



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](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

[www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](http://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.

### March is dedicated to St. Joseph

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Dignity of Work'  
Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Attentive and Discerning'



Dear parents and carers,

14th March 2025

We have come to the end of another busy week in school that has brought many opportunities for the children: All children took part in British Science week, our U11 football team won the league, and some of our KS2 children represented the school at a Malypmics Event at Bishop Challoner today.

Our Reception classes also had a wonderful time at the farm and got to meet lots of interesting animals: -



£415.50  
Pet day

Thank you to those who supported our pet day!

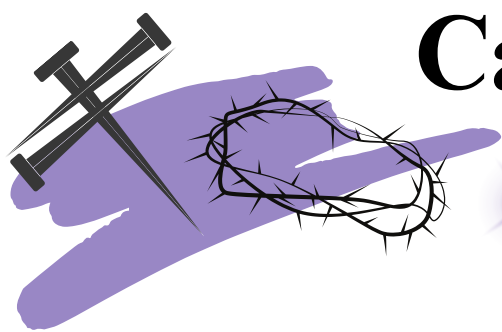
Within this newsletter, you will find information about how to book your parents' evening appointment through Gateway. The appointments open on Monday. You will also find the link to our CAFOD Lent Walk, which is how we are fundraising this Lent. We would appreciate any sponsorship for your children, who are walking 200km in 40 days for their chosen Lent charity.

Mothers' Day Inspire is coming up (not next week, but the following week). Please note that Year 6 will be on Monday 24th March at 1:30pm and the opportunity will be given to work with your child on Confirmation crosses. The rest of the school will have their workshop on Thursday 27th March. Each year group will be allocated an hour, where you can work with your child on an area of their curriculum. Details can be found within this newsletter. Our PTA will be available throughout the day selling drinks, snacks and mothers' day presents, so please bring any change with you to purchase this. This is our mothers' day inspire but any parent; or relative over the age of 18, can attend if mothers are not available. Please do not worry if you cannot attend the workshop. The children are completing a curriculum area of their learning and will be doing the same as their peers, whether an adult is in attendance or not.

And finally, we have an INSET day for school staff on Monday 17th March, so children will not be in school on this day. They can celebrate St. Patrick's day at home. The children will return to school on Tuesday at normal time. I hope that they enjoy this three-day period of rest to break-up our busy 8-week term.

Wishing all our families a lovely weekend. God bless,  
Mrs Yorke

# Catholic Life

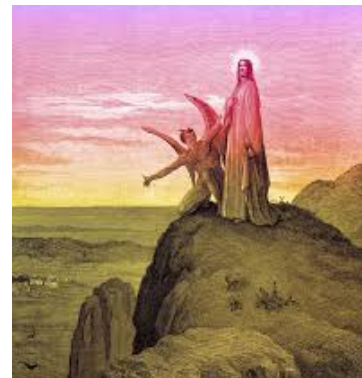


Luke 4:8

*'And Jesus answered him, "It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him shall you serve."*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- the year of Jubilee is an opportunity to draw closer to God
- During Lent, God calls us to free ourselves from things that get in the way of our friendship with Him.
- We can be 'Pilgrims of Hope' by experiencing God through prayer, fasting and almsgiving



# FORGIVE ME



Year 4 Mass - 12.3.25  
- 1st week of Lent

Year 4 led a reverent Mass which focused on penance. We asked God to help us recognise when we are wrong and ask for forgiveness



Our next Mass: – **Year 2 Mass – St. Joseph**

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 19th March 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 2 will be leading this Mass and Year 1 will also be in attendance. All parents are welcome to attend.



## Lenten Prayer bags



We hope that you are enjoying using the Lent prayer bags with your in your homes. Please tweet any pictures of them being used and tag us in [@StMaryB17](https://twitter.com/StMaryB17)



# Catholic Life

Catholic Social Teaching  
Building the Kingdom



Made in the image of God. Our Year 4 children have completed self-portraits - Picasso style.



## Charity

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

THE BIG LENT WALK

CAFOD Just one world

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-catholic-primary-school-fundraising-page>



£50 raised so far

## RE learning

In their RE learning, Year 5 reflected on Matthew 4:1-11 and learned valuable lessons from Jesus on resisting temptation. They identified common temptations, shared their feelings and discussed strategies to make better choices.

Satan's Temptation	Jesus' Response (Bible Quote)	My Rephrasing
Turn stones into bread	"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."	Men can live by the word of God, not just of physical things.
Jump from the Temple to test God	"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."	Don't test the Lord your God, for that will show you don't have all your faith in Him.
Worship Satan for power	"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him."	The Lord is our guide, worship only Him.

