



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.

September is dedicated to Mary.

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - Grateful and Generous



22nd September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

This week has been the first full week for Reception and they have been wonderful! Our Reception Lead, Mrs Richards, has written to all parents to confirm how well the children have done and what will be taking place in the next few weeks. Please may I remind all parents, including our new parents not to drive down our driveway at drop-off and pick-up. This includes between 4:20 and 4:50 as we have children leaving school from their after school clubs and the safety of our children always comes before finding somewhere to park. When parking, please take note of our zig zag lines and the restrictions around school. We often have unmarked Police, PCSOs and parking wardens monitoring that parents are parking safely. We have also enjoyed our Super Science Week in school with links to creation and our mission to protect our 'common home' - the Earth that the Lord has given to us. The children had lots of fun investigating and making observations in their Science lessons. Yesterday, we had our first PTA meeting and it was wonderful to welcome new parents to the meeting. Our PTA fundraising and the money donated to school through 'school fund' helps us to provide wonderful opportunities for the children. We are currently developing our Outdoor area and Thrive Room and we have big plans for a chapel/prayer room, so exciting projects to support! I do hope you have a wonderful weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Prayer

Laudato Si- Pope Francis urges us to have: -

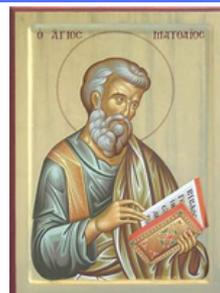


*O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of
this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the earth and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Amen*

Catholic Life in School

Year 2 Mass - 20.9.23 - St. Matthew

Year 2 had a beautiful Mass on Wednesday to celebrate the feast of St. Matthew.



Y3 Mass - St. Therese of Lisieux

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 27th September 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 children will be leading our Mass and Year 4 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.

Reception news: -

Reception have built amazing homes and structures using our brand new wooden blocks!



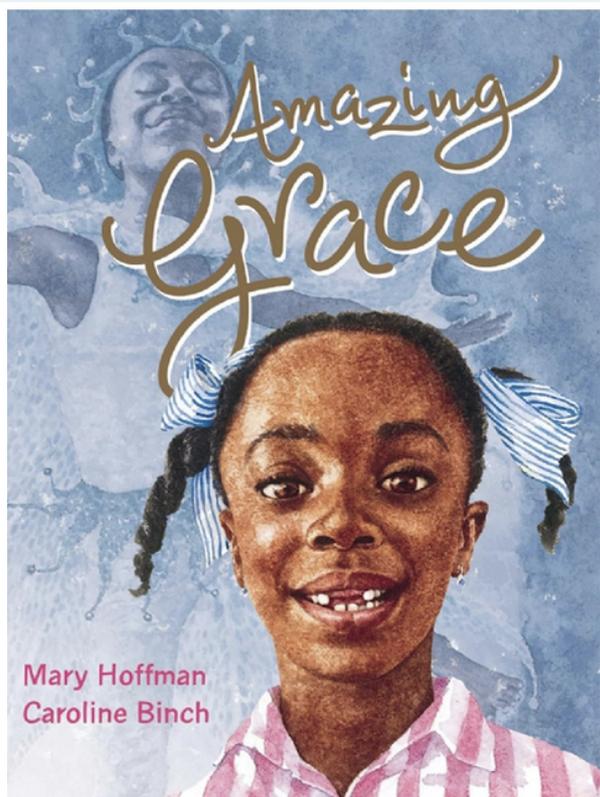
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been retelling the story 'Tug of War', using puppets.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been using a storyboard to orally retell Amazing Grace.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 enjoyed some time reading for pleasure!



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been practising their throws in netball and played a mini competitive game.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 visited the library this week and they were able to borrow books using their library cards. They even had a story read to them by Saul the Librarian! They can't wait to go again!



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have enjoyed their orienteering lessons around St Mary's playground!



