



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: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Intentional and Prophetic'



Dear parents and carers,

6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding week at school, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many things we have to celebrate. Across all year groups, we've seen wonderful learning taking place – from creative projects such as our eggs-travaganza and World Book Day celebrations, to thoughtful discussions and impressive problem-solving during our Careers Week.

#### Careers Week

A huge thank you to all of our visitors who joined us throughout the week, and to Miss Busby for organising such a rich and inspiring programme. Our children had the fantastic opportunity to learn from professionals across a wide range of fields, helping them broaden their understanding of the world of work and see how their learning connects to real-life opportunities. These meaningful encounters with employers play an important role in raising aspirations for the future. We are especially grateful to the parents who generously gave their time to speak about their careers and prepared such engaging resources for the children.

#### World Book Day

We were truly wowed by the effort that went into World Book Day this year. Thank you to Miss Flynn for coordinating such a vibrant range of reading-themed activities across the school. Children loved guessing the staff member behind the book in our 'Masked Reader', relaxing with a story in our Reading Café, and taking part in our teacher swap sessions – along with many other reading activities. It was wonderful to feel the buzz around reading and to hear so many children excitedly sharing their book-day characters and favourite stories.

#### Decorate an egg competition

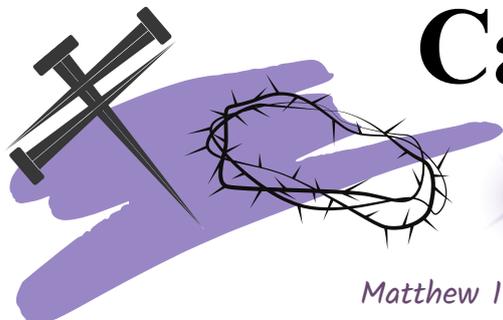
Once again, the creativity on display in our Decorate an Egg competition was outstanding. Thank you to Mrs Tame and the School Council for organising this fundraising event, with all donations going towards our new activity trail. At last count, we were close to £700 raised, which is a fantastic achievement.

Thank you all for your generosity and support.

I am incredibly proud of what our children have achieved this week and grateful for the partnership we share with our families. Together, we continue to build a school where every child feels inspired, valued, and ready to shine. Wishing you a peaceful weekend.

Mrs Yorke  
Headteacher

# Catholic Life



Matthew 17:2

*'And He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light.'*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- That Jesus' glory was revealed to three of His closest disciples.
- We must be His close friends and see His glory too.
- We must believe in Him and glorify God as we give, act and pray.



## Year 3 Mass - 3.3.26

Year 3 led a beautiful mass this week - we reflected on change during this second week of Lent.



## Our next Mass: - Year 1 Mass - 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 will be leading this Mass and Year 2 will also be in attendance. All parents are welcome to attend.



## Child-Led Prayer



A group of wonderful children from Year 3 led their class in prayer about the importance of fasting during Lent

This group of incredible Year 5 children led their class in prayer about making a change during Lent.

# Careers Week

The staff and children would like to say a massive thank you to all our visitors, volunteers and parents who gave up their time to talk to us this careers week.

We have learnt so much in such a short amount of time.

Thank you Miss Busby for all of your hard work in organising our Careers Week.



Thank you to Mrs Gabbitas for teaching Year 1 all about her profession as a nurse and sharing her expertise



Year 2 are now trainee quantity surveyors after their fantastic talk this week!



Year 2 loved learning all about careers in the law from a real life barrister!



Year 4 listened to Mrs Tame talking about her job as a Pastoral Lead who looks after our well being and introduced the Careers Service at St Mary's to help children identify their likes and dislikes.

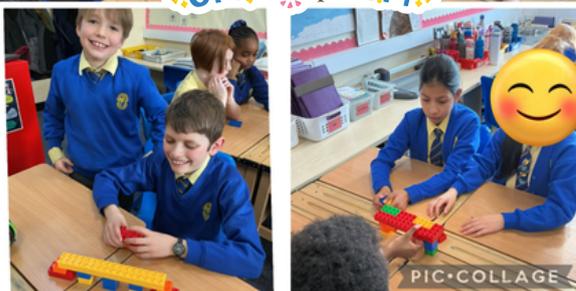
Year 3 loved learning all about a career in banking this week. We have some children who are very interested in working with money!



DREAM IT DO IT



Year 6 listened with interest to Mr Wong about careers in Theology!



Year 5 were also introduced to buying and sampling this week. They were even able to conduct quality control checks on some mushrooms and berries!



Year 5 loved their talk about careers in construction with Mrs Parker!

# WORLD BOOK DAY

5 MARCH 2026

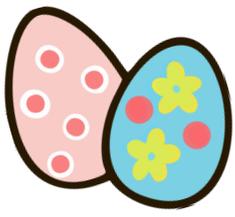
## World Book day

We had such an exciting World Book Day in school. The children took part in live lessons, a reading cafe, 'swap a story' across the school and much more. Thank you to Miss Flynn for organising a fantastic day.

