



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: Miss L. J. Price M.Ed.

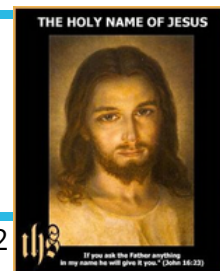


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

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: - 'Curious and Active'



21st January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

This week has been 'refugee week'. We have learnt so much about refugees! We had a Mass for them on Wednesday and we concluded our week with a retreat in school today. All of our learning will help us as we move towards becoming a 'school of sanctuary'. As you are aware from letters that I have sent out, numbers of Covid cases have risen this week, please see the Covid section of this newsletter for an update. Our lane system is in place to ensure that dismissal can take place safely. We ask for you to use these lanes correctly and to come at the time that your child is dismissed (not earlier). 3pm for Reception, 3:10 for KS1, 3:20 for siblings and 3:30 for KS2. Lining up earlier than your time causes a backlog for others so please wait for your time. When you arrive at your time - join the correct lane - **Do not come up the middle.** Leave down the middle. Thank you, Miss Louise Price

This week's Gospel and prayer

John 2: 1-11 - "Do whatever He tells you."

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

- We can always go to Jesus with our problems.
- Mary leads us to Jesus.
- We can act on our belief in Jesus by asking Him for help, listening to His guidance, and following His instructions.

Dear Jesus,

Like Mary, help us come to you first with all our problems and ask you to help us.

Give us ears to listen to you.

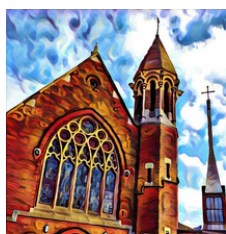
Like the servants, help us faithfully follow your instructions.

Help us believe in you. Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 2 Mass - for Refugees

Year 2 dedicated their Mass to refugees on Wednesday. The children offered hearts strung together to welcome refugees.

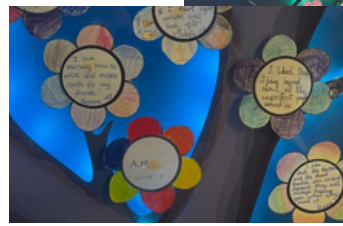
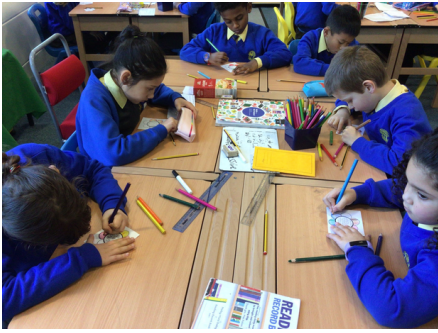


Y1 Mass in Church - 26.1.22 at 9:15am - St. Paul the Apostle

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 26th January, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 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).

Go Forth

Following Monday's Gospel assembly, every child was set a task to 'actively' explain what is great about St. Mary's to somebody who is 'curious' to find out about our school. What a wonderful place St. Mary's is to be!



This week's news

Poetry Competition - Michael Rosen <https://peters.co.uk/michael-rosen-poetry-competition>

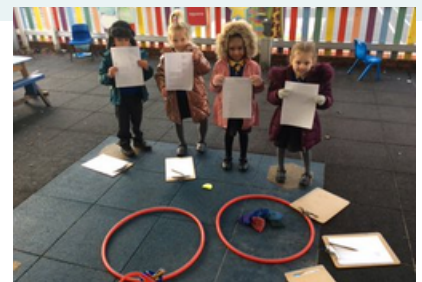


Poetry competition for ages 7-11: Write your own poem on overcoming a challenge or difficulty and win a virtual author visit.

Please hand in any entries to Mrs. Keating by Friday 11th February 2022

Reception news: -

Reception class have been exploring the different numbers that go into 5 and how these can be recorded in different ways.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been learning all about toys and made their own fairground sculptures.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been meteorologists and gymnasts this week.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been ordering and comparing mass and volume.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about digestion in Science, recreating the digestive system using a pair of tights, biscuits, juice, a banana and water with rather messy results!



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been geographers, investigating the features of a river system.

