



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Faith-filled and hopeful'



22nd March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

The teachers enjoyed speaking with you this week about the progress of your children at our Parent Consultation Evenings. Thank you to those of you who completed our parent questionnaire. We are very keen to act on the feedback from all of our stakeholders, as we plan priorities for next year. Of course it is wonderful to read so many positive comments too and to know what we're doing well.

On Thursday, we raised awareness for those who have Down Syndrome by celebrating World Down Syndrome Day. The children came in wearing bright and bold socks and they have also been able to plant sunflowers. As the sunflowers grow, the children can reflect on how we all grow at different rates but are all just as unique and beautiful as one another. We enter Holy Week next week and will be learning about Jesus's final week before His death and resurrection, concluding with the Stations of the Cross on Thursday at 11am in the Church.

Have a lovely weekend. Mrs Yorke

John 4 : 14 *This week's Gospel and Prayer*

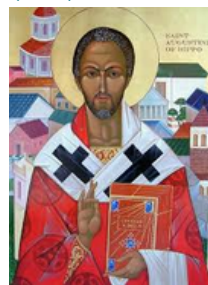
"This is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them, I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people".

Spirit Prayer of St. Augustine

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.
Amen*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- God promises that we all belong to Him.
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as a permanent sign of belonging to God.
- We can Give, Act, and Pray during Lent to express our belonging to God.



Catholic Life in School

Whole School Mass - 20.3.24 - 5th Week of Lent

The whole school community gathered for Mass this week and thought about how Jesus served other and washed the feet of His disciples.



No Mass next week

The children will be leading their own prayer services as we journey with Jesus through Holy Week, so there will be no Mass in Church next week. These services will be for the children and staff only.

Stations of the Cross

All parents are invited to join us as Year 6 children lead us through the Stations of the Cross on **Thursday 28th March at 10:45am** (for an 11am prompt start).



Our Lenten Journey

"During this Lent, let us all ask the Lord: Make our hearts like yours."

-Pope Francis



Charity: - **CAFOD** JustOneWorld

KS2 are walking 200km for CAFOD this Lent - please sponsor us!

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-big-lent-walk2025>

£483

raised so far

DONATE

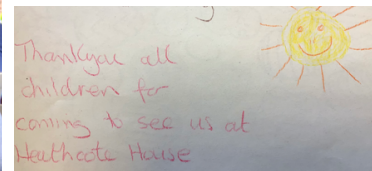


Thank you so much for all those who have sponsored us in our Big Lent Walk - we have gone past our target of £350.

We really do appreciate the wonderful effort of the children in our charity work and your sponsorship.

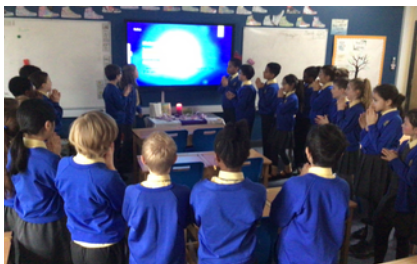
Heathcote House

Year 2 have loved spending time with their new friends at Heathcote House this week!



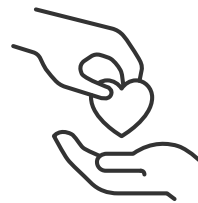
Prayer & Liturgy

The children led some beautiful collective worship across the school this week - all ages planned and led services in their classrooms.



Almsgiving

Our display in the Hall is getting fuller by the day with all the children's fantastic home learning pieces.



*Supporting our Lenten charities: -
FOCUS Birmingham, CAFOD, homeless charities...*

**Year
R**

Reception class will be baking cakes to sell at our Easter bonnet parade. Children will bake the cakes at home with their parents and money made will go to local charity - FOCUS Birmingham



**Year
1**

Year 1 will be visiting our residents at Heathcote House during Lent - gifting them with their time. The children are looking forward to reading, singing and playing games with the residents.



