



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.

December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'The Dignity of the Human Person'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Attentive and Discerning'



Dear parents and carers,

22nd December 2023

On behalf of all the staff and Governors of St. Mary's, I would like to wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas, full of love, hope and peace. This Sunday, we light our fourth candle on the advent wreath. Our final purple candle symbolising 'peace' and we are reminded of the message of the Angels 'Peace on Earth, good will to all'. We break up today feeling grateful for the times that we have shared and the learning that has taken place. This has been a particularly special week in school and children have been wonderful in their Nativities, Carol Service, Christmas Mass and celebration assemblies. We are all ready to break up now and to enjoy time with family and friends. We return to school on Wednesday 8th January at the normal time. Please can I remind you that the school gate closes at 8:45am. Any children arriving after 8:45am receives a late mark, which affects their attendance - procedures for requesting absence will be changing after the Christmas break. I will write you about this in January. We do thank all of you for your continued support of the school and our charity work.

I really do hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

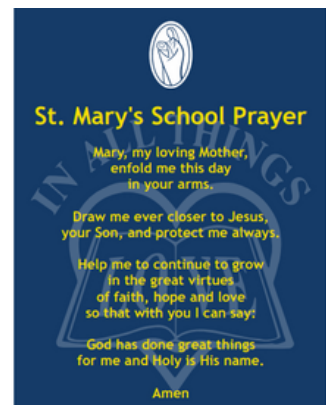
John 1:7

"so that everyone might believe".

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- John the Baptist helped people to recognise Jesus, the light, and believe in Him.
- The Shepherds and Wise Men believed in and worshipped Jesus as their Saviour.
- We too are called to believe in and worship Jesus, the Light of the World.

Father in Heaven,
 We are getting ready to welcome
 your Son, Jesus. Help us to draw
 ever closer to you.
 So that we may be ready to say
 "Yes",
 just like Mary.
 Amen



Catholic Life in School

Whole School Mass - 22.12.23

Today, the entire school gathered for our Christmas Mass. It was a lovely way to close our Autumn term.



Y3 Mass - Baptism of the Lord

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 10th January 2024, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 children will be leading our Mass and Year 4 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.

Fourth advent candle



Peace

As we approach the third week of Advent, let's come together in reflection. The "Angel's Candle" signifies peace, reminding us of the angels' timeless message: "Peace on earth, good will to all."

May the "Angel's Candle" inspire us to be ambassadors of peace, spreading goodwill in our community and beyond.

Scripture

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." -

John 14:27

Reflection

Nurturing Inner Peace

In this season of Advent, symbolising peace, let's explore the profound tranquillity that emanates from within and the Jesus that talks to us, if we allow Him to, when we are still. When we have this ourselves, we can be at one with the world and calm when presented with the challenges come our way and respect our differences with others. How can we cultivate and share this peace within ourselves and extend it to others?

open question

In what ways can we actively contribute to creating a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere within our school community and beyond?

Peace

Task

A Creative Harmony -

Families, let your reflections flow into a creative expression of peace. It might be a peaceful poem, a visual representation, or any form that captures the essence of peace. Share your creations with us, and let the light of peace radiate throughout our community.



Peace

Peace is not rude or unkind.
Peace is the most essential part of mind.
Peace is to be devoted to God, others and even you.
Peace is radiance and love.
Peace is the vivid glow from above.

"Peace is freedom from disturbance, it is quiet and tranquility."

By Alexandra H
Age 12

The last line is the definition resource from google.com

www.MattieOnline.com

Advent prayer... at home



It has been wonderful to see our children using the Prayer Bags with their families at home.



and in school ...

Believers themselves must constantly feel challenged to live in a way consistent with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. They need to be encouraged to be ever open to God's grace and to draw constantly from their deepest convictions about love, justice and peace. Landato Si with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. They need to be encouraged to be ever open to God's grace and to draw constantly from their deepest convictions about love, justice and peace. Landato Si with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. They need to be encouraged to be ever open to God's grace and to draw constantly from their deepest convictions about love, justice and peace. Landato Si with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions. They need to be encouraged to be ever open to God's grace and to draw constantly from their deepest convictions about love, justice and peace. Landato Si



As we lit our third Advent candle, the children came in to school wearing pink as a reminder that this week is about "Joy".