One temptation I sometimes face is doing my homework after 5:00pm. In a school zone, started and play music. It makes me feel happy because I don't always have time to play or talk with my sister.

Jesus faced temptation when he was in the desert for 40 days and nights. When Satan told him to turn stones into bread, he said, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4). In the other hand, the devil (Genesis 6:9-12) where people began to look sinful. Jesus as God punished everyone apart from his family and a friend and made a new animal type. This taught me that even very good people sinned on a thing. God punishes them, He also forgives them.

In my temptation I will remember that doing the right thing is becoming a better person. We Jesus was when He resisted temptations. His words are by striving for excellence, I will become like Jesus.

One temptation I sometimes face is distracting myself when I'm learning at school or home. It makes me feel like I want to escape the world of learning and jump into the world of reading because sometimes to be honest I feel a bit bored and lazy when I'm studying but I know it is good for me. I see temptation when in Matthew 4 when Satan says turn stones into bread or a story my mum tells me when I'm lazy. One day she needed some firewood and said 'I'll do it tomorrow's anyway. This one day, winter arrived and the man had no firewood so he was cold. To resist temptation, I talk with my dad and remember Jesus' example and my mum's story.

**Reflection and Extension Task**

If Jesus were tempted today, how might He respond in modern words?

Lesson 2—KU1, KU2b, KU2c, ER1, AE3

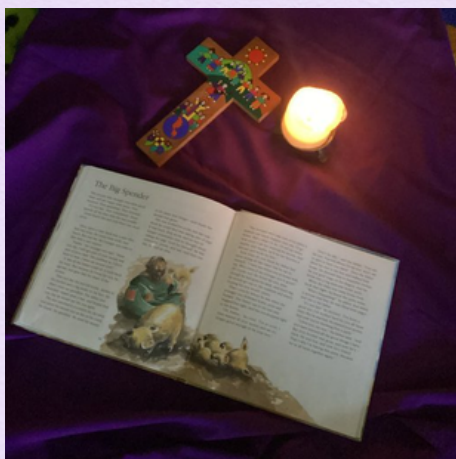
• All people trust God is with you always and do not be tempted for God is watching! Live the positive life. *God's Plan @ Faithful Hope*

# Prayer



Reception reflected on how we can get closer to Jesus by helping others. They wrote prayers to ask God to help others in need and added it to their class flower prayer.

Having listened to *The Prodigal Son*, Year 2 thought about the power of forgiveness and a time that they have said sorry to God for something they have done wrong.



Each child in Year 5 wrote a sin they were sorry for on a strip of paper. They then linked these together to form a chain of forgiveness. The chain has now been placed by the cross on their prayer table as a symbol of God's endless mercy.

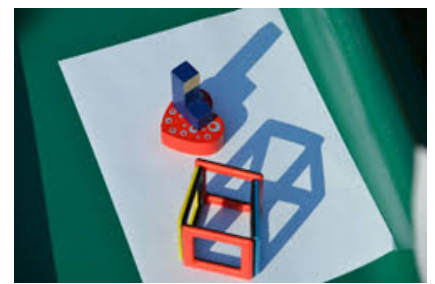
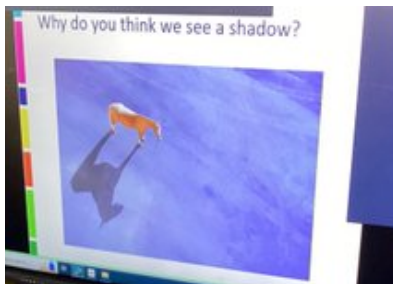
Ahead of their first Confession on Saturday, Year 3 wrote down things they were sorry for on post-its and used this to inform their prayer and liturgy session.



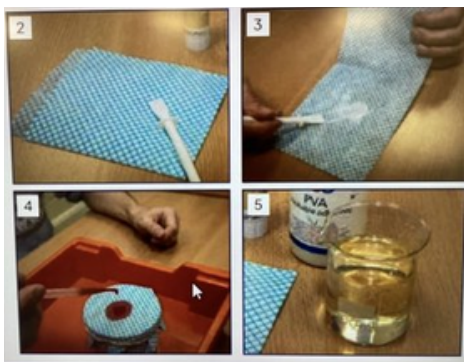
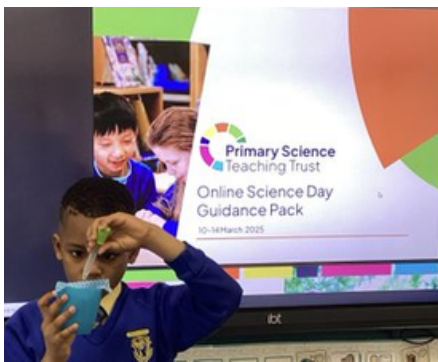
St. Alphonsa children led the prayer and liturgy in Reception class - thinking about the importance of saying sorry - like Jonah did in the story of Jonah and the whale.