**Year
2**

Year 2 will be inviting members of the parish and local community in to school for a special tea party to celebrate their learning about Queen Victoria



KS2

*KS2 are taking part in The Big Lent Walk!
All KS2 children will be asking for sponsorship to walk 200km collaboratively over Lent. Your donations can change lives! All money raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.*



**Year
5**

Year 5 will be learning about rivers in Summer and water distribution around the World. They will explore the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' This Lent, Year 5 will complete their Big Lent CAFOD walk, carrying buckets of water, to raise awareness of water poverty.



**Year
4**

Additionally, Year 4 children will continue their collection for homeless charities. Year 4 have been reading 'The nightbus hero in class' and would like to support local homeless charities during Lent - they will be asking for donations and working closely with parents.



**Spiritual
Council**

Community tidy up - litter picking in our local area around St. Mary's and high street - parents welcome to join us! Staff too!



Holy Week Reflection

As we begin our Holy Week journey - we think about Jesus' triumphant entry in to Jerusalem and His Passion. We have reflected on our own behaviours and have asked God for His forgiveness for our shortcomings. Now, it is our turn to forgive others - we think about those who have hurt us... and ask God to help us to truly forgive them.

Holy Week

scripture

"For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation" -
2 Corinthians 5:19

reflection

God gave us His Only Begotten Son so that we may be offered reconciliation. Yet, we are still called to merit reconciliation with our own deeds. We reflect on Our Lord's mercy given to us through Jesus' sacrifice and continue to give praise and glory to Jesus.

open question

What do you need to let go of, so that you can be closer to God?

Task

A Creative Reflection We invite families to explore Holy Week together at home. This could be through role-play, stories, artwork, prayer or any form that resonates with your family. Share your creations with us. All collective work will be displayed in the school hall.



Reception news: -

Reception class had a great time this week learning about one less in Maths. The children made a 'bus' and counted who was left on the bus!



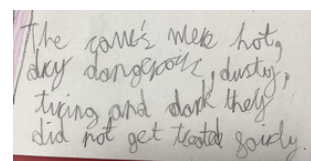
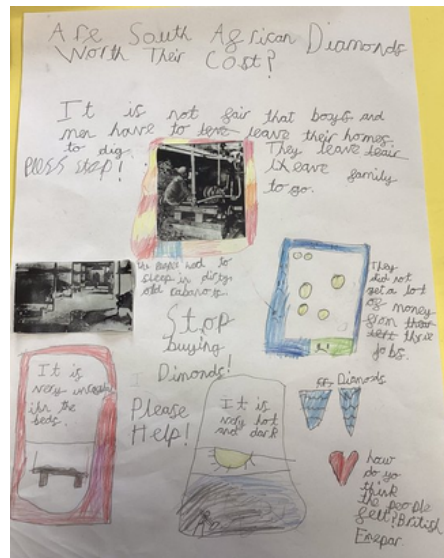
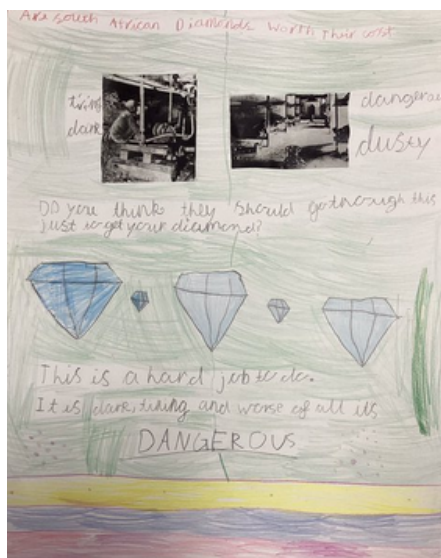
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been using the language 'heavier' and 'lighter' to compare objects in the classroom.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been learning about Alice Kinloch and her fight for the people of Africa under the rule of the British Empire.



