



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price 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.

September is dedicated to Mary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Family and Communities'
Our virtues for this half term are: - Compassionate and Loving



9th September 2022

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a lovely start to the school year and the children have been very excited to talk about their Summer break, the holidays they have had and the time spent with family and friends. Each class is now named after a Class Saint and this week the children have been finding out all about their class patron, who they can pray to for intercession. Each class is still linked to a title of Our Lady and we had a lovely day in school yesterday celebrating her Nativity, which began with the whole-school Mass. We were incredibly sad to hear of the death of our Queen yesterday evening. She was an incredible woman who dedicated her whole life to the service of others. As a staff and in our classes, we are praying for the repose of her soul and for the Royal Family and our King. We have sensitively spoken about this event with the children as many wanted to talk about it. We have wonderful, compassionate children at St. Mary's, who are very interested in current affairs. It is so good to be back. I hope that you all have a lovely weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Miss Price

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Luke 14:25-33

"Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish"

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- God's dream is for us to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him by sharing His love with others.
- Without God, we would be missing a vital element of what it means to live life to the full.
- Jesus challenges us to be committed disciples.

Dear God,

Father God, thank you for loving us.

Jesus, help us to follow you.

Holy Spirit, give us strength and courage to make good choices.

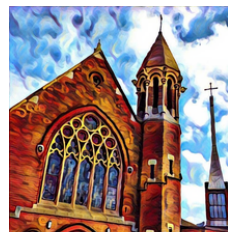
Amen

Catholic Life in School

Whole school Mass - Nativity of Our Lady

On Wednesday, the whole school came together for our Mass for the birthday of St Mary.

The children sang hymns to our Heavenly Mother and made birthday cards for the offertory. There was even a cake! It was lovely to see our parents too.



Year 6 Mass in Church - 14.9.22 at 9:15am - Holy name of Mary

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 14th September 2022, starting promptly at 9:15am. **Year 6 children** will be leading our Mass and Year 5 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



RIP Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II

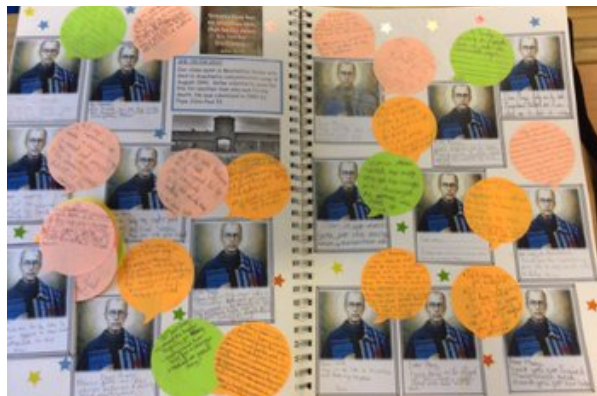
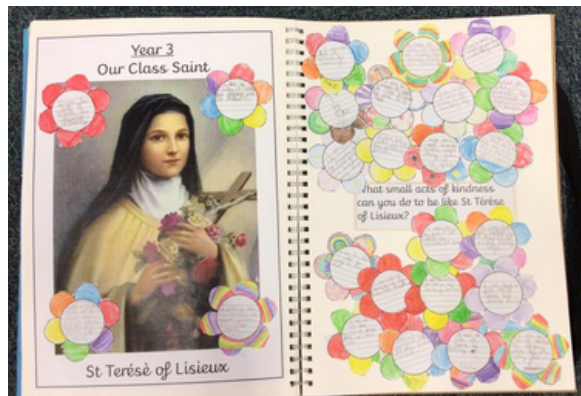
Following the sad news of the Queen's passing, we remember the fun we had last term celebrating her platinum jubilee. Every child received a 'Queen Elizabeth II' book and we hope that they will continue to treasure this, as they remember a remarkable Queen. **Monday 19th September** will be a Bank Holiday to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's State Funeral.

School will be closed for the Bank Holiday.



Class Saints

The children have been learning all about their class Saint.