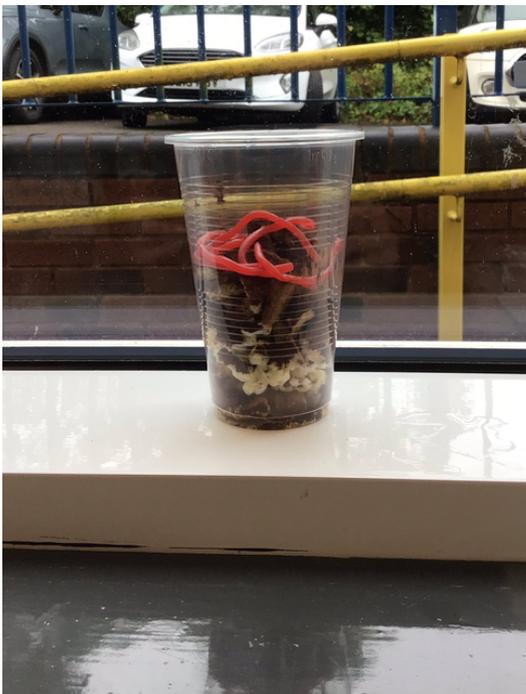
Extra Curricular

Year 5 had a super afternoon at Hallfield School and they finished in second place. Well done to all involved!



SUPER! Science WEEK

Our Students this week have been taking part in all sorts of science experiments! From shadow puppets and learning about the different layers of soil, to making a water cycle in a bag and making their own Greenhouses!



School Roles

The sun is shining on our newly appointed Spiritual Council who are ready to strengthen our faith journey in school and show Jesus' teachings in all that they do.



Our brand new Head Boy, Head Girl and Year 6 Prefects were announced in assembly yesterday and presented with their new ties. Their teachers received fantastic applications from them and are very excited to have them represent our school!





Mission Together

School 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’.

ST. THÉRÈSE'S LITTLE WAY



Our mission week will conclude on Friday 29th September. Children will work in their house groups to complete a special piece of art work.



“Do little acts of kindness with great love.”



Year 4 Harborne Library Visit - 26.9.23

Year 4 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

4J will leave at 9:00am

4M 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 4 staff know.

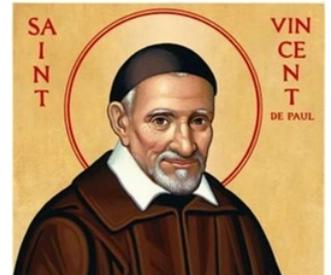
Macmillan Cake Sale

Macmillan Cake Sale

On Thursday 28th September, we will be supporting The Parish centre, who are hosting a Macmillan coffee morning – please come and join us!

On Friday 29th September, we will be celebrating Saint Vincent de Paul, the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor.

Children who are in St. Vincent De Paul House Group – can come in to school wearing white on this day!





Coats

As the weather is changeable now, please ensure that your child comes to school with their waterproof coats.

Update your contact list

Contact details

Please make sure that we have the correct contact details for any adults that you wish to pick up your child. School can not release your child to somebody who is not on the contact list.

We legally need two contacts for each child.

If you would like somebody to pick up your child that is not you - please make sure that you provide school with contact details of who is picking up your child.



PTA Noticeboard

Check out our PTA noticeboard - revamped with regular news and updates in the shelter outside of school.

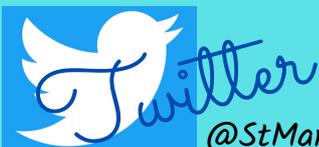


School Website and twitter

We continue to keep our school website and twitter up to date.

Any policies ratified by governors can be found on the website under key info

We have **recently updated our behaviour policy** which can be found in this section.



Stay up to date with everything that is happening at St. Mary's by following us on our Twitter Page and giving us more likes!!!

Term dates are found in our parents section
Please take time to familiarise yourself with the website as most information can be found here

Safety Tip of the Week: -
Monitor who your children are talking to online.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. It's not the only one. Other popular messaging apps like iMessage, Facebook Messenger, and Signal also offer end-to-end encryption. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging. WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should the legislation go ahead.