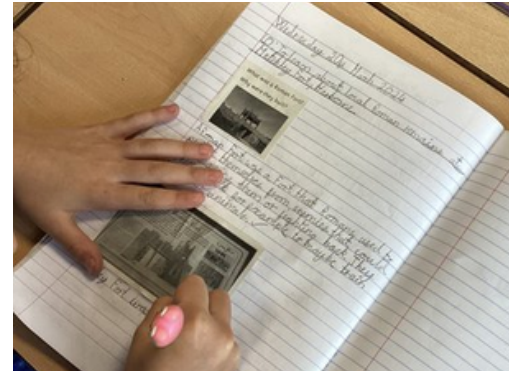
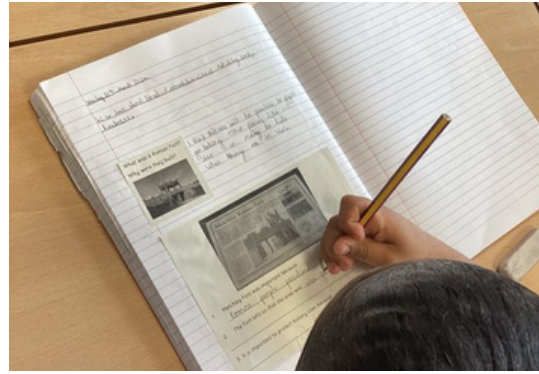
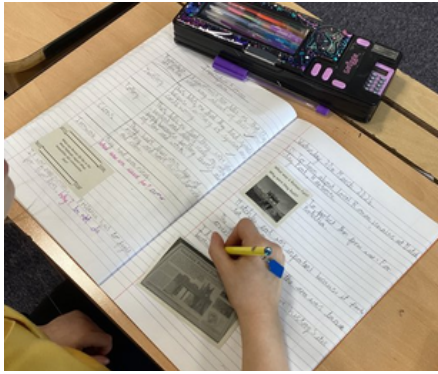
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been identifying the key features of a balanced argument in English lessons.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about local Roman remains at Metchley Fort in Harborne.



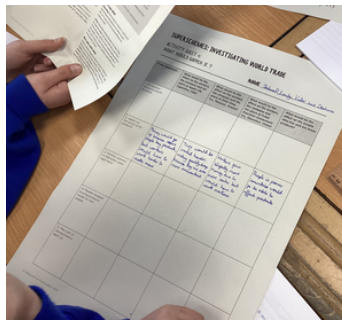
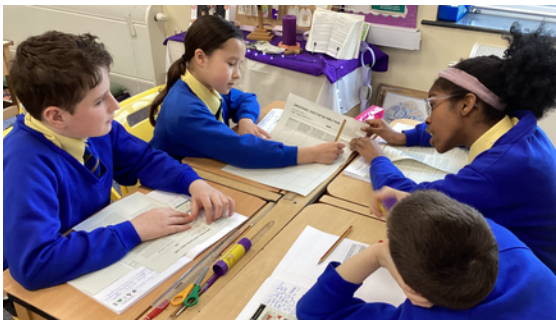
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have discussed and acted out the variety of challenges facing the early Anglo-Saxon settlers and how they overcame them.



Year 6 news: -

In Geography this week, Year 6 investigated the impact of world trade through a case study of the multinational company, Apple.



Parent Consultations



We hosted two parent consultation evenings this week. Thank you to our hard working staff and to all our parents for your wonderful comments and feedback. I hope that you were pleased with how much progress your children are making. We will share with you the responses to our Parent Questionnaire when we have collated your responses.



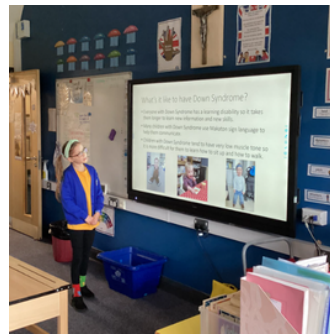
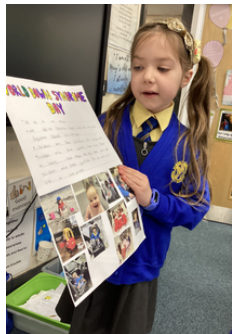
World Down Syndrome Day - 21st March 2024



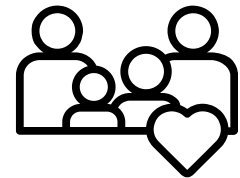
Sunflowers & Socks

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.

Rock your socks! To observe the Down Syndrome campaign, the children wore bright, bold, and even mismatched socks. The brighter and crazier - the better! Socks were chosen as the basis of this international campaign because chromosomes are thought to look a little bit like pairs of socks.