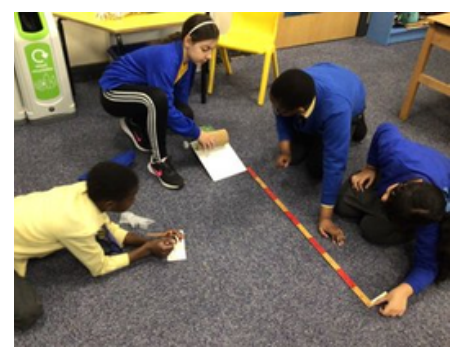
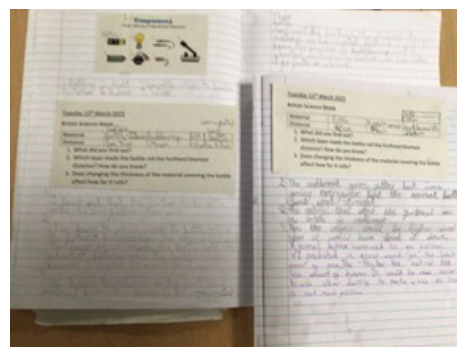
*In our live Science lessons... Reception class learnt all about how shadows are made*



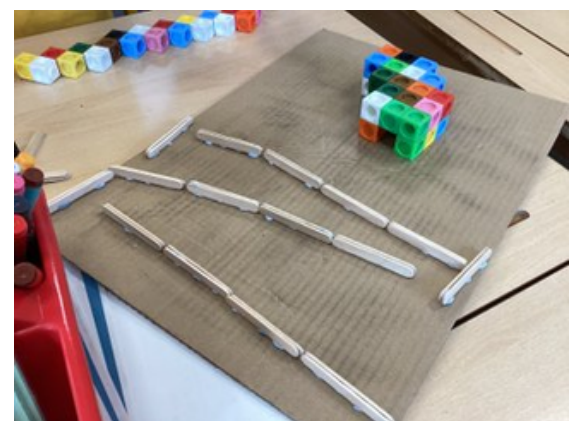
*KSI investigated materials, testing them to see if they were waterproof.*



*Scientists in Year 3 and 4 explored how the type of surface of a bottle affects how far it rolls.*



*In Year 5 and 6's BBC live lesson, they were tasked with making their own marble run, using knowledge of friction, to create the slowest run.*



Don't forget  
Parents'  
Evening!

Parents' evening consultations will open on  
Monday for your child, using School Gateway

Schoolgateway

Please book an appointment to see your child's teacher.  
Booking opens on Monday 17th March 2025 at 12pm  
and closes on Friday 21st March 2025 at 12pm.

Parents' evening appointment will be carried over two days: -  
**Tuesday 1st April 2025 and Thursday 3rd April 2025.**

All appointments will take place in the school hall.  
There will be an opportunity to look at your child's books following  
your appointment.

The appointment will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please do not arrive any more than 5 minutes early for your appointment to help us keep numbers in school to a minimum. Due to this, we ask that you do not bring children (including pre school children and babies) to your appointment.

Mrs Birchenall will be available on both Tuesday and Thursday evening for any parents who want to 'drop in' with her to discuss their child's SEND needs.

We will be asking all parents to complete a parent questionnaire on the night. Please look out for this.  
There will also be the opportunity to visit our book fair and to take home any pre-loved uniform.



**CLOSED**

### INSET DAY - 17.3.25

School will be closed to all children on Monday 17th March for a teacher training day.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school at normal time on Tuesday 17th March 2025.



### Harborne Library - 18.03.25

Year 1 are visiting Harborne Library on Tuesday 18th March. 1L are leaving school at 8.45am and 1F are leaving school at 10.15am.

If any parents would like to accompany these visits, please email the School Office.



### Whole School Lent Retreat Pilgrims of Hope - 20.3.25

We have organised a special retreat day in school to focus us on our journey as 'pilgrims of hope'.

OneLife Music will lead us in thought-provoking prayer and worship.

### Wear bright coloured, bold, quirky socks on 21st March...

The #LotsOfSocks campaign exists to raise awareness about Down syndrome.

#LotsOfSocks help us to get people talking on World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), celebrated each year on 21 March.

All you need to do is choose some socks that are going to get noticed - they might be mismatched socks or your craziest and most colourful socks, whatever takes your fancy!