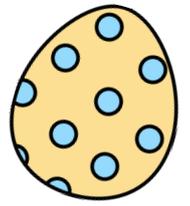


I ♥ READING





# THE GREAT EGG-HIBITION!



Friday heralded the inaugural 'Egg-hibition' at St Mary's and it was truly a spectacular affair. The children and staff outdid themselves with their entries all in aid of raising funds for the new school Activity Trail. The winners of the prize draws will be announced on Monday!

Thank you to everyone who decorated an egg and attended on Friday!

I think you will agree it was an 'egg-cellent' effort all round! Thank you to Mrs Tame for making it a 'smashing' success!



The happy couple are 'egg-stremely' in love!



You're not just good — you're 'egg-stra' fluffy!



He's feeling 'sunny-side up' after his bath!



"I can't 'egg-nore' a good chicken pun!"

### **Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 10.3.26**



Year 3 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

3L will leave at 8:45am

3T will leave at 10:15am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 3 staff know.

### **Reception trip to Attwell Farm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**



Reception class are learning about where food comes from and farm animals. For this trip, children will need to wear their PE kit: warm, black / navy jogging bottoms, their school top and cardigan / jumper, and they should wear wellies/boots. Please ensure that your child wears a waterproof coat too.

### **Year 2 trip to Black Country Living Museum on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**



This trip has been carefully planned to complement their local history learning. Children should wear school outdoor PE kit and trainers; and dress suitably for the weather. They will return before the end of the school day.

### *Parent Notices*



**For the children's safety, please no glass water bottles or food containers etc in school. Plastic bottles and food containers only please!**



**Please do not allow your child to bring in any toys (including fidget toys) from home. It causes upset when they are lost or broken. If your child is assessed as needing a fidget toy, it will be provided by school.**

**Many thanks for your cooperation!**



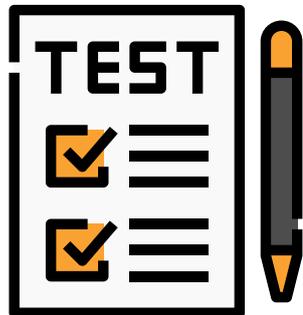
### Mothers' Day Inspire – 16.3.26 9:15–11:00 or 1:15–3:00

To celebrate Mother's Day, we are hosting a special play-based 'Parents and children Inspire workshop' in school. This workshop has been designed for mums but of course dads or any family member can attend. The person attending must be an adult over 18 years of age. We have planned some fun activities, led by staff in school, where you can work with your children across the year groups. More details to follow soon.

## Parents' Evening – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026



Parents' evening consultations can now be booked for your child using **School Gateway**. Log in using your personal information i.e. parent name and child's DoB or use the link on our website. The appointments 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 with numbers in the school hall. Mrs Birchenall (SENDCo) will be available on both nights as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team. We ask that, where possible, you do not bring children to your appointment but there will be provision for children of St Mary's to be looked after in Year 2, if necessary.



### SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from

**Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026.**

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

### Archdiocese News

## Born for This

Young people from eight Birmingham Archdiocese Catholic secondary schools are collaborating for a special performance featuring stirring music performed live by Jo Boyce with a band and chamber orchestra. His Grace, Archbishop Longley, has recently given his endorsement of the event and our young people are encouraged to support this special event.

Find out more below!

Symphony Hall  
**Born for This: CJM  
Music & Birmingham  
and Solihull Catholic  
Secondary Schools**

**25 Mar 2026**  
Wednesday 7:00pm

£15 (U18 or over 60s) - £28.50



Experience the power and passion of Born For This in this special 30th anniversary performance. This dramatic and musical retelling of the Stations of the Cross has moved audiences in churches nationwide, including the iconic Westminster Cathedral. Now, a vibrant cast, including young people from across Birmingham and Solihull, bring the story to life with fresh energy and heartfelt devotion. Featuring stirring music performed live by Jo Boyce with band and chamber orchestra, and uplifted by a 300-strong choir of young voices, this unforgettable production promises an inspiring journey of faith, hope and beauty.

To buy tickets, please visit: <https://bmusic.co.uk/events/born-for-this>

## Signposting for Easter Activities

This section is to sign-post activities that are taking place over Easter, which you may wish to engage with. As a school we are only sign-posting not necessarily endorsing these clubs.



