



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.

November is dedicated to the Holy Souls.

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

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



Dear parents and carers,

10th November 2023

In the month of November, we pray for the Holy Souls and for our loved ones who have died. This week, in particular we have been thinking of those who have died as a consequence of war and linked learning to our Poetry lessons. We are **continuing to tackle parking** at St. Mary's and the children are passionate about this - the children standing outside school has had a marvellous response and we have received wonderful comments from the general public and families in the school. Well done children for your social action. So many of our families support us too. Thank you. Unfortunately, we still have a small handful of parents who think they can block the yellow barrier and entrance to school. This obstruction blocks **life-saving emergency services** from getting on site when needed and is disgraceful behaviour. Staff (and we encourage parents) are taking photos of illegal parking and reporting this. Anybody can report illegal parking on the Birmingham City Council website - there is a short form and a place to upload your photo. We will not tolerate anybody being spoken to aggressively or threatened as a result of trying to keep our school community safe - I will report any aggressive behaviour to the Police and perpetrators will receive a formal ban from the school site. Next week, we will be celebrating what makes us unique with our inter-faith and anti-bullying week. This is such an important week for us in school, as we continue our theme of 'dignity' and how we should treat everybody with love and tolerance. I hope that you all have a marvellous weekend.

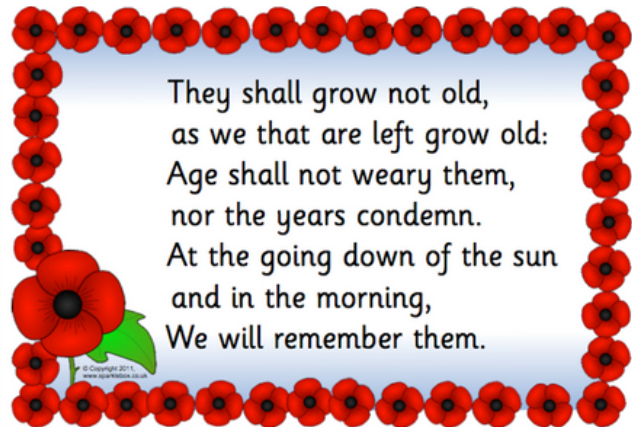
Mrs Yorke

John 15 : 13

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

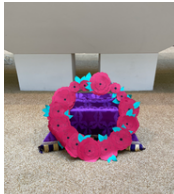
We remember before God, and commend to Him, those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew; and whose memory we treasure; and all those names of people who we do not know; who lived and died in service and faith of the Lord.

We pray for peace in our World. Amen.



Catholic Life in School

Whole School Mass - 8.11.23 - Remembrance



We joined together as a whole school community to celebrate our Remembrance Mass. Staff led us in scripture and prayer and Father John encouraged us all to pray for peace.



Y6 Mass - The Holy Name of Mary

Our next Mass will be in the **school hall** (not the Church) on Wednesday 15th November 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 children will be leading our Mass. We encourage family members of Year 6 to attend.





Remembrance and Holy Souls



We will remember them... through Poetry

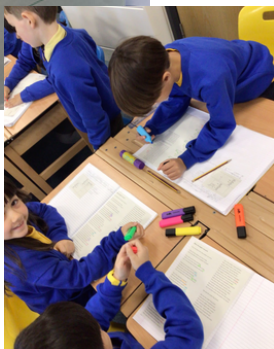
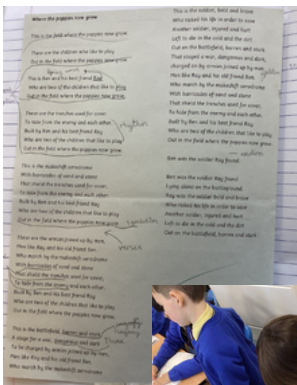
Reception

Our youngest poets have been studying an Acrostic Poppy Poem by Sara Fox and have learnt Makaton to accompany their poetry performance. They also made poppies to wear for the Poetry Recital.