Class	Teacher	Saint	Saint Day for celebrating in school
RB	Miss Detheridge	St. Bernadette	April 16th
RT	Mrs Russell / Mrs Woulfe	St. Teresa of Calcutta	September 5th
1L	Miss Bennett	St. Luke	October 18th
1F	Miss Heath	St Francis of Assisi	October 4th
2G	Mr Gambles	St George	April 23rd
2E	Miss Busby	St Edith of Polesworth	July 15th
3T	Miss Thompson	St Therese of Lisieux	October 1st
3L	Miss Adams	St. Lucy	December 13th
4J	Miss Preedy	St. Josephine Bakhita	February 8th
4M	Miss Heneghan	St. Martin De Porres	November 3rd
5F	Mrs Snios	St Faustina Kowalska	October 5th
5M	Miss Daykin-Pont	St. Maximilian Kolbe	August 14th
6R	Miss Horton	St Rose (of Lima)	August 23rd
6Ó	Miss Smyth / Mrs Noone	St Óscar Romero	March 24th

Birthday of our school Patron - St. Mary - 8th September

To celebrate Our Lady's birthday, the children made birthday cards and Fr. John blessed all of the children, staff and the classrooms.



Reception news: -

Reception class have had an excellent first week in school.



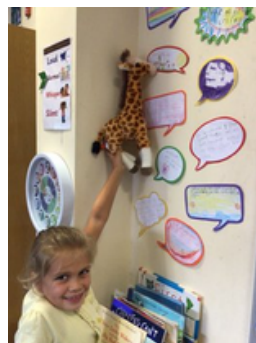
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have already done lots of writing in the English lessons.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 are reading 'Giraffes Can't Dance'. In their English lesson, they have written encouraging messages to each other and in Art, they have created their own giraffe front covers.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning about how the Internet is used to give factual news but also 'Fake news'.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning a Roman dance in their PE lessons.



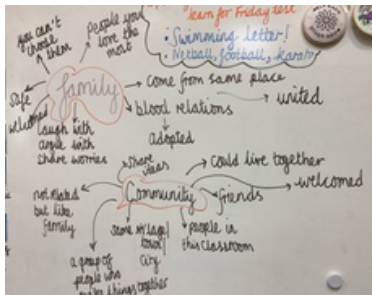
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 are learning to touch type in their computing lessons.



Year 6 news: -

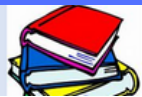
Year 6 are exploring our whole school theme of 'Family and Community' - they have created what they think God's vision is for His Kingdom on Earth.



Reaching our Full Potential this Academic Year

Our assemblies this week have explored how we can meet our full potential and the children have been introduced to our new behaviour system and established their own class rules for the year.





St Mary's Summer Reading Challenge



Over the Summer, we asked the children to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. We were incredibly impressed with how many of you took part in the challenge and posted photos on our twitter social media page. The year group who posted the most will be announced in Assembly on Monday, with prizes for the winning year group.



Commonwealth Games

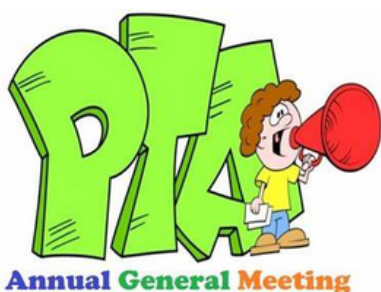
It was marvellous to see our families and staff enjoying the Commonwealth Games over the Summer.



Technical issues



We apologise that since returning to school, we have had a few technical issues with accessing emails and logging on to e-schools. Our messaging system has also been down. We are solving these issues and our communication systems should be running as normal soon. If you need to give an urgent message, please phone school. If you need an e-schools password, please let Mrs. Davis know.



The first Annual General Meeting of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of the New school year will be on **Thursday 22nd September at 6pm**. We look forward to welcoming new parents who would like to join the PTA in supporting the school run events throughout the school year.



Staff news

Miss Price will be getting married in three weeks time on **Saturday 1st October 2022**.