AGE RESTRICTION 16+ (UK and Europe, and the world's 117 other countries)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- EVOLVING SCAMS**: WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer, and using a 'urgent emergency' message to get the recipient to log in to a bogus app or to respond to a call or text saying to 'reply to the code' and then giving them access.
- CONTACT FROM STRANGERS**: To start a video broadcast, you need the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat by one of their friends, for example, contacting other people that they don't know.
- FAKE NEWS**: WhatsApp's connectivity can cause the spread of fake news to be more rapid than on other social media. Forwarded messages more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from original and might not be entirely factual, either.
- ONLINE**: The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts. Knowing that the recipient won't be able to screenshot or save evidence of inappropriate content can lead to users feeling more confident that they can share content that they suspect their partners won't screenshot or save as evidence of inappropriate messages.
- CHAT LOCK**: Another new option allows users to share sensitive messages or chats in a separate 'locked chat'. This feature can be used to protect sensitive information and content that they suspect their partners won't screenshot or save as evidence of inappropriate messages.
- VISIBLE LOCATION**: WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends streaming up or parents checking that their child's location is where they think it should be. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a broadcast group chat can also track their location - potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

- EMPHASISE CAUTION**: Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether the message is something like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Saving up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.
- ADJUST THE SETTINGS**: It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings. Go to 'Privacy' and 'Security' for specific advice on how contacts can see them. In 'Privacy' you can choose to share your 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' to see your child's profile picture, status, 'About' info, and 'Last Seen' time. You can also choose to share your child's profile picture, status, 'About' info, and 'Last Seen' time for only as long as they need - and then turn it off.
- THINKING BEFORE SHARING**: Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy to click on something and then to share it without thinking. Even if you're not sure if something is true, it's better to ask someone you trust before sharing it. Encourage your child to report a message that might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.
- CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY**: Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. You can talk about 'locked chats', you can talk about the sort of you text a friend. Explain why you want to talk about the sort of you text a friend. Explain why you want to talk about the sort of you text a friend. Explain why you want to talk about the sort of you text a friend.

Meet Our Expert: **NOS National Online Safety** #WakeUpWednesday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LIVE STREAMING

Live streaming involves broadcasting and watching videos online in real time. Often on social media or via platforms like YouTube and Twitch, viewers can interact through comments, chats and reactions during the broadcast. Such instant engagement makes this an exciting way to share experiences, learn from others and build digital communities. Despite the many positives, live streaming also creates a potential platform for offensive content and poses some risks to children. It's essential to keep privacy and safety in mind and comply with each site or app's age restrictions.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ 16+ 18+ (Age varies by platform)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION**: Despite their age restrictions, some platforms don't require users to provide an email or phone number to sign up - meaning that anyone can register for an account (and potentially pretend to be the age of a child) without providing any proof of their identity. In many cases, this means that anyone can create an account that is not verified by a parent or guardian. This lack of verification can lead to children being exposed to inappropriate content, including sexual or violent material, and to being contacted by strangers.
- DISCLOSING PERSONAL INFO**: A common mistake of live streaming is the ability for others to be able to see the location of the user. The location of the user is often visible to anyone who is watching the stream. This can lead to personal information about the user being shared with others. It's important to ensure that the user is not sharing any personal information that they do not want to be shared.
- ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN**: As the viewer streams via live, they are not able to pause the stream. This means that if a child is streaming, they are unable to stop the stream if they are uncomfortable. This can lead to a child being exposed to inappropriate content, including sexual or violent material, and to being contacted by strangers.
- UNAUTHORISED RECORDINGS**: Each live streaming platform places restrictions on what can be recorded. However, some platforms allow users to record streams without the streamer's permission. This can lead to a child's stream being recorded and shared with others without their consent.
- ROGUE CONTENT CREATORS**: Children can often watch other people's live streams, which could be used to share inappropriate or harmful content. This can lead to a child being exposed to inappropriate content, including sexual or violent material, and to being contacted by strangers.
- DANGER OF GROOMING**: There are increasing reports of children being groomed by strangers on live streaming platforms. This can lead to a child being contacted by a stranger who is trying to build a relationship with them. This can lead to a child being exploited or harmed.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- PUT PRIVACY FIRST**: Through the streaming app's settings, switch off the location of the user. This will help to keep their location private. It's also important to ensure that the user is not sharing any personal information that they do not want to be shared.
- MANAGE MULTISTREAMING**: Some apps and sites let users stream their content to multiple platforms at the same time. This can lead to a child's stream being shared with a wider audience than they intended. It's important to ensure that the user is not sharing any personal information that they do not want to be shared.
- GET INVOLVED YOURSELF**: Research suggests a significant number of streams show a focus on sex. It's important to ensure that the user is not sharing any personal information that they do not want to be shared.
- TALK ABOUT LIVE STREAMING**: Try to start with positives before discussing potential risks. You could ask which live streaming app your child likes and how they use them. Do they just watch streams or create their own? Explain why it's essential to reveal personal information while streaming. Leave it to your child's age and maturity to decide if they should stream.
- CONSIDER THEIR ONLINE REPUTATION**: As the broadcasters see live, it often causes the misconception among young people that whatever happens in their video simply disappears. In fact, the streamer's content, however, videos can stay online indefinitely or be recorded by other users. It's important that your child understands what they do and say in a live stream could potentially damage their online reputation and, quite possibly, be seen by prospective future employers, colleges or universities.