In celebration of World Down Syndrome day, Cara and Josie both shared their knowledge of Down Syndrome and told their classes all about their wonderful little brother.



Down Syndrome UK run a **Sunflower Challenge** for World Down Syndrome Day. Every child has had the opportunity to plant a Sunflower. As the children watch the flowers grow, they will reflect on that just like sunflowers, every child grows and blooms uniquely, in their own time.



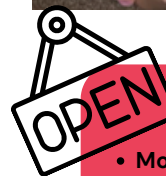
Reading for Pleasure

We had a huge number of entries for our World Book Day competition and the children have shown us that they can really read anywhere! Well done to our super winners and here's a selection of the amazing entries!



SCHOLASTIC

Book fair



Catch the book fair next week on the following days:

- Monday 25th March at 3.15pm
- Tuesday 26th March at the Reception Easter Bonnet Parade

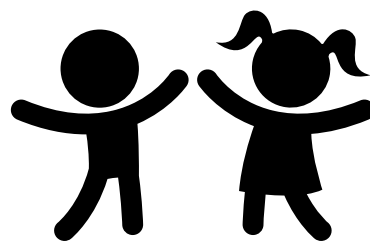
The Scholastic book fair is currently in school and there are a fantastic selection of books available for all ages! We have four cases of amazing books to choose from as well as stationery and novelties. Every amount you spend helps to earn rewards that the school can use to buy new books!



OPAL Update - Week 5

We're seeing so much creative play!

We're starting to see brighter days and there's a real 'spring' in everyone's step in the playground at lunchtime. The children are really enjoying playing with all the resources including the new addition of ribbons! Mrs Noone and Coach Red led two successful Play Assemblies this week and the children came up with some fantastic ideas of how to play with ribbons creatively.



If you do have any cardboard, fancy dress, old toys, kitchen equipment etc that you are getting rid of, please do bear us in mind - we need a regular stream of donations for OPAL!

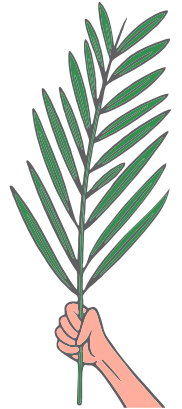


Next Week is Holy Week

Holy Week is the most important week for us as we journey with Jesus to the foot of the cross. Each day, next week, the children will attend a service that is led by another year group that takes them through the Passion of Jesus...

We began today with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where palms were waved and the people sang Hosanna!

Thank you Year 1, Reception and Year 2 for leading us in our Palm Sunday service.



Reconciliation Service for Year 4, 5 and 6

Children will be going over to the Church on Monday afternoon for Confession as part of our final preparations. You can help your child prepare for this at home by thinking about 2 or 3 things that they are sorry for.



Reception Easter Bonnet parade

- Tuesday 26th March 2:00pm

Parents are invited to join their children in the school hall on Tuesday afternoon as they parade and show off their Easter bonnets.

Children are able to come to school wearing their own clothes on Tuesday - please bring in shop bought cakes (no nuts) for our cake sale.



The Passion of our Lord Jesus - Stations of the Cross - Thursday 28th March - 11am

Parents and the Parish Community are welcome to join us in St. Mary's Church on Thursday 28th March at 11am, as our Year 6 children lead us through the Stations of the Cross.



Saturday 23rd March 2024
9:30am
Year 3 First Holy Communion Session in Parish Hall



Saturday 23rd March 2024
11:30am
Year 6 Confirmation Session in Parish Hall



Palm Sunday Masses
this weekend
Pick up your palm on entry to Mass
Saturday - 12:00 and 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:30am, 11:30am and 5:00pm



Holy Week Masses
Thursday 28th March at 7:30pm - Holy/Maundy Thursday
(Mass of the Lord's Supper)
Friday 29th March at 3:00pm - Good Friday
(The Lord's Passion)



Stations of the cross
Friday 29th March 2024 at 7:00pm



Easter Sunday Masses
Sunday 31st March at 9:30am, 11:30am and 5:00pm

Church and PTA Table Top Sale - Sunday 14th April



St Mary's Church and St Mary's School PTA are holding a Table Top Sale on Sunday 14th April at 10.30am until 12.30pm.

