



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.

**July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus**

**Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Stewardship'**

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

3rd July 2026

It has been another exciting week at school: the children met their new teachers and spent the day in their new classes on Wednesday; we enjoyed two music concerts on Tuesday and Wednesday celebrating the gifts of our talented pianists, violinists and guitarists; and we were blessed with fantastic weather on Thursday and Friday for our Reception and Y1-3 sports days!

A note on Transition Day itself – I was blown away by both the enthusiasm and joy of the children on Wednesday and I am indebted for all your support in the mixing of the classes throughout the school. The children entered into the spirit of the day with a calm, confident and mature attitude – I am very excited about the year ahead for our children, families, staff and St Mary's community. May Mary, our patron, continue to intercede for us all.

Next week will see the return of the warm temperatures and whilst it is not currently forecast to be as hot as before, the latter part of the week could reach up to 30 degrees. I will monitor the temperature within school as before and, whilst I do not think any 'soft closes' will be required next week, I know that we are all very familiar with the process if it becomes necessary. We will do our best to keep the children cool and comfortable while enjoying the beautiful weather e.g.: outdoor learning, water play, ice pops etc...

Don't forget that we are putting on a special screening of the England v. Mexico football game in school at 9am on Monday morning! Children can enjoy the match with their friends at a suitable time while undertaking other learning opportunities. Please do keep the score a secret so that the children can enjoy the experience fully. There is a chance that the game will be brought forward on Sunday evening and if there is an earlier kick-off, school will be as normal on Monday morning.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Yorke

# CATHOLIC LIFE

## *This week's Gospel*

*'He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"'.  
Matthew 16:15-16*

### Reflecting on this week's reading, God wants us: –

- Believe in His Son Jesus
- Know Jesus as our teacher, healer, guide and friend
- Live out our Christian mission, like St Peter and St Paul did
- Understand that He gave us the Church as a place where we can grow in faith and build a close friendship with Jesus, in community and communion.

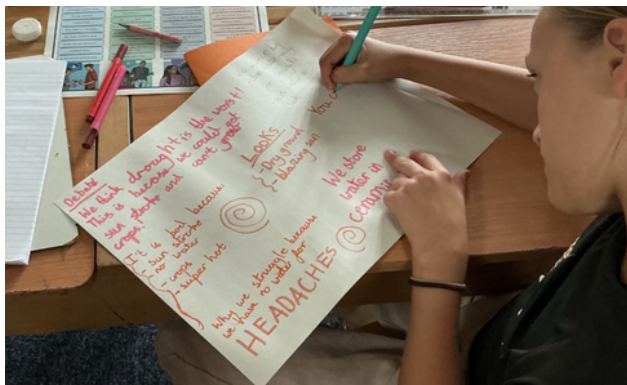


Our next Mass – Y2 Mass – Votive Mass for St Benedict – Wednesday 8th July

There was no Mass on Wednesday as it was Transition Day. The next Mass will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 9:15am. Year 2 will be leading the Mass and Year 1 will be in attendance. Parents/carers are welcome to attend and are asked to sit in the Old Church.



# CURRICULUM LEARNING



Reception collected data about their favourite fruits and presented this data in a pictogram.

In History, Year 4 enjoyed debating the most important reason why the Mayan civilisation ended.



Year 6 loved their practical DT learning this week - they cut out their fabric ready to sew!



Year 5 learnt about how the Earth rotates on its axis, and how night and day occurs in Science this week.

Year 1 took part in races to embed their learning of ordinal numbers in Maths this week!



In Geography, Year 3 compared the Amazon Rainforest to Sherwood Forest!

# SPORTS DAY

Reception



The results from these sports days and the Y4 – 6 Sports Day will be totalled and the overall winner will be announced at the God Given Gifts Assemblies at the end of term!



Year 1 - 3

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS



A big well done to Abi in Year 6. She took in 'Move it, Shake it' Dance Competition last weekend and placed first for a group, second for a group, second for a trio and third for a solo. Abi has now qualified for 'Nationals' which is a fantastic achievement.