Meet Our Expert: **NOS National Online Safety** #WakeUpWednesday

There are several open evenings taking place to support Secondary School choices - here are a few that have been sent to our enquiry box for your information....



HARBORNE ACADEMY

ASPIRE. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

Open Evening

Thursday 28th September 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Open Mornings

25th - 29th September 9:00am - 10:00am

Bookable through our website.

www.harborneacademy.co.uk

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 20th September, 6pm - 8.30pm



Open Evening 2023

We look forward to welcoming you on

Thursday 21st September 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Headteachers talk:

5:15pm

6:45pm

St Paul's School for Girls, are holding their Open Evening on Thursday 21 September, between 5 - 8pm.

Apply online for your child's Secondary school place – September 2024



Year 6 are due to transfer from primary to secondary school in September 2024. Local authorities co-ordinate secondary transfer admissions for all maintained (non-fee paying) schools.

This means parent/carers of Year 6 children should apply to the local authority in which they live (the council to which they pay council tax) for Secondary School.

If you live in Birmingham you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions between **1 September and 31 October 2023**. It is important that you submit your application by 31 October 2023. Applications received after the national closing date of 31 October 2023 will be treated as late applications. **Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools**, as these applications will be processed after 1 March 2024, in accordance with Birmingham's coordinated admissions scheme.

We know this is an important time for you our Year 6 children, and we encourage you to find out as much as you can about local schools and how the admissions process works before you make your application. Please do not hesitate to contact the office or a member of SLT if you need support with your application.

Information about the application process will be available on the council's website, www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions from **1 September 2023**.

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 read the information below to find out more...

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹. ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident. ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021

If Police attend a home where children live (whether they are present or not) – they will automatically inform school so that we can offer any support. Any of our families can seek support from a member of the pastoral team. We are here to safeguard children and their families...

Pastoral Team

If you require any support from school please speak to a member of our pastoral team



Uniforms can be expensive, family circumstances can change and sometimes keeping your children clean and warm can be more difficult than you had ever imagined.

The School Swop Shop is an initiative, intended to help families, by providing free school uniforms, PE kits, shoes, forest school clothes and anything else that may be needed.

Absolutely anyone is welcome to donate pre loved clothing, or request anything they may need. Please help us to continue to help as many families as possible.



FAQs

Do I need to have something to donate to the Swop Shop in order to receive items?

No you do not need to make a donation in order to make requests for items. The only criteria to receive an item from us is that you need it.

I need some uniform, how do I make a request?

Just contact us through our Facebook page or email address and let us know what items you need.

I have some items to donate, how do I get them to the Swop Shop?