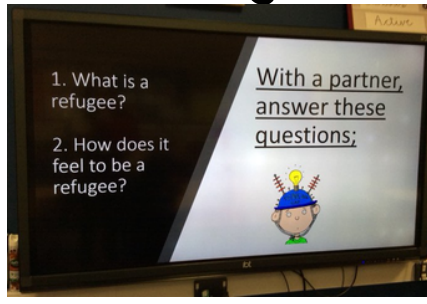


Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been competing with one another in their SPAG lessons.



Refugee Week



The children in 4F planned, prepared and led collective worship for their peers.



Year 2 have created beautiful drawing of the Holy family's flight in to Egypt.



Refugee Retreat - Friday 21st January 2022

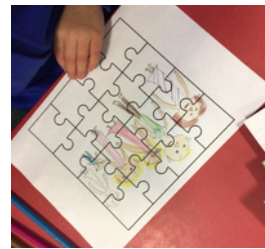
Thank you to our Spiritual Council and Mrs. Davis for planning our retreat. Well done to all the children and thank you for all the hard work of the teachers. The retreat was very thought-provoking and helped us learn more about the difficulties refugees face.

Reception class have been exploring Mrs Richards' question, "What is a refugee?"



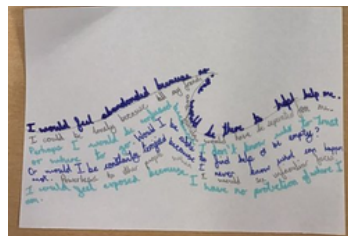
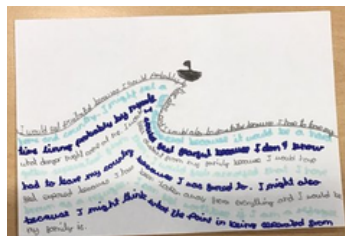
Y1 explored how they might feel if they did not have enough money to buy any clothes

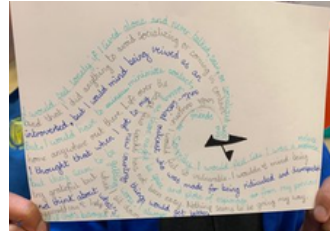
Y2 have explored the question 'How would you feel if you couldn't see your friends or relatives?' They drew their loved ones onto a jigsaw to show that families should stay together!



Y3 How would you feel if you couldn't say what you believed?

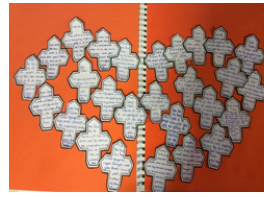
Y4 answered Mrs McConnell's question of how they would feel if forced to live separated from their loved ones





Y5: How would you feel if it wasn't safe for you to stay in your community? How would it feel if you couldn't say what you believed? How would you feel if you had to live somewhere far away from everyone else?

Y6 explored 'How do you think refugees feel when they arrive in a new country?' We learnt to speak Kurdish, a language spoken in Syria. Ismail helped us as his family speak Kurdish at home - he was a great teacher!

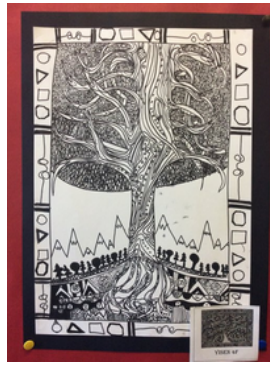


P.E. learning



We have all been improving our P.E. skills this week, even the teachers.

Art learning



Y1 Early reading and maths workshop

Parents joined Y1 teachers, Mrs Russell and Miss Ruhan to find out more about early reading and maths at St. Mary's and how to support their child at home



Geography Day - Friday 28th January 2022

Every year group will be given a country to learn more about on our Geography day this Friday. Children (and staff) can come in to school dressed in the colours of their given country. There is no charge for dressing in their flag colours, but any donations to school fund is appreciated and will go towards geography resources for school.



YR - England



Y1 - Russia



Y2 - India



Y3 - United Arab Emirates



Y4 - Brazil



Y5 - Peru



Y6 - Indonesia



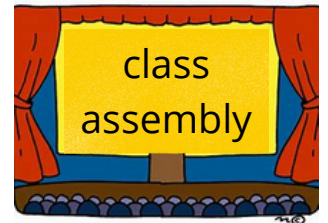
Early Reading and Maths workshop for Y2 parents

Year 2 parents are welcome to join us (covid numbers permitting) for our early reading and maths workshop on Wednesday 26th January in the school hall. Please take a Lateral Flow Test prior to attending the workshop and wear a mask throughout. Thank you.