If someone asks you about your socks you can tell them,

**"I'm wearing them to raise awareness of Down syndrome".**

Find out more by reading the letter on the next page sent in by one of our school families...



21 MARCH 2025  
**CELEBRATE**  
World Down Syndrome Day

**WEAR YOUR  
BRIGHTEST,  
BOLDEST,  
OR FUNKIEST  
SOCKS FOR  
WORLD DOWN  
SYNDROME DAY!**

Join us on March 21st in celebrating World Down Syndrome Day by wearing your funkiest socks to symbolise the uniqueness of every chromosome - each one valuable, and one-of-a-kind!

All funds raised will be donated to Down Syndrome UK, a national charity devoted to empowering parents and professionals in improving the lives of individuals with Down syndrome and their families in the UK.

Scan to donate

**DSUK**  
Down Syndrome UK

Positive About  
Down Syndrome

[www.downsyndromeuk.co.uk](http://www.downsyndromeuk.co.uk)  
Down Syndrome UK registered charity number 1184564



World Down Syndrome Day – 21st March 2025

Rock your Socks!



World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The date, 21st March (i.e. the 3rd month of the year), was chosen to reflect the fact that people with Down Syndrome have 3 copies of chromosome number 21.

Down Syndrome is a naturally occurring genetic condition caused by an extra chromosome. Babies with Down Syndrome are born to parents of all ages, races, religions and background. Down Syndrome usually causes varying degrees of intellectual and physical disability, and some associated medical issues. Approximately half of all children born with Down Syndrome have a heart defect and approximately half have problems with hearing and vision. Everyone with Down Syndrome has a learning disability so it takes longer to learn new information and master new skills; most children with Down Syndrome will learn to walk and talk but they will do so in their own time. Many will use Makaton sign language to help them communicate.

Our little boy, Seán, who happens to have Down Syndrome, will be starting in Reception at St. Mary's later this year. We are delighted that he has got a place at St Mary's and feel sure that he will be well supported. Come September, Seán will be very excited and immensely proud to head off down the driveway into school alongside his big sisters. There will undoubtedly be challenges along the way but we have no doubt that Seán will make a valuable contribution to school life and have a meaningful impact on those around him – teaching compassion when he looks to others for help, friendship when he insists on waving an individual goodbye to everyone in the class, patience when it takes him longer to complete a task, sportsmanship when he joins in a football game, and, above all else, acceptance of diversity.

We are pleased that St Mary's have chosen to mark World Down Syndrome Day again this year. We very much appreciate the opportunity to raise awareness and help ensure that all of our children grow up in a caring and inclusive environment.

Rock your socks! The idea of this campaign, which is observed around the world, is simply to get people talking about Down Syndrome. Socks were chosen as the basis of this international campaign because chromosomes are thought to look a little bit like pairs of socks. Wear your brightest, boldest and/or mismatched socks on 21st March and when somebody asks you about them, tell them you are raising awareness of Down Syndrome.

Thank you to Mrs Yorke and the staff at St Mary's, as well as all the children and parents who will be joining in the World Down Syndrome Day celebrations and doing their bit to help raise awareness. We are always happy to have a chat and would really encourage children to ask questions and find out more about Down Syndrome and what it means. We've learnt a lot over the last 4 years since Seán burst into our lives and are keen to encourage open conversations with children to help them understand, accept and embrace diversity so that children like Seán can grow up in an inclusive environment.

Look forward to seeing everyone rock their socks!!!

Mary, Phil, Cara, Josie & Seán Tomson





### *Upcoming dates and events*



### **Year 6 Confirmation workshop Parent Inspire - 24.6.25 - 1:30pm**

*Year 6 Inspire workshop is on Monday 24th March at 1:30pm.  
Children will be design a cross to represent their chosen  
Confirmation Saint and will paint this to join our display of  
crosses in the school corridor.*



### **Prayer Service**

**Year 6 prayer service for parents - 28.10.25 9:00am**  
*Year 6 are inviting parents, grandparents, family members  
to join them in a special prayer service in school.  
We hope that you can join us*

ST.MARYS SCHOOL PTA ARE HOSTING OUR  
SPRING HOP DISCO

St.Mary's Parish Centre

FRIDAY 28TH MARCH 6.30-8.30PM

Tickets- Child £4 Adult £2

Come and have fun with lots of dancing, toys, crafts, sweets  
and food



### **PTA event: - Spring Hop Disco**

Tickets will be on sale  
from the PTA team next  
week.





## INSPIRE Workshop (Mothers' Day) – 28th March 2025

Ahead of Mothers' Day, we will be hosting a special *INSPIRE* workshop for one parent to attend in school.