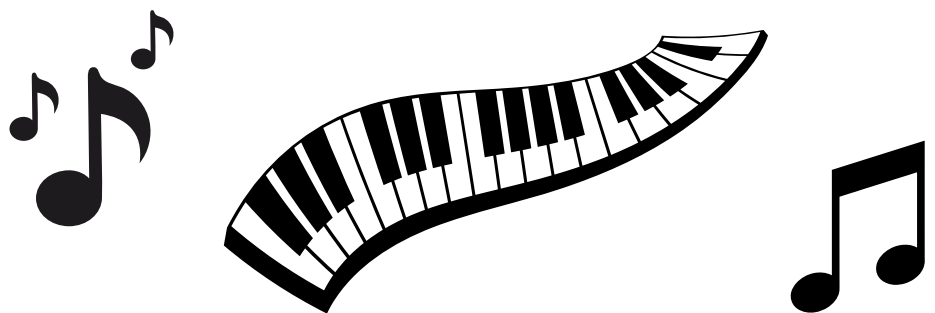
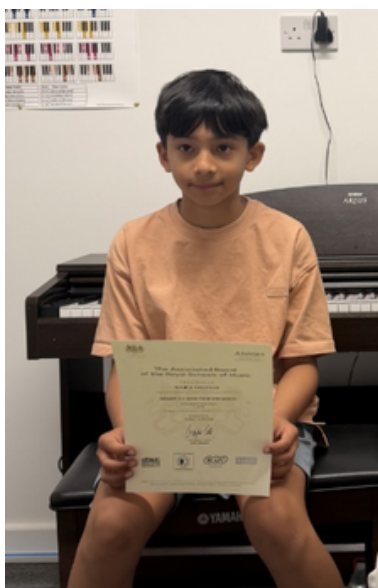


A huge well done to Florence and Phoebe for their dance achievements also. Florence achieved two 1st place finishes and Phoebe earned two 1st places, one 2nd place, a Standout Award, and qualification for the Allstar World Championships in Florida in April 2027!

Phoebe is now entering the final preparations for the Dance World Cup in Dublin, where she will compete on 10th July.



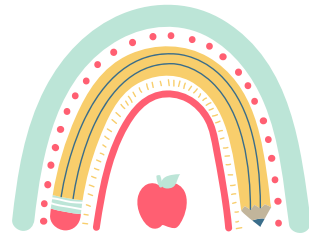
Congratulations also to Raika who successfully passed his Grade 1 exam with a Merit. This is a fantastic achievement and we're very proud of him. Raika performed at one of this week's music concerts alongside our other school musicians – well done, Raika!



Please do send in photographs and details of any out of school awards or competitions – we love to hear about your achievements and how you are using your God-given gifts and talents.



# transition



**We're saying goodbye and see you soon to these wonderful members of staff who are about to embark on a new exciting adventure or life event ...**

At the end of the school year, Miss Dawe is leaving St. Mary's for an exciting adventure teaching in Southeast Asia. Mrs Cole will also be starting her Maternity Leave and will return in the academic year 2027/2028.

We wish them both the very best of luck – they will be really missed at St. Mary's. Thank you to Miss Dawe for the commitment that she has shown the children and their families during her time at St. Mary's. We send our love and best wishes to Mrs Cole and look forward to meeting the new arrival soon.



**Miss Dawe**



**Mrs Cole**



**Mrs Shepherd**

A very special mention also to Mrs Shepherd who is retiring at the end of this school year. Mrs Shepherd has been at the school for over 24 years and will be missed greatly. Her contribution to St Mary's has been considerable and we are indebted to her for her commitment and service – may Mrs Shepherd's retirement be filled with the same joy that she has brought to our school community.

## **Welcome to St. Mary's New Staff Members**

We would like to give a big St. Mary's welcome to Mr McEvilly, our new Year 2 teacher; Miss Mahmood, who will also be teaching Year 2 and Miss Basketfield who will be teaching Year 3.

Mr McEvilly and Miss Basketfield are joining us from local Catholic schools and are excited to progress their careers within the Catholic school community. Miss Mahmood is a second year ECT and is pleased to be continuing her professional training and induction with us here at St Mary's. We are excited to welcome these new staff to our St Mary's family.