Building God's Kingdom

Our Advent Charity Work

A massive thank you was received from the Co-op pyjama appeal, helping local children in need, who wanted to thank the staff of St. Mary's for their kind donation.

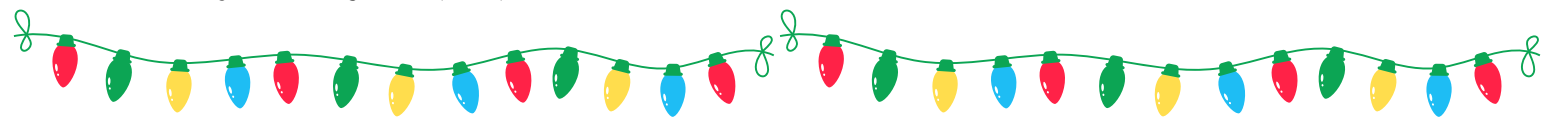
Our donation of 42 pairs of Pyjamas was added to the 250 pyjamas distributed to the local Foodbank, two Baby banks, two community hubs, a local school and Birmingham City Mission.



CAFOD
Just one world

*Cafod
Club*

We have raised an amazing £353.55 for CAFOD's 'World Gifts!' Thank you to everybody who donated. You have helped us live out our school mission by 'loving all people'.



Carols

by candlelight

Thank you so much to St. Mary's choir and Mrs McConnell for supporting this charity event for 'SHELTER'. We raised £850 that evening which is a fantastic amount. Thank you PTA too.

Nativities

It has been a joyous week in school. The children have enjoyed performing the nativities this week to you and we have received such lovely messages for the staff. We are glad that you enjoyed them. Thank you for the hours of support learning lines and song lyrics and helping to prepare costumes. It was all worth it!

Reception wowed us with their version of the Christmas Story!



KSI dazzled us with their performance of 'The Inn-spectors'



Years 3 and 4 delighted us with their performance of "Who took the Mary out of Christmas" - a fantastic version of the Christmas Story told from Mary's perspective.



Years 5 and 6 amazed us with their Carol Service retelling the Christmas Story accompanied by traditional carols.



Reception news: -

Reception made icing using icing sugar and water and talked about how it changed from a powder to a liquid!
They decorated biscuits with snowflake designs to enjoy at the end of their Bedtime Story Day!



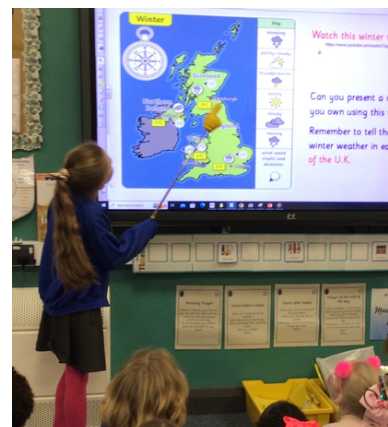
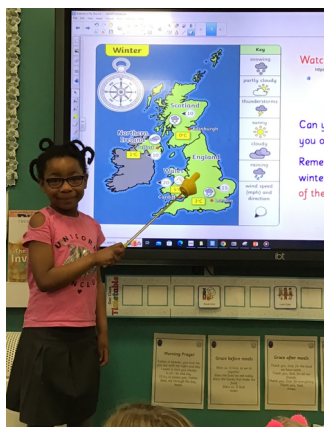
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been busy making puppets in DT



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been exploring U.K weather and climate. The children put on their best T.V voices to present a winter weather forecast before creating a winter forecast of their own.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning all about ballads. During their learning, they have listened to and performed the song 'Space Oddity' by David Bowie!