Year 3

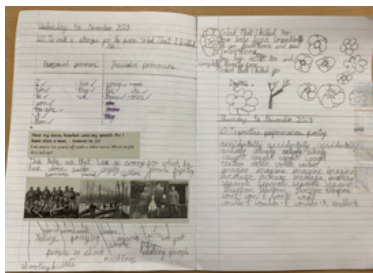
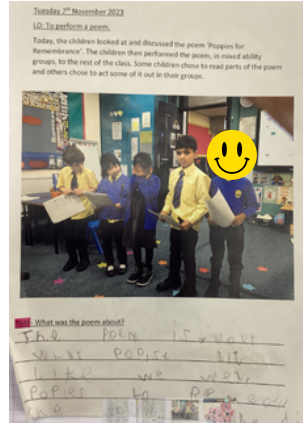
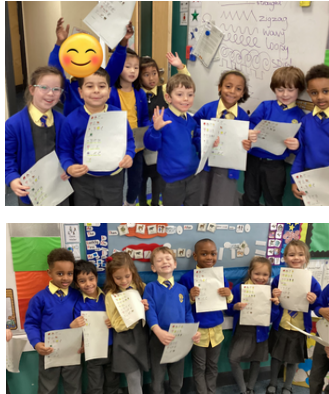
Year 3 have been studying a rhyming story also by Hilary Robinson called "Where the Poppies Now Grow". The poet saw our work on Twitter/X and 'tweeted' us back!



Hilary Robinson FRSA @HillsRobinson · Nov 7
Thank you! I hope the children enjoyed it. @Martin_Impey

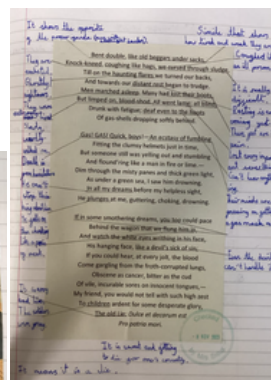
Year 1

Year 1 have been practising the poem "Poppies for Remembrance" by Moira Andrew in preparation for the Poetry Recital.



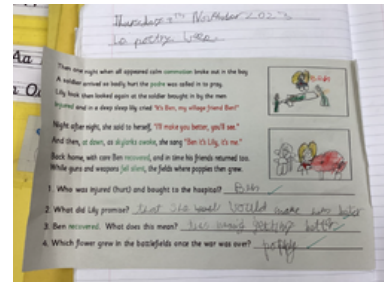
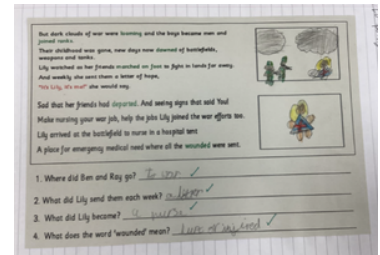
Year 5

Year 5 have been studying the formidable poem "Dulce et Decorum est" by Wilfred Owen.



Year 2

Year 2 have been reading the fantastic rhyming story of "Peace Lily" by Hilary Robinson and they prepared an extract ready for the Poetry Recital.



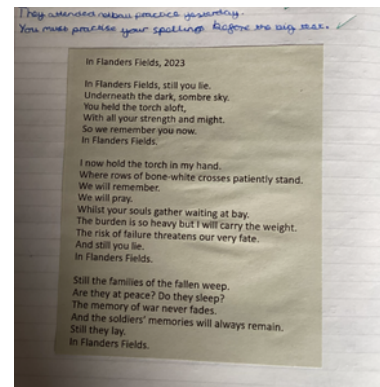
Year 4

Year 4 have been studying the dramatic poem "Glad That I Killed Yer" by Joseph Lee. They have been perfecting their dramatic performance skills ahead of the Poetry Recital.



Year 6

Year 6 have been studying In Flanders Fields by John McCrae and have composed new stanzas in the style of the poet.