On Thursday 27th March, mums (or any family member over the age of 18) have the opportunity to come in to school and to work with their child on an area of the school curriculum.

Please find the timings for your workshop below...

**NB – Please note that Year 6 will have already held their *INSPIRE* workshop before this date on Monday 24th March – Confirmation Workshop.**

Please sign up using the school gateway, so that registers can be created and we know who is coming in to the building on this day (this will be set up on Monday).

All children will take part in their lesson, even if a parent or family member is unable to attend.

**Please note that we do not have the room for more than one parent per child to attend.**

We look forward to showcasing our lovely learning to you.

Unfortunately due to the nature of the *INSPIRE*, with a parent joining in with a lesson, it is not appropriate to bring pre-school children and babies to this event – we would find it difficult to fit them in the classrooms with 30 children and potentially 30 adults.

Teas and coffees will be set up for adults to purchase throughout the school day and money made will go towards our PTA projects. Prior to the workshop (or afterwards if you are about to attend another workshop) – please make your way to the school hall and you will be guided to the next lesson.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your first workshop. Gifts for mums will also be sold by the PTA on this day.

start time	workshop	where
9:00–10:00	Year 2 Art lesson – creating art	hall
10:15–11:15	Year 3 DT sewing activity – Egyptian collars	Y3 classes
11:30–12:30	Year 4 Life drawing art	hall
12:45–1:45	Reception and Year 1 gardening session	outside
2:00–3:00	Year 5 Marbelling	hall



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 Deputy Headteacher Lead DSL	Louise Yorke Headteacher Deputy DSL	Rachel Jones Senior Teacher DSL	Rachel Richards EYFS Lead DSL	Sharon Tame School Counsellor DSL	Laura Noone AHT DSL	Jade Preedy AHT DSL
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Alternatively, email [DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	95.6%	100%	98.6%	97%	95.3%	85.6%	96%	99.3%	96.3%	95.6%	99.3%	96.3%	99.3%	99.3%
Lates	1	3	2	2	1	4	2	2	1	2	1	4	0	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year	96.5%						School Target						97%	

Well done RT: - our joint Attendance Champions

# Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

17th March 2025 - all day

18th March 2025 - am

19th March 2025 - 9:15am

20th March 2025 - all day

21st March 2025 - all day

24th March 2025 - 1:30pm

25th March 2025 - am

26th March 2025 - 9:15am

27th March 2025 - all day

28th March 2025 - 9:00am

1st April 2025 - am

1st April 2025 - pm

2nd April 2025 - 9:15am

3rd April 2025 - pm

8th April 2025 - all day

9th April 2025 - 9:30am

10th April 2025 - 9:00am

11th April 2025 - all day

WB 14.4.25

17th April 2025 - 11:00am

17th April 2025

Dignity of Work

Attentive and Discerning

INSET day - school closed for all pupils

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:45 1L and 10:15 1F)

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

Year 6 Confirmation Workshop with parents

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (8:45 4J and 10:15 4M)

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

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

Year 6 prayer service for parents

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (8:45 3L and 10:15 3T)

Parent Consultation Evening

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Year 2 school trip - Coal mining tour

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

Reception prayer service for parents

Year 3 school trip to Birmingham Art Gallery

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



# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Nino	<i>Fantastic enthusiasm during our farm trip - fully engaged and eager to learn about animals</i>
Year RT	Libby	<i>Being an active participant in our farm trip and sharing lots of ideas</i>
Year IF	Ava	<i>Attentiveness in art lessons and creating a wonderful piece of art work</i>
Year IL	Priam	<i>Excellent learning during prayer and liturgy this week and teaching Makaton to his peers</i>
Year 2E	Massimo	<i>Fabulous attitude to his learning and for trying hard in all lessons</i>
Year 2G	Ava	<i>For her excellent Exciting Writing</i>
Year 3L	Waran	<i>Super attitude to his learning and for being resilient when he has found the work challenging</i>
Year 3T	Georgie	<i>Trying incredibly hard across all subjects this week, especially Exciting Writing</i>
Year 4J	Phoebe	<i>For being an excellent role model in class</i>
Year 4M	Daniel	<i>Improvement in behaviour and attitude to learning</i>
Year 5F	Nathan	<i>Trying hard to improve the presentation of his work and his attitude to learning</i>
Year 5M	Shiza	<i>Fantastic effort in every maths lesson and always trying to challenge herself in her learning</i>
Year 6O	Ali	<i>Consistently using beautiful manners around the school</i>
Year 6R	Jayne	<i>For her consistently hard working, mature approach to tasks</i>