# EASTER



# HOLIDAY CLUBS

**HARBORNE ACADEMY, HARBORNE RD, B15 3JL**

**MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL  
TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> - FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**\*£18.83 9AM-4PM (5-11 YEAR OLDS)  
£14.00 9AM-1PM (4 YEAR OLDS)  
£21.54 (20% DISCOUNT) 2<sup>ND</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
£24.50 (STANDARD PRICE)**

**SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT  
[WWW.PREMIER-EDUCATION.COM/HOLIDAY-CAMPS](http://WWW.PREMIER-EDUCATION.COM/HOLIDAY-CAMPS)**



# SAFETY

## information for parents

### Safer Sleep Week 2026

Safer Sleep Week 2026 will run from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March. This is The Lullaby Trust's national awareness campaign targeting anyone looking after a young baby. They raise awareness of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and the simple advice that reduces the risk of it occurring.



### **The theme for 2026: Baby necessities**

Overwhelmed by baby products? You're not alone. With so many options (and conflicting advice) it can be hard to know which are safest for your baby to sleep in. Not to mention, it can be expensive!

This Safer Sleep Week we're sharing the 'baby necessities' – the essential items that your baby needs and how to check that they're as safe as possible.

We want to remind you to **keep it simple to keep it safe.**

- Which products your baby needs and which you can (and should) leave on the shelf.
- What to look for in a product, or on the label, to know if it fits within safer sleep.
- What to dress your baby in for sleep in different temperatures.

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/baby-safety/safer-sleep-information/keeping-a-clear-cot/>

[Baby sleeping products | The Lullaby Trust](#)

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 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:



**Laura Noone**  
Lead DSL  
DHT

**Louise Yorke**  
Headteacher

**Jade Preedy**  
AHT

**Rachel Jones**  
Senior Teacher

**Sharon Tame**  
School  
Counsellor

**Rachel Richards**  
EYFS Lead

**Shania Birchenall**  
SENDCo

## 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. Noone.

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 03/02/25-07/02/25**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99	98	97	94	96	97	91	95	97	95	97	95	96	98
Lates	2	1	3	2	4	3	4	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
Whole School Attendance so far this year						97.13%		School Target				97%		

Well done RB: - Our attendance champions!

# Dates for this term

## *Spring theme -*

### *Spring 11 Virtues*

*10th March 2026 - am*

*11th March 2026 - 9:15am*

*12th March 2026 - all day*

*13th March 2026 - all day*

*16th March 2026- 9:15am 1:15pm*

*17th March 2026 - am*

*17th March 2026 - pm*

*18th March 2026 - 9:15am*

*19th March 2026 - pm*

*20th March 2026 - all day*

*24th March 2026 - am*

*24th March 2026 - 1:30pm*

*25th March 2026 - 9:30am*

*26th March 2026 - 9:00am*

*27th March 2026 - 6:30-8:30pm*

*WB 30.3.26*

*30th March 2026 - pm*

*1st April 2026 - 1:45pm*

*2nd April 2026 - 11:00am*

*2nd April 2026*

## *Options for the Poor and Vulnerable*

### *Intentional and Prophetic*

*Year 3 library visit - 3L (8:45) and 3T (10:15)*

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

*Reception school trip to Attwell farm*

*Year 2 trip to Black Country Living Museum*

*Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school*

*Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)*

*Parent Consultation Evening*

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

*Parent Consultation Evening*

*Down Syndrome Awareness Day*

*Year 5 library visit - 5F (8:45) and 5M (10:15)*

*Year 6 Confirmation Workshop with parents*

*Whole School Mass - parents welcome*

*Year 6 prayer service for parents*

*PTA event - Spring Disco in Parish*

*Holy Week*

*Reconciliation Service for children in Years 4/5/6*

*Reception class - Easter Bonnet parade*

*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*

# Term Dates: - Academic Year 2025-2026

<b>Autumn Term</b>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September - Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring Term</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February - Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
<b>Summer Term</b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July

### School Closed:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - May Bank Holiday
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - local elections

### INSET DAYS

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026



# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Cillian	For really hard on his sentence writing about farmer duck!
Year RT	Alexandra	For her super independence when writing about the farm this week – well done!
Year IF	Isla	For the enthusiasm and hard work she shows in every lesson. Well done Isla!
Year IL	Leon	For trying so hard with handwriting and for helping other children in the class.
Year 2E	Seb	For being an enthusiastic, hardworking and helpful member of our class. Fantastic work Seb.
Year 2G	Zulekha	For being an wonderful and hardworking member of our class. Keep it up!
Year 3L	Ethan	For always being a fantastic role model for others and making the right choices!
Year 3T	Sophia	For her amazing self directed learning
Year 4J	Sophia	For her concentration and focus in all her of lessons this week. Keep it up Sophia!
Year 4M	Wayne	For being an excellent, hardworking role model for his peers.
Year 5F	Naveen	For reading so eloquently and sharing such in depth explanations. Well done!
Year 5M	Peter	For always challenging himself in his learning. Keep it up!
Year 6O	Ted	Being a fantastic humble role model to the class and always trying his best!
Year 6R	Mussie	For writing a fantastic setting description based on Macbeth. Well done!