**Mr McEvilly**



**Miss Mahmood**



**Miss Basketfield**



*"To change is to grow..."*

## **Staffing for Academic Year 2026/2027**

|                                                                                                           |                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RT</b><br>Mrs Richards and Mrs Russell<br>Support – Mrs Pitt                                           | <b>RB</b><br>Miss Harris<br>Support – Mrs Zarandi Warburton        |
| <b>1F</b><br>Mrs Anderson<br>Support – Mrs Phull                                                          | <b>1L</b><br>Miss Bennett<br>Support – Mrs Kopera                  |
| <b>2E</b><br>Mr McEvilly<br>Support – Mrs Parmar                                                          | <b>2G</b><br>Miss Mahmood<br>Support – Mrs Parmar                  |
| <b>3T</b><br>Miss Basketfield<br>Mrs Reeson (Thu/Fri) -Trainee<br>Support – Mrs Campbell and Mrs Larroque | <b>3L</b><br>Miss Busby<br>Support – Mrs Campbell and Mrs Larroque |
| <b>4J</b><br>Miss Grego<br>Support – Mrs Toro                                                             | <b>4M</b><br>Mrs James<br>Support – Mrs Whittingham                |
| <b>5F</b><br>Mrs Snios<br>Support – Mrs Lassey                                                            | <b>5M</b><br>Miss Mir<br>Support – Mrs Lassey                      |
| <b>6O</b><br>Miss Heath<br>Support – Mrs Nguyen                                                           | <b>6R</b><br>Miss Flynn<br>Support – Mrs Nguyen                    |



The children met their new teachers on Wednesday and went to their new classes. It was a lovely day in school. Most of our Year 6 children were at their new schools too and came back excited about the next step of their learning journey. We also met our new Reception children who will be joining us in September. Transition is about change, which we appreciate comes with worry sometimes – we support all children through any periods of change and transition, but if you have any questions ahead of September, please do speak to a member of SLT.



The staff had a wonderful day meeting their new classes for September.  
We hope that the children did too!



## Year 6 Production – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

The Year 6 production will take place on the following dates/times:

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm

Parents/carers have been sent details of how to reserve tickets through School Gateway. Due to space restrictions in the Hall, we cannot allow any more than 4 tickets per family. Year 6 siblings will have the opportunity to watch the dress rehearsal in school on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

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## Year 6 Leavers Mass

9:30am on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

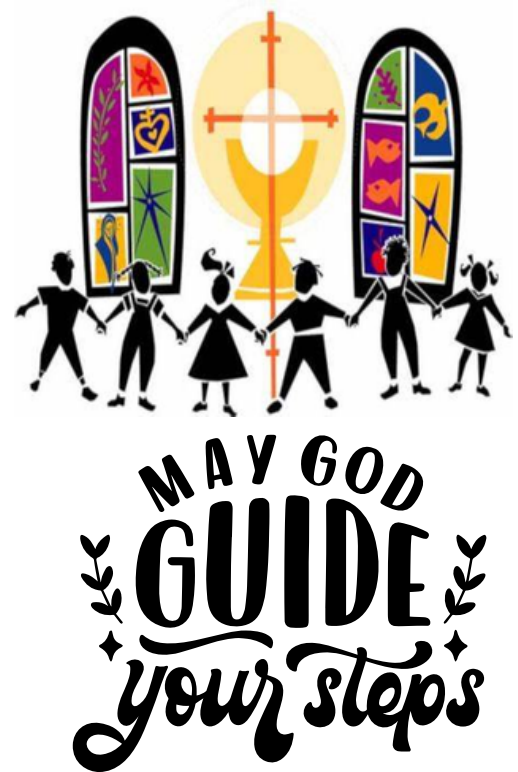
We will be celebrating Year 6 and their time at St. Mary's with a whole school Leavers Mass on Wednesday

All parents and family members are able to attend this Mass. For the Mass, we will ask parents to sit in the old part of the Church.

After Mass, the rest of the school will leave and return to have break time. Year 6 will remain in the Church and parents will join them to watch their slideshow of memories in the Church.

This will be when we hand out presents too.