4L Class Assembly

We are looking forward to welcoming 4L parents in to school, next Friday 28th January.

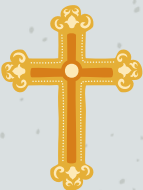
Please LFT before coming and wear a mask when you are in the school building. Arrive from 9am for a 9:15am start.



Parish News

St Mary's Family Mass 9:30am - Sunday 23rd January

For pre-school, Reception and Years 1 and 2 children, please go straight to the Parish Centre - and join the Mass after 15 minutes (approximately). Children of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, should remain in Church for the whole of the Mass. This is especially important for Years 3 and 6, as the part of their Sacramental preparation.



Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation programme

If your child is preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, please ensure that your child attends the Saturday classes.

9:30 - 11:00 For Holy Communion (Parish centre)

11:30 - 12:45 for Confirmation (Parish Centre)



Altar Server Training

For all those who are interested in becoming an altar server. A date is to be confirmed for the training soon.

NO Rucksacks

There is no room for the rucksacks in school. We have two boxes for older children who sometimes need to bring a bigger bag in to school as they are doing PE clubs, but other than that every child needs to bring in a book bag.

This is for health and safety reasons, it is a matter of time before somebody trips over these unnecessary large bags and hurt themselves. It is important that we consider everybody and follow school policies.

NO PARKING!

Thank you to our parents who are being considerate with their parking. Unfortunately, we do have some parents who continue to park illegally on double yellow lines and in no stopping zones. Your information / car registration may be passed on to the police / city council, if you continue to park illegally.

Please put the safety of our children and community first when parking.

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.

Books that I have read and shared			
Date	Book	Page No.	Comments

Reading diaries

Please remember to sign the reading diary for your child when you have read with them at home. Children learn to read best when they read to an adult every day, who can support them with intonation, pronunciation, new words and meaning. Children have daily reading lessons in school, but make most progress when they read at home too.

No dogs / smoking in the school grounds

Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed in the school grounds under any circumstances; whether on a lead or carried. This is due to health and safety reasons, and that some children are scared by dogs no matter the size. Thank you for your understanding with this.

In addition, we do not allow smoking of any sort, including vapes or e-cigarettes on the school grounds.



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

When buying on amazon, you can name 'St Marys Roman Catholic School Pta' as a registered charity. 0.5% of what you spend automatically goes to the PTA pot, which they use to buy things for school (at no extra cost to you) - it's just like ticking gift aid.

Hair styles

We can not allow extreme hair styles in school. This is a reminder that long hair must be tied back. All hair should be one colour. Extreme cuts and lines are not allowed. Large bows and coloured beads are not allowed (small bows and head bands are allowed). All hair styles must be neat and sensible and not a distraction to others. Thank you.

Collecting your children at the end of day

Please take time to re-read the end of day collection plan as we have noticed an increasing amount of people not following it. Teachers will release children to those following the queuing system only.

When queuing, please leave room for over-taking in the lanes. Nobody should bypass the queue and come straight up the middle. The middle is so that a larger amount of people can leave school grounds safely.

This system is to keep us all safe in times of Covid. SLT will approach anybody who is not following it and you will be asked to join the queue correctly.

End of day

Please take note of the new end of day timings... following a review of end of day routines: -

At 3:10pm, Reception parents (once children are in full time) are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