Once married, Miss Price will be taking her new husband's name and will be known as Mrs. Yorke.

This Sunday, 11th September, is Education Sunday.

Education Sunday is always celebrated on the second Sunday in September. This year's theme is 'enlightening the mind' and is based on Ephesians 1:17-18

"May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of Him. May He enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope His call holds for you, how rich is the glory of the heritage He offers among His holy people."

Roald Dahl Day

Tuesday 13th September is 'Roald Dahl Story Day' and children across school will be reading extracts from Dahl's books and short stories.

We will be celebrating Dahl's characters, stories and life.

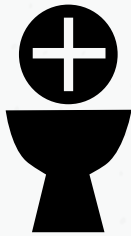


Parish News

What do Catholics actually believe? Or do?

For the puzzled and the curious, or for those faced with their children's questions: Mummy what should I say in Confession? Etc. the *About Being Catholic* program (ABC) begins with a guided tour of the Church Thursday 29th September 7.30pm,

Note: it's not about becoming Catholic. No books, no tests, - just voice your questions, doubts, irritations etc. See Fr John if interested.



Children's Liturgy - 9:30am Mass

Year 2 and below are all welcome to attend the children's liturgy, including toddlers and babies, to be accompanied by an adult. Please go straight in to the Parish Centre and you will come into the Mass at the Offertory.



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



Guitar lessons

Is your child interested in learning to play the guitar? Our guitar teacher works in school on Mondays and Tuesdays and has space for more children to work with him.

Please contact our office and leave your details if you would like to take up this opportunity and Mr. Jackson will be in touch.



End of day

Please take note of the end of day timings and where you need to stand to collect your children.

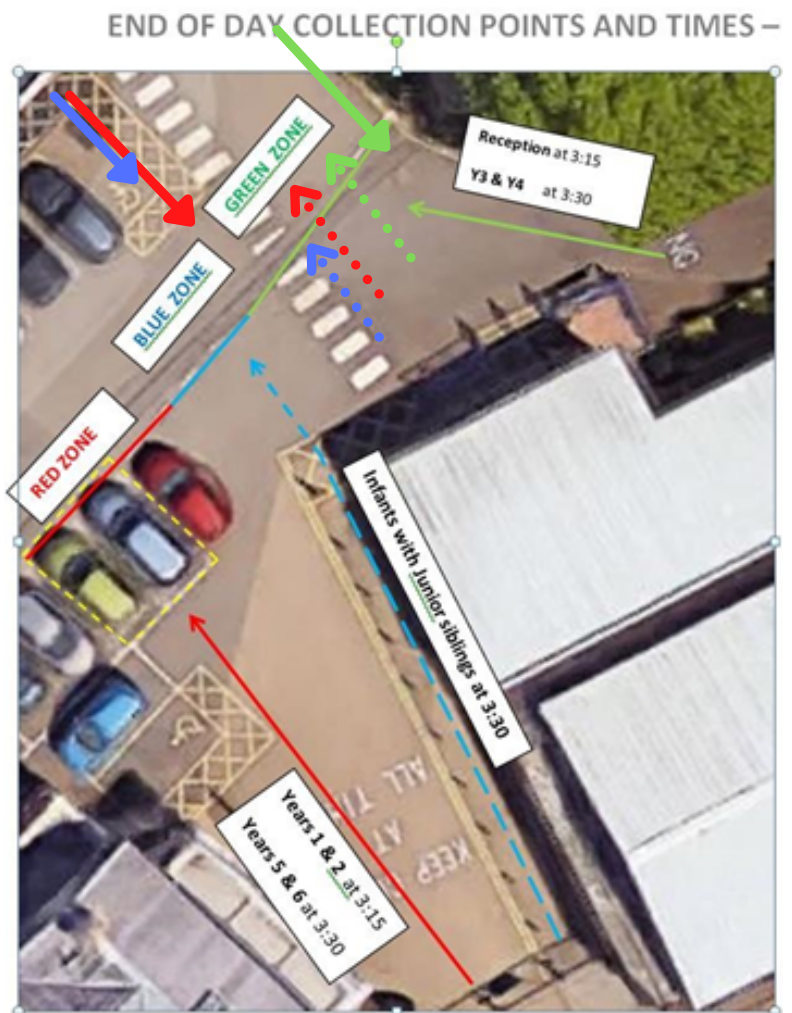
At 3:10pm, Reception parents (once children are in full time) are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:15pm, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:20pm, siblings will be released to parents, who will walk down on the **right** hand side (as shown by the blue arrows). Your children will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 3 and Year 4 parents are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 5 and Year 6 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.