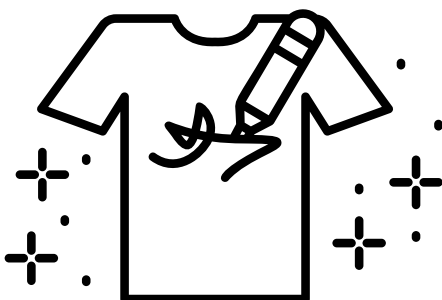
The rest of the school / siblings will watch the slideshow in their classrooms.



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## Year 6 Shirt Signing – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July (all day)

Shirt signing will take place on the final day of term. We also continue to encourage parents, staff and children to join us in the guard of honour as they leave school for the final time as Year 6 pupils. Collection times of all children are in red in 'dates for this term' – all children will need to be collected by 2pm and then Year 6 (and any staff leavers) will come out.



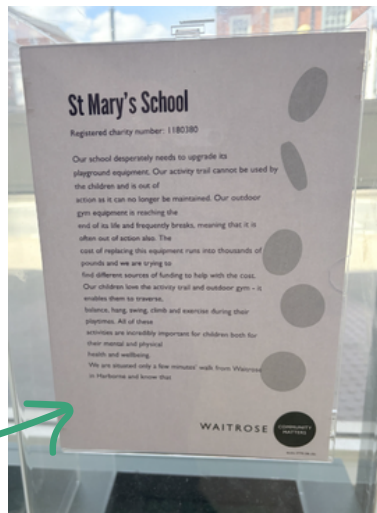
## Waitrose 'Green Token' Scheme

We are absolutely delighted to have been selected as one of three causes for our local Waitrose's 'Green Token' Scheme in our efforts to raise funds for our much needed replacement activity trail/playground equipment. This scheme allows shoppers to vote for local causes and the project with the most votes receives **£1500**, the second and third receive **£1000** and **£500** respectively.

**WAITROSE**  
& PARTNERS



In the Harborne store now!



We are indebted to the PTA for their help with this - it truly was a joint venture!

If you do shop in Waitrose, please pick up a token and vote for us. Every token counts!

## Party in the Playground - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

St Mary's RC School  
**PTA**  
Parent-Teacher Association  
Charity No. 1180380



We are overjoyed by the amount raised at this year's Party in the Playground! Huge thanks to the PTA, all the volunteers, staff and families for supporting this event.

thank you!





A vibrant poster for a 'World Sports Summer Fete'. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. At the top, there are colorful pennant flags in red, blue, and yellow, each featuring a different sport icon (soccer, basketball, tennis). A large globe is integrated into the letter 'O' of 'WORLD'. To the left, a soccer ball is shown in motion. To the right, a basketball is shown in motion near a hoop. A boy in a blue soccer uniform is running on the left, and a girl in a pink tennis outfit is playing tennis on the right. A torch with a flame is on the right side. A large gold trophy is on the bottom left, and a volleyball is on the bottom right. The main title 'WORLD SPORTS' is in large, bold letters, with 'WORLD' in blue and 'SPORTS' in red. Below it, 'SUMMER FETE' is in white letters on a blue banner. The location 'St Mary's Parish Centre' and 'Vivian Road, Harborne' are listed. The date 'SUNDAY 5 JULY' is in large red letters, with '12.00 - 3.00pm' below it. A green cursive line says 'Join us for a day of fun!', followed by 'Bring your friends and family.' and 'Come in sportswear, prizes to be won!' in red. At the bottom, there are four colored boxes with icons and text: 'ENTERTAINMENT' (blue box with musical notes), 'REFRESHMENTS' (green box with a drink and cupcake), 'RAFFLE' (orange box with a ticket icon), and 'STALLS' (purple box with a stall icon). A large red banner at the very bottom says 'FREE ENTRY' in white letters.