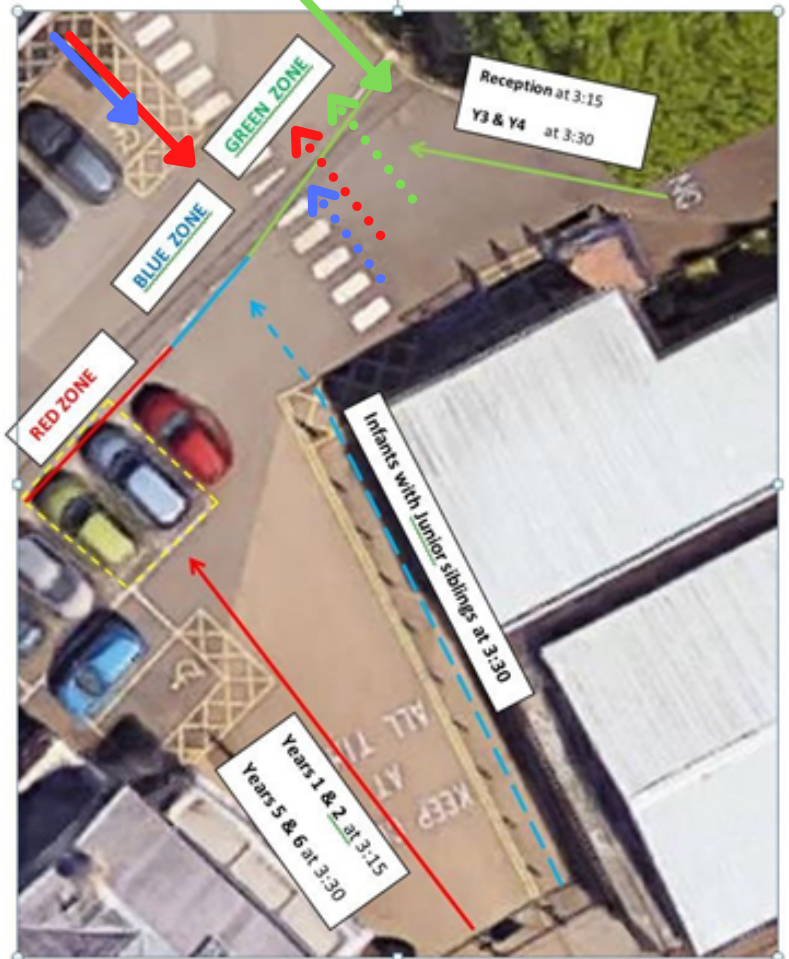
At 3:15pm, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:20pm, siblings will be released to parents, who will walk down on the **right** hand side (as shown by the blue arrows). Your children will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 3 and Year 4 parents are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 5 and Year 6 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

END OF DAY COLLECTION POINTS AND TIMES -



Please note: -

The school has a walking home policy that states that children should be picked up by the parents.

We encourage children to only walk home by themselves in the Summer term of Year 6.

Positions available on the PTA - The PTA are in need of a treasurer, secretary and office bearer. If you would like to fulfil this position, please speak to Chair of PTA or Miss Price.

Role of the Treasurer-

The Treasurer ensures accurate financial records are kept and best practice procedures are followed for counting money, banking and making payments. He or she should keep the committee updated with regular reports, and ensure end of year reports are completed for the association's AGM and the Charity Commission annual return.

The Secretary role-

The Secretary supports the Chair to build effective communication links between the school and the association and maintains accurate records. They take the minutes at the meetings and keep an update on actions.

The Office Bearer role-

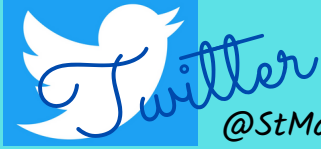
The office bearers ensure that the committee fulfils its responsibilities. They advocate for the PTA and act in accordance with the PTA's constitution and financial matters. They work as a team member through support and assisting with projects.



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.

Online Safety



@StMaryB17

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!!!

Do you know what conversations your children are having online?

Please monitor your child when they are talking with their friends whilst playing games online and if they are communicating via social media groups. Some children are saying unkind things to each other and this is then brought back in to school. School will continue to educate all children about the correct use of the Internet and social media so please support us in enforcing this at home.

Covid Update

Cases of those testing positive for the Covid-19 virus have risen this week. We are currently at stage 2.2 as a school and have reached stage 3 (5 or more cases) in 2 of our classes.

As a school, we are keen to ensure that we protect children's education and limit disruption for parents and so we are putting in extra precautionary measures next week to limit children's contact with each other, in the hope that numbers will begin to fall again.