Please note: -

The school has a walking home policy that states that children should be picked up by the parents. We encourage children to only walk home by themselves in the Summer term of Year 6.



In school, we ask for children to use book bags rather than rucksacks

Please can children attend school with their book bag and draw string PE bag.



The book bag has sufficient space for reading books and homework and the PE bag should contain pumps for indoor PE, that can be kept in school for the half term. We are asking for this rather than the rucksacks as the rucksacks are too bulky and there is not enough space on the children's pegs for them all.



Some older children may need a larger bag if they attend before or after school clubs. When buying a school bag, please ensure that it is a plain bag, without any logos or advertising. We would prefer the school bags that children use to be in the 'blue' matching the school colours.

Jewellery



To ensure the safety of all children, we will only allow children to wear small stud earrings (not dangly earrings) and a watch, on the days that they are not doing PE.

On PE days we are asking that children do not wear any jewellery, so that it is not lost if they are asked to remove it for physical lessons. Thank you for supporting us with this, your child's safety is at the forefront of our uniform decisions. .

Labelling of clothing with child's name and class name

Please label all belongings for your child (including lunch boxes / water bottles / school bags / clothing...) Items that are labelled are returned to your child's classroom when they are left somewhere else in school. Items that are not labelled are placed in the parent shelter. To ensure that no items are lost, label everything.



PE day



We will continue to wear PE kits on the days that children are doing PE in school, It is important that children are **wearing correct PE uniform**. PE uniform is the Gold t-shirt, Royal blue shorts, dark navy tracksuit bottoms and **plain black (or white) trainers**.

Please see the information below regarding the days each class with have their PE lesson.

On PE days - the children come in wearing their PE uniform.

Dance days - they come into school wearing their PE kit and just change their footwear.

Reception	PE day - Friday
Year 1	PE days – Monday and Thursday
Year 2	PE day – Tuesday Dance - Wednesday
Year 3	3T PE days – Monday and Thursday 3L PE days – Monday and Friday
Year 4	4J – Dance on Monday, PE day on Thursday 4M – Dance on Monday, PE day on Friday
Year 5	PE day – Wednesday Dance - Thursday
Year 6	Dance – Tuesday Swimming - Wednesday

Curriculum Workshops

We would like to invite you to your child's Curriculum workshops. Separate letters will be sent out and they also appear in the 'dates' section of the newsletter. If you are unable to attend, you will find all the information including any PowerPoints used on the curriculum pages of the website.



Additional school clubs

We have several school clubs running in school

Before school clubs

Wednesdays (7:45-8:45) - Karate - For Y4, Y5 and Y6

Thursdays (7:45-8:45) - Karate - For Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4

Fridays (7:45-8:45) - Karate - For Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4



After school clubs

Mondays (3:30-4:30) - Netball for Y5 and Y6

(3:30-4:30) - Football for Y5 and Y6 (boys)

Tuesdays (3:30-4:30) - Create Club for KS1 (starting WB: 19.9.22)

(3:30-4:30) - Football for Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 (girls)

Wednesdays (3:30 - 4:30) - Football for Y3, Y4 (boys)

(3:30 - 4:45) - Chess - For Y3

Thursdays (3:30 - 4:45) - Chess - For Y4, Y5, Y6

(3:30 - 4:30) - Create Club for KS2 (starting WB: 19.9.22)

(3:30 - 4:40) - Football for Y1, Y2 (boys and girls)



Healthy Snacks

Please may we remind all parents that only healthy snacks are permitted in school – your child may have a piece of fruit at break time. Do not send your child in with crisps, sweets or chocolate as they will not be able to consume this on site.

