	Maria	For hard work and resilience in completing all her tasks this week.
Year 5F	Maya	For trying really hard with her spelling and having a great all-round attitude to her learning.
Year 5M	Sam	For working really hard in every lesson and for producing a fantastic information page about Mount Fuji in Geography
Year 6O	Olivia	For constantly having a positive effect on our classroom learning environment
Year 6R	Isabella	For a great all-round attitude to her work



Star of the week

Congratulations to last week's children also:

Year RB	Vishvesh	For striving for excellence across all his learning!
Year RT	Sochika	For using her helping hands to tidy the small world area.
Year IF	Simona	For using lovely adjectives and the word 'because' in her writing.
Year IL	Nandi	For consistently striving for excellence and living out the school virtues daily
Year 2E	Zhimu	For thoughtful responses during class and group discussion
Year 2G	Chloe	For really improving her behaviour!
Year 3L	Agatha	For her fantastic exciting writing based on 'The Little Match Girl Strikes Back.'
Year 3T	Melissa	For writing a fantastic retell based on 'The Little Match Girl Strikes Back'.
Year 4J	Charlotte	For a kind and thoughtful letter to a refugee.
Year 4M	Milo	For being a great behaviour and academic role model for his classmates
Year 5F	Peter	For a fantastic improvement in his attitude to learning
Year 5M	Isla	For her excellent progression in Maths (especially fractions!)
Year 6O	Abigail	For constantly putting in 100% effort in all that she does
Year 6R	Eyobel	For his thoughtful explanation of why Christmas is an important celebration for Christians