The measures we are putting in are outlined in our Covid outbreak plan but include: -

- Ensuring that affected areas (classes/rooms where threshold has been met) are deep cleaned before next use.
- Ensuring that any enclosed spaces are adequately ventilated (this is why the windows are open).
- Sibling/household close contacts over the age of 5 daily LFD test for 7 days.
- Promoting prompt isolation and LFD testing.
- Reverting to video-link assemblies.
- Having separate areas for break-time and lunch.
- Having lessons outside if the weather allows.
- Increased hand washing routines.
- Enhanced cleaning regimes.
- Staff social distancing and use of PPE as appropriate.

We are hopeful that by following these measures for a week, numbers will decrease. However, if numbers do continue to rise, I will write to the affected classes in the week.

Currently, we are able to run before and after school clubs, and the leaders will also put in extra precautions to keep the children in year groups. However, if more classes move to stage 3, I may cancel these clubs. I will give as much notice as possible if reaching this decision.

Please continue to report any positive cases to covid@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Dates for next term

26th January 2022 - 9:15am -

26th January 2022 - 9:15am -

28th January 2022 - 9:15am -

28th January 2022 - all day -

1st February 2022 - all day -

2nd February 2022 - 9:15am -

4th February 2022 - all day -

7th February 2022 - 9:00am -

8th February 2022 - 9:00am -

9th February 2022 - 9:15am -

11th February 2022 - 9:15am -

16th February 2022 - 9:15am -

18th February 2022

28th February 2022 - all day -

2nd March 2022 - 9:30am -

4th March 2022 - all day -

9th March 2022 - 9:15am -

11th March 2022 - 9:15am -

15th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

15th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

16th March 2022 - 9:15am -

16th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

16th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

17th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

17th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

18th March 2022 - 9:15am -

21st March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

21st March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

22nd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

22nd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

23rd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

23rd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

25th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

25th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

29th March 2022 - after school -

31st March 2022 - after school -

Y1 Mass in Church (Y1 parents welcome)

Maths and Phonics workshop in school for Y2 parents

Year 4L Class Assembly in school (4L parents welcome)

World Geography Day in school

INSET day - school closed for all pupils

YR Mass in Church (YR parents welcome)

World Maths Day

Safer Internet and Online Safety coffee morning for Reception / KSI parents

Safer Internet and Online Safety coffee morning for KS2 parents

Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome)

Year 3L Class Assembly in school (3L parents welcome)

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome)

Break up for February half-term - finish at normal time

Children return to school

Whole school Mass for Ash Wednesday (children only)

World Book Day

Y2 Mass in Church

Year 3F Class Assembly in school (3F parents welcome)

YRF Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

YRL Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y5 Mass in Church

Y1F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y1L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y3F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y3L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2F Class Assembly in school (2F parents welcome)

Y5F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y5L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y4F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y4L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y6F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y6L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Parent consultations

Parent consultations

Term Dates

Spring 1

Monday 3rd January – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4th January – Children return to school

Tuesday 1st February - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Friday 18th February

Half-Term:

Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February 2022

Spring 2

Starts: Monday 28th February

Monday 28th March - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 14th April 2022

Easter Holiday:

Monday 18th April to Friday 29th April 2022

Summer 1

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May

Tuesday 3rd May – Children return to school

Thursday 5th May - Closed for Local Election Day

Ends: Friday 27th May

Half-Term:

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Summer 2

Starts: Monday 6th June

Tuesday 5th July - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 21st July 2022

Friday 22nd July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee

Summer Holidays:

Start Monday 25th July 2022



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

Year RL	Liam	brilliant effort with reading and writing this week
Year RF	Harley	writing his name independently and working hard in phonics lessons
Year 1L	Ella	working really hard and trying her best all week
Year 1F	Lucia	super effort in all her learning
Year 2L	Jennifer	excellent effort in reading
Year 2F	Mustafa	always trying his best
Year 3L	William	fantastic learning in maths this week
Year 3F	Kate	being curious and active in her learning this week
Year 4L	Joanna	great perseverance in spelling
Year 4F	Catherine	amazing timestables learning
Year 5L	Lexie	always showing kindness and being attentive to the needs of others
Year 5F	Logan	a very positive start to St. Mary's
Year 6L	Brittany	working really hard in all subjects and showing great enthusiasm to learning
Year 6F	Matilda	putting in lots of effort and making a good start to the Spring term