Please also be aware that we do not allow nuts, in order to reduce the chance of children with allergies from having a reaction.



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.

Term dates are on this newsletter and on the website.

Attendance and Punctuality: -

Good attendance, continues to be a school and government priority.

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 Miss Price or Mrs. Davis.

We will announce the attendance for the previous week in this section of the newsletter each week.

Dates for this term

Autumn theme -

5th September 2022 - all day

12th September 2022 - all day

14th September 2022 - 9:15am

19th September 2022 - all day

21st September 2022 - 9:15am

22nd September 2022 - 6:00pm

26th September 2022 - 2:00pm

28th September 2022 - 9:15am

30th September 2022

October 2022 - all month

1st October 2022 - 1:00pm

From 3rd October onwards -

3rd October 2022 - 2:00pm

4th October 2022 - 3:15pm

5th October 2022 - 9:15am

6th October 2022 - all day

10th October 2022 - all day

10th October 2022 - 2:00pm

11th October 2022 - 3:30pm

12th October 2022 - 9:15am

14th October 2022 - 9:15am

WB 17th October 2022 - all week

18th October 2022 - 3:40pm

19th October 2022 - 9:30am

20th October 2022 - 3:40pm

21st October 2022 - all day

WB 24th October - all week

1st November 2022 - 1:45pm

2nd November 2022 - all day

2nd November 2022 - 9:30am

2nd November 2022 - 1:45pm

3rd November 2022 - afternoon

4th November 2022 - 1:45pm

8th November 2022 - 1:45pm

9th November 2022 - 9:15am

Families and Communities

School closed for children - INSET day

Roald Dahl day in school

Y6 Mass in Church (Y6, Y5 parents welcome)

Bank Holiday - Queen Elizabeth II state funeral

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4, Y3 parents welcome)

PTA (Parent and Teacher Association) - Annual General Meeting

Y6 Curriculum Workshop

Y2 Mass in Church (Y2, Y1 parents welcome)

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Black History Month

Choir singing

Collection for our harvest begins

Y2 Curriculum Workshop

Reception and KS1 film club

Y5 Mass in Church (Y5, Y6 parents welcome)

Poetry day in school

World Mental Health Day

Y1 Curriculum Workshop

KS2 film club

Y3 Mass in Church (Y3, Y4 parents welcome)

Year 6 Assembly

Book Fair in school

Parents' Evening

Reception Welcome and Harvest Mass

Parents' Evening

School closed for children - INSET day

October half term holiday

Y5 Autumn Inspire

Flu immunisation day

Whole school Mass for All Saints and All Souls

Y3 Autumn Inspire

New Reception parents 2023-2024 open afternoon (YR parents welcome)

Y2 Autumn Inspire

YR Autumn Inspire

Y1 Mass in Church (Y1, Y2 parents welcome)

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Rahzayne	<i>using beautiful manners in class</i>
Year RT	Elliott	<i>being polite, kind and helpful to other children and his teachers</i>
Year IF	Agatha	<i>always trying her hardest and participating in lessons</i>
Year IL	Alonso	<i>working independently in maths</i>
Year 2E	Harry	<i>having a super attitude to learning. What a great start to Year 2</i>
Year 2G	Kush	<i>perseverance in independent activities</i>
Year 3L	Eliza-Rose	<i>beautiful manners all week</i>
Year 3T	Abigail	<i>hard work and beautiful manners</i>
Year 4J	Benjamin	<i>excellent contributions to class discussions and working hard all week</i>
Year 4M	Max	<i>having a fantastic first week back in school</i>
Year 5F	Katy	<i>enthusiastic participation in every lesson and fantastic learning</i>
Year 5M	Tamilore	<i>excellent reading at our whole school Mass and a super attitude to learning</i>
Year 6O	Isabella	<i>reading beautifully in our whole school Mass</i>
Year 6R	Orla	<i>being very organised and setting a good example to her peers</i>