Hilary Robinson FRSA @HillsRobinson · Nov 7
Thank you! I hope the children enjoyed it. @Martin_Impey

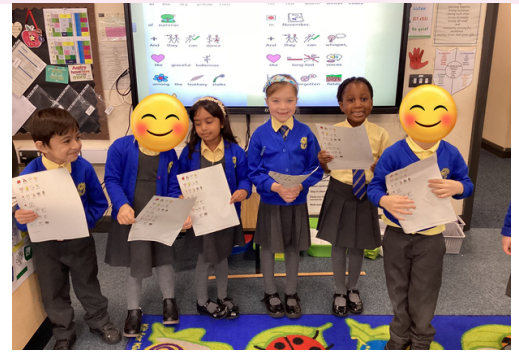
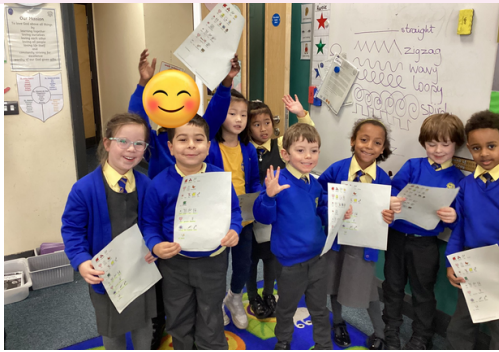
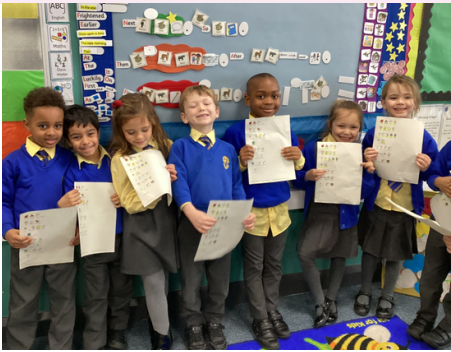
Reception news: -

Our Scientists, in Reception, have been observing how leaves change colour in the Autumn. They have identified and collected 'evergreen' and 'deciduous' leaves around the school.



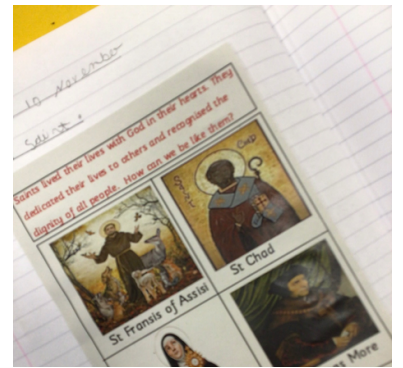
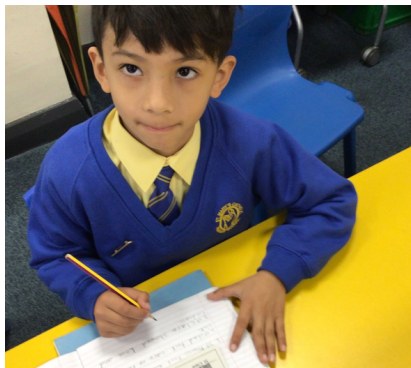
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been looking at the poem 'Poppies to Remember'. The children performed the poem in different groups!



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have really enjoyed learning about Saints. Saints lived their lives with God in their hearts and recognised the dignity of the human person. What can we do to be like them?



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 loved learning about ballet and enjoyed their own ballet workshop.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 enjoyed a WW2 inspired dance lesson



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been exploring the miracles of Jesus using role play. They reflected on their significance and how it would change their lives to witness a miracle



Year 6 news: -

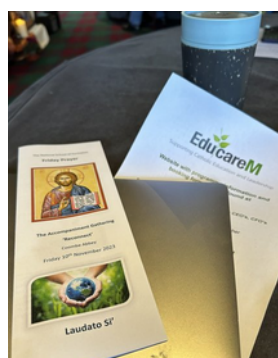
Our Year 6 Geographers have been using atlases to locate countries of Europe and their capital cities this week. They have also learnt to use an 8-point compass to describe locations and use 4-figure grid references on maps.