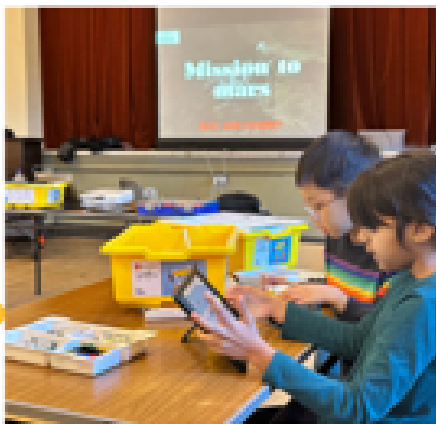
*A cash only event selling preloved clothes and bags - some items still with labels on!
Refreshments available.*

CHECK IT OUT
↓

SUCCESS EDUCATION

TURNING THE IMPOSSIBLE INTO POSSIBLE

LEGO CODING Workshops



Join us for a fun filled 2.5 hour workshop at Moor Pool Hall.

Suitable for ages 8+

Cost:
£15 per session

SESSION INFORMATION

Sign up using link



5th April

2 sessions :

9:30 - 12:00pm

1:00 - 3:30pm



Moor Pool Hall
37 The Circle,

Harborne, B17 9DY

For further information
johnpaul@successeducation.org

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



Online safety

Viewing films safely online

It is important that our children are watching films that are suitable for their age. The BBFC is the UK's regulator of film and videos and they have created this useful article answering the questions they get asked the most.

<https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>

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 18th March – 22nd March

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	98.6%	95%	98.6%	97.6%	94.6%	94.3%	96.3%	97.6%	97%	93.6%	96.3%	97.6%	94.1%	96.5%
Lates	1	0	3	2	1	1	0	2	0	4	2	0	3	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%			School Target				97%	

Well done YRB & Y1L: - our joint Attendance Champions

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

March

WB 25th March 2024

26th March 2024 - 2:00pm

28th March 2024 - 11:00am

28th March 2024 -

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Faith-filled and Hopeful

World Down Syndrome Awareness Month - Grow your sunflower

Holy Week

Reception Easter Bonnet Parade and cake sale

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

Break up for Easter holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

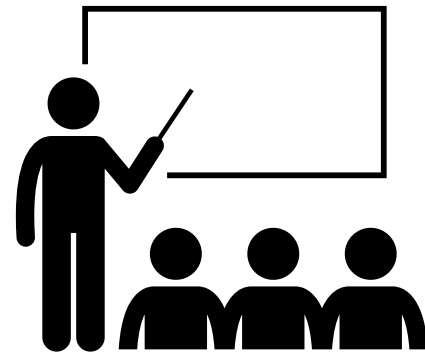
1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

SAVE THE DATE

2024-2025 dates

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3 rd September - Thursday 24 th October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 4 th <u>November</u> - Friday 20 th December
Spring Term	Monday 6 th January - Friday 14 th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 24 th February - Thursday 17 th April
Summer Term	Tuesday 6 th May - Friday 23 rd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 2 nd June - Friday 18 th July



INSET days are still to be confirmed by the Governing Board - please continue to check our school website for updates.

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Inaaya	Trying really hard with her writing this week
Year RT	Ava	fantastic nursery rhyme writing
Year 1F	Eliab	working hard in maths and gaining full marks in latest assessment
Year 1L	Odran	always trying his best
Year 2E	Grace	trying really hard to improve the quality of her sentences in all written work
Year 2G	Alonso	asking super questions
Year 3L	Arsin	always trying her best in her learning and showing good behaviour
Year 3T	Abby	taking time to live out the virtues by litter picking during her lunchtime
Year 4J	Joseph	creating beautiful lent themed art work
Year 4M	Deevansh	settling in at St. Mary's wonderfully
Year 5F	Seth	excellent work ethic and manners throughout the year
Year 5M	Harry	excellent preparation and presentation of collective worship
Year 6O	Jagoda	wonderful effort in maths
Year 6R	Adrian	demonstrating a real maturity in lessons