# WORLD SPORTS

## SUMMER FETE

St Mary's Parish Centre  
Vivian Road, Harborne

★ **SUNDAY 5 JULY** ★  
12.00 – 3.00pm

*Join us for a day of fun!*  
Bring your friends and family.  
**Come in sportswear, prizes to be won!**

**ENTERTAINMENT** **REFRESHMENTS** **RAFFLE** **STALLS**

# ★ FREE ENTRY ★



# BIRMINGHAM'S SEND LOCAL OFFER

The Local Offer is a **website for families** in Birmingham that provides information on the **support, services, and activities** available to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Scan the **QR Code** or visit **[www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk)** for more information!

Follow us on **social media** and stay up to date with local support and activities!



SENDBirmingham



localofferbirmingham



Language Translation Available

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.



**ST MARY'S**  
**Attendance matters**  
Every child, every day

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.

**Week 29/06/26-03/07/26**

| Class                                    | YRB | YRT | Y1L | Y1F | Y2E | Y2G   | Y3L | Y3T           | Y4J | Y4M | Y5M | Y5F | Y6R | Y6O |
|------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| %                                        | 98  | 94  | 100 | 100 | 94  | 93    | 94  | 100           | 100 | 98  | 95  | 98  | 97  | 96  |
| Lates                                    | 3   | 3   | 5   | 1   | 1   | 3     | 7   | 6             | 1   | 2   | 1   | 0   | 3   | 2   |
| Whole School Attendance so far this year |     |     |     |     |     | 96.6% |     | School Target |     |     |     |     | 97% |     |

Well done **1L, 1F, 3T and 4J**: - Our attendance champions!

# Dates for next half term

Summer theme -

Summer 2

8th July 2026 - 9:15am

8th July 2026 - 2:30-3:10pm

9th July 2026 - 2pm

10th July 2026 - 2pm

14th July 2026 - 9am

14th July 2026 - all day

15th July 2026 - 9:30am

16th July 2026

17th July 2026

20th July 2026

21<sup>st</sup> July 2026

Stewardship

Attentive and Discerning

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

Year 5 Ukulele concert for parents

Performance of Year 6 production to parents

Performance of Year 6 production to parents

Year 2 Prayer Service for parents

St Alphonsa House Feast Day - wear own clothes

Year 6 Leavers Mass (Whole School) - parents welcome

Break up for Summer holidays

Early finish time

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Year 6 shirt signing on final day in school and 2:00pm guard of honour

{ **INSET Days (CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL)**

## Next Year's Term Dates - 2026-2027

|                        |                                                                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Autumn<br/>Term</b> | <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> |
|                        | <i>Half-term</i>                                                           |
|                        | <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>    |
|                        |                                                                            |
| <b>Spring<br/>Term</b> | <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>   |
|                        | <i>Half-term</i>                                                           |
|                        | <b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>    |
|                        |                                                                            |
| <b>Summer<br/>Term</b> | <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>           |
|                        | <i>Half-term</i>                                                           |
|                        | <b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>           |
|                        |                                                                            |

### School Closed:

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027 - May Bank Holiday

### INSET DAYS

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026
  - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026
  - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027
  - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2027
  - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2027
- 1 more INSET day to be confirmed



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

|         |           |                                                                                         |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Year RB | Tessa     | For being a lovely role model and a kind member of RB                                   |
| Year RT | Isabella  | For fantastic writing about the Rainbow Fish!                                           |
| Year IF | Noah      | For having a wonderful transition day and his lovely contributions to class discussions |
| Year IL | Joseph    | For beautiful handwriting in exciting writing this week. Well Done!                     |
| Year 2E | Eliana    | For being a hardworking and kind member of our class.                                   |
| Year 2G | Pablo     | For always trying his best with his work!                                               |
| Year 3L | Evan      | For listening and participating in French                                               |
| Year 3T | Ben       | For working hard to show St Mary's values and helping others                            |
| Year 4J | Imogen    | For her kindness to others, she's a real role model!                                    |
| Year 4M | Meredith  | For working hard in all the subjects.                                                   |
| Year 5F | Charlotte | For her focus in lessons. Well done!                                                    |
| Year 5M | Peter     | For working so hard in his English lessons. Keep it up!                                 |
| Year 6O | Ted       | Great involvement in the production with incredible acting and singing                  |
| Year 6R | Jennifer  | For working incredibly hard in DT and designing a fantastic technicolour waistcoat!     |