EducareM Supporting Catholic Education and Leadership



‘EducareM – promoting, supporting and developing Catholic leadership in the mission of the Church in education’



Mrs Yorke has been working with Catholic Leaders, learning about the current direction of the Church and teachings of Pope Francis, reflecting on the mission of the Church in our schools.



The School Council Parking Protests went really well. Thank you to the parents who are listening to the children and showing them that their voices are important and can make a difference.

Other News



We are very excited to have received our new recycling unit. We would like to invite all parents to use this free and efficient way to recycle their clothes and give to charity whilst also raising money for the school. Collection4Clothes+ are an ethical recycling business. All donations that are collected are sorted at multiple warehouse sites around the UK. They are sent via trucks to least economically developed countries, where they are sold at local affordable prices that benefit their local communities.

We have 200 tote bags to help you collect and bring your donations to school. If you would like a tote bag, please come and collect one from the foyer. When your bag is full, please come in and add your donations to the box. Of course, your bag can then be recycled and used again!

Many thanks for your continued support.



Harborne Academy Christmas Holiday Camp!

Premier Education are pleased to announce that we will be running a Multi-activity and a Football Holiday Camp at Harborne Academy this Christmas. Children will need a packed lunch, a water bottle and appropriate clothing for plenty of FUN activities!

VENUE	DATE	AGE	DAILY PRICE	WEEKLY PRICE
Harborne Academy, Harborne Road, B15 3JL	Tuesday 2nd January -	4 - 11 years	£21.54 (20% off)	£77.56 (£19.39 per day)
	Friday 5th January	9am - 4pm*		

*4-year-old children are welcome and can attend our camps between 9 am – 1 pm (£12.30 daily price/£44.28 weekly booking price)

WHAT TO EXPECT: There is always a wide range of new and engaging activities on our camps! From Dodgeball to Dance, Archery to Arts and Crafts, Fencing to Football. There really is something for every child, with plenty of opportunities to learn new skills, make friends and create memories!

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE LINK TO BOOK:
[HTTPS://FAMILY.PREMIER-EDUCATION.COM/ADD-COURSE/865411](https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/865411)

FOR ANY QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
GTERRY@PREMIER-EDUCATION.COM



Inter Faith Week

12-19 November 2023

Inter-faith week

Next week is Inter-Faith Week at St Mary's.

We have planned in to our RE lessons, links to other religions that will support our Building the Kingdom theme of Families and Communities and the importance of understanding and tolerating other faiths and beliefs.

The faiths that children will be studying are: -



Reception - Sikhism

Year 1 and Year 2 - Hinduism

Year 3 and Year 4 - Judaism

Year 5 and Year 6 - Islam



Please feel free to send in with your children any artefacts, food, clothing that can be explored as part of our inter-faith week and support the learning in school, if you are able.

This **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK**
we are holding

ODD SOCKS DAY on
MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2023



Come to school wearing your odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique!



Anti-bullying week

On Monday 13th November 2023, children can come in to school wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique and to launch anti-bullying week.

We celebrate Down's syndrome awareness in March, where we will wear odd socks again.

Year 6 Harborne Library Visit - 14.11.23

Year 4 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

6O will leave at 9:00am

6R will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 6 staff know.

Early Reading Workshop - 14.11.23 - 2:15pm

We will be holding a phonics / Early Reading workshop on Tuesday 14th November at 2:15pm in the school hall. Parents of children in Reception are very much encouraged to join us but all parents with children who are learning to read using our Little Wandle Phonics scheme are welcome to attend.



6R Saint Celebration - St Rose of Lima - 15th November

We will celebrate 6R's class Saint feast day on Wednesday 15th November.

Children in 6R can come to school in their own clothes on the day that we return to school and will begin the day with a Year 6 special Mass in the hall.





Reception



Open Day 2023

Our Open day for potential Reception children in September 2024 will be held on Thursday 16th November... please call school to book your place on 0121 464 2141.