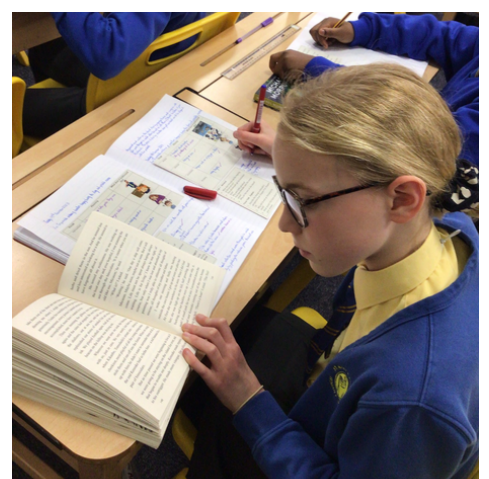
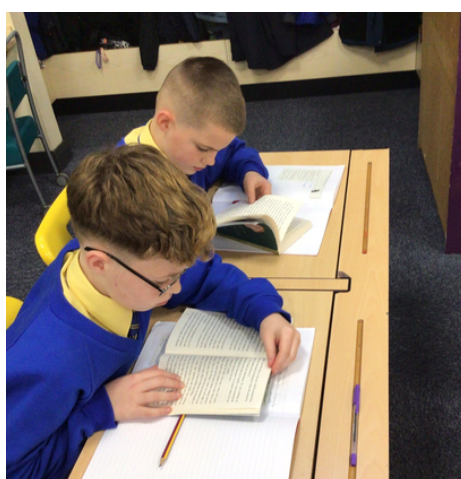
Year 4 news: -

Thank you to ADP Architecture for supporting the Year 4 curriculum. The children recreated an amazing city and had to think about how we use space in Birmingham.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have loved reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom' in their Guided Reading sessions this half term. It was linked to the Building the Kingdom theme of Dignity of the Human Person and the children discussed how Kensuke dealt with the adversity that he faced.



Year 6 news: -

Builders in Year 6 have created Anderson shelters in DT lessons.



Other News

Congratulations!

Massive congratulations to Melissa. We couldn't be prouder of her for receiving her British Citizenship yesterday.

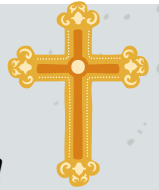


Thank you to Mark and all the coaches at Alvechurch Football club for a fantastic term of football coaching and for the children's selection boxes.





St Mary's Parish Penitential Service and Christmas Mass times:



*Penitential Service - Tuesday 19th December at 7:30pm
where two or three visiting priests together with the various Friars will be seated
around the Church and will be ready to offer you the peace and forgiveness of Christ
in your preparation for Christmas*

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th: 6.00pm and 8.30pm - both these are 'Midnight' Masses;

Christmas Day 25th: 8.00am; 9.30am and 11.30am (no evening Mass)

This is an Operation Encompass School

KEEPING SAFE

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



Get to know Age Ratings

Age ratings are in place to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing. **Did you know that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16?**



Attendance and Punctuality: -

Our attendance for last week was -

Attendance

Week 18th December – 22nd December

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	93.3%	90%	95.9%	96.6%	82%	96.6%	99.1%	87%	97.9%	92.5%	93.7%	87.9%	97.1%	94.4%
Lates	4	1	4	7	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	4	4
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.5%			School Target				97%	

Well done Y3L: - Our attendance champions for the second week running!

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

8th January - all day

10th January 2024 - 9:15am

11th January 2024 - 3:30-4:30

16th January 2024 - all day

16th January 2024 - 2:15pm

17th January 2024 - 8:45am

17th January 2024 - 9:15am

24th January 2024 - 9:15am

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Compassionate and Loving

Children return to school at normal time

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

PTA meeting in school

Fantastic phonics day for Reception and KS1

Year 1 Phonics and Early Reading Workshop for parents

Year 6 SATs workshop for parents

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

Year 5 Mass for Year 5 parents in school hall

Dates for next term



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

Year RB	Anna	For always making good choices and trying her hardest in school - well done!
Year RT	Sparkle	For always being such a good girl! Thank you Sparkle!
Year 1F	Damian	For being an excellent St Mary's pupil and a delight to teach!
Year 1L	Aloysius	For being a wonderful St. Mary's pupil. Good luck in your new school!
Year 2E	Estelle	For singing her solo beautifully in the KS1 nativity.
Year 2G	George	For being a wonderful St. Mary's pupil. Good luck in your new school!
Year 3L	Sofia CD	For her super effort in the nativity and singing the songs beautifully.
Year 3T	Peonya	For her superb effort in the nativity and supporting others.
Year 4J	Abigail	For her excellent narrative writing this week.
Year 4M	Alvis	For his resilience and hard work in lessons.
Year 5F	Claire	For quiet determination, excellent manners and very good reading in Carol Concert.
Year 5M	Benjamin	For a great performance in the Carol Service.
Year 6O	Henry	For his performance in the Carol Service.
Year 6R	Victor	For singing and performing so beautifully in the Carol Service.