Morning Tour — 10:30—11:30

Afternoon Tour — 13:45—14:45



Reception



Chocolate or sweets for the tombola.

Friday 17th November - Non School Uniform Day

On Friday 17th November, St Mary's School and PTA are asking for donations for the Christmas Fayre. The children can come to school wearing non-uniform and bring in the following items...

Years 1, 2, 3



Christmas Stockings – filled with sweets / little treats. Take a new pair of socks, roll one sock up and put into the other, fill the sock with treats, sweets, hair accessories etc... Secure with an elastic, tie or ribbon.

Years 4, 5, 6

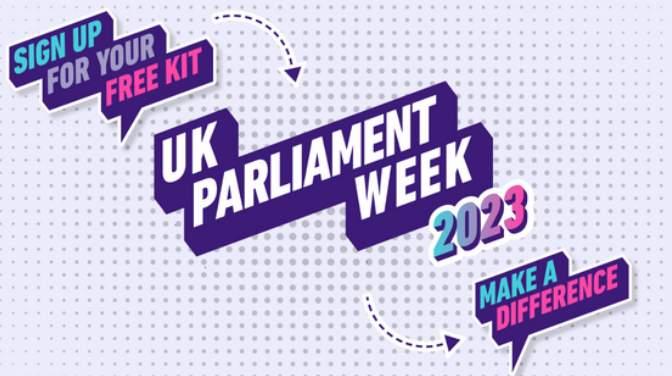


A bottled drink – alcoholic or non-alcoholic for the Tombola (Unopened and in date please).

Finally, if you are doing a clear out before Christmas and have any pre-loved items that you would like to donate, they would be greatly received (toys, books, gift sets, jewellery, crockery etc) You can deliver any of your donations into school or the Priory between 8-4 Mon-Fri over the next 2 weeks.

School Council - Parking Campaign

Inspired by their work last week in UK Parliament Week and the difference they have made, the children will continue to monitor parking. At times next week (and throughout the school year), the children will continue to dissuade illegal and irresponsible parking. Please continue to support our children.



St. Mary's PTA Annual Christmas Wreath making Workshop

Join us in St. Mary's Parish Hall from 7PM
on Wednesday 29th Nov
£25- EVERYTHING INCLUDED, just come along and create
your own wreath,
Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

The Christmas Discos on 5.12.23 (KS1); 6.12.23 (Reception class) and 7.12.23 (KS2) will be held in the school for an hour straight after school. Tickets are priced at £3 and parents can pay for this via School Gateway. The PTA will be supporting the event by providing drinks and a snack for the pupils. All money raised will go towards the purchase of an additional, outdoor classroom. An exciting project that we hope lots of families support us in fundraising for! The cost of the disco includes wearing non-school Christmas clothing on the day that your child is attending their disco. If your child is not attending the disco, they can still wear Christmas non-school uniform on that day and we ask for £1 please towards our fundraising. Thank you.

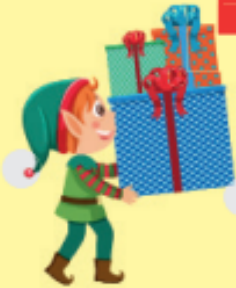


CAFOD CLUB - Chosen Advent charity
Our CAFOD club children have chosen to support 'World Gifts' as their charity organisation this year. They have designed their posters and will be writing to you this week. Their hope is for children not to send Christmas cards this year to each other - we will do something else a little more sustainable in school and any money saved can be donated to their charity. More to come...

Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas

Toy Appeal

Christmas 2023



Scan to donate

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years




COLLECTION DATES:

Monday 6th November - Thursday 14th December

Irish TV are visiting St Anne's Parish Centre, B12 OPA on Thursday 14th December



 Birmingham Irish ASSOCIATION





November dead list

Mass is offered daily for all those whose names you have put on your November Dead List, - lists and envelopes are in the Church porch, to be put in the large locked wooden box in the Porch. Those lists are then put in the purple casket in front of the altar and prayed for at each Mass in November, month of the deceased loved ones.

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



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 06th November – 10th November

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99.3%	98%	95%	96.2%	95%	99.6%	96.6%	93.3%	99%	93.3%	98.3%	98.6%	98.3%	99.3%
Lates	4	4	6	4	8	1	1	3	2	2	7	1	1	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.95%		School Target				97%		

Well done Y4J This weeks school champions!

Autumn 11 Virtues

WB 13th November 2023

13th November 2023 - all day

13th - 15th November 2023

14th November 2023 - am

14th November 2023 - 2:15pm

15th November 2023 - all day

15th November 2023 - 9:15am

16th November 2023

17th November 2023 - all day

WB 20th November 2023 - am

21st November 2023 - am

22nd November 2023 - all day

22nd November 2023 - 9:15am

24th November 2023 - 9:00am

24th November 2023 - 10:00am

25th November 2023

28th November 2023

29th November 2023 - all day

29th November 2023 - 7pm

5th December 2023 - 3:30-4:30

6th December 2023 - 3:30-4:30

7th December 2023 - 3:45-4:45

7th December - all day

8th December 2023 - 9:30am

3th December 2023 - all day

13th December 2023 - 9:00am

15th December 2023 - 9:30am

15th December 2023 - 6:45pm

15th December 2023 - 7pm

18th December 2023 - am

19th December 2023 - 2:15pm

20th December 2023 - 2:15pm

21st December 2023 - 2pm

22nd December 2023 - 9:30am

22nd December -

Attentive and Discerning

Interfaith Week and Anti-bullying week

Odd Socks Day for Down Syndrome Awareness

WOW Active PE sessions

Year 6 visit to Harborne library (9:15 60 and 11:00 6R)

Phonics Early Reading Workshop for parents

Year 6R non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Rose of Lima

Year 6 Mass for Year 6 parents in school hall

St. Mary's Open Day for Reception class 2024 (10:30) or (1:45)

PTA non-uniform day in support of Parish Fete - bring sweets/bottles

Road Safety week

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 5F and 11:00 5M)

#RED WEDNESDAY - taking action to help persecuted Christians in Africa

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

Year 5 Year group Assembly

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

Parish Fete

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4J and 11:00 4M)

INSET Day - school closed to children

Annual Wreath making workshop in Parish Hall - £25

PTA event - KS1 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

PTA event - Reception class Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

PTA event - KS2 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

Christmas jumper day

Whole School Mass - Feast of Immaculate Conception in Church (Parents welcome)

Year 3L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Lucy

Year 3 Prayer Service for all Year 3 parents

Reception Nativity in Church (for parents)

Choir sing for Carols by Candlelight - meet at school 6:45pm

Carols by Candlelight in St. Mary's Church (all welcome)

Theatre Show in school for the children 'Sinbad the Sailor'

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Assembly in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service in Church (for parents)

Whole school Christmas Mass for all children, staff and parents

Break up for Summer 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

Dates for next term

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Ale	For trying really hard in his guided reading group this week.
Year RT	Natnael	For saying all of his prayers beautifully and being a wonderful prayer leader!
Year IF	Emerson	For making brilliant efforts to settle into his new class.
Year IL	Thomas	For being a fabulous member of years one!
Year 2E	Fabio	For great work in maths!
Year 2G	Pistis	For returning after half term with a positive attitude towards learning!
Year 3L	Sienna	For always trying her best and having a positive attitude to her learning.
Year 3T	Lucy	For her hard work and resilience during maths.
Year 4J	Bruce	Super problem solving skills in maths using column method to subtract.
Year 4M	Azucena	For always having a hard-working attitude in every lesson.
Year 5F	Benjamin	For enthusiastic participation in every lesson first week back!
Year 5M	Nisha	For amazing participation in maths!
Year 6O	Iris	For demonstrating great geography knowledge.
Year 6R	Anaiah	For being an excellent role model to others in all areas of school life.