You can drop off any donations at one of our drop off points (see website).

Does the Swop Shop make any money from items donated?

No - all items are free to anyone who requests them.

www.ruberyswopshop.co.uk

ruberyswopshop@outlook.com



@ruberyswopshop



@shop_swop



**TEA
& TALK**

At St. Mary's School
Canteen



Dear Parents and Carers,

This year St. Mary's will be trialling the introduction of a **Parent Hub**.

This will be a place where parents (babies/toddlers welcome) can come and have a **chat over a cup of tea/coffee and sweet treats**, with other parents and staff every half term.

We will offer a friendly ear, advice and signposting to agencies/clubs should you need it and the opportunity to build up a St. Mary's community.

The first Tea and Talk Hub will take place in the School Canteen

from 9:15-10:30 on Tuesday 10th October.

Please come and see us.

Many thanks,

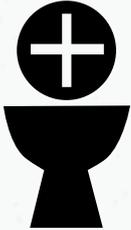
Mrs Tame



Altar Servers...

St Mary's Church and School: we had a huge response to our Classroom appeal, in Years 4 and 5, for new Altar Servers for Masses at both the weekends in the Church and during the week for Year and whole School Masses. Of 35 named volunteers, 18 turned up the next day, Saturday and 2.00pm for an hour and a half training, all dressed up as Altar Servers. Thank you, parents, for bringing them along, - and I'm sorry for those parents and children that couldn't make it, - and will now have to wait for the next training session next year. Meanwhile a good number of the new Altar Servers will have to wait until after half-term to make a start at the weekend Masses - due to Mrs Eileen Wong, Senior Server, being away for four weekends.

What do Catholics actually believe? Or do?



Guided Tour of St Mary's Church, this Thursday 28th September at 7.30pm, - with a short explanation in everyday English of everything you can see in the Church, - that red light, the candles in front of statues, kneeling, signing yourself with the Cross, Holy Water, priest wearing different colours, standing/sitting/kneeling, what's inside the Confessional.....Very useful All questions answered by Fr John. Particularly valuable for parents of Reception Class and Year 3. This will help you answer your children's and your partner's questions.... One hour.

The About Being Catholic course, each Thursday 7.30pm in the Parish Hall begins with the Guided Tour of the Church. The full programme, with all Catholic beliefs, services and ways of praying explained (by priest) and discussed (by you) is open to both Catholic and those who are of a different Church or faith, - or are simply curious and need to more about what their child is experiencing at St Mary's School.

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 Sept – 22nd Sept

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96.1%	96.7%	98.7%	96.9%	94.7%	99%	100%	88.3%	99.7%	99.7%	97%	98.6%	99%	99.3%
Lates	9	9	8	6	7	8	4	7	8	10	7	3	9	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						97.1%		School Target				97%		

Well done Y3L: - our Attendance Champions

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

WB 25th September 2023

26th September 2023 - am

27th September 2023 - 9:15am

28th September 2023 - 4:00pm

29th September 2023 - all day

October 2023

October 2023

2nd October 2023 - all day

3rd October 2023 - am

3rd October 2023

3rd October 2023 - after school

4th October 2023 - all day

4th October 2023 - 9:15am

5th October 2023 - all day

5th October 2023 - all day

5th October 2023 - after school

6th October 2023 - 9:15am

10th October 2023 - all day

10th October 2023 - 9:15-10:30

10th October 2023 - am

11th October 2023

11th October 2023 - 9:15am

12th October 2023 - 4:00pm

13th October 2023 - 9:15am

WB 16th October - all week

16th October 2023 - all day

17th October 2023 - am

18th October - all day

18th October - 9:15am

24th October 2023 - all day

24th October 2023 - am

24th October 2023 - 3:30-6:00

25th October 2023 - am

25th October 2023 - 3:30-6:00

26th October 2023

27th October 2023 - all day

Dignity of the Human Person

Curious and Active

Mission Week

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

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

U11s boys' football match

*Children in **St. Vincent de Paul House** - wear **white** non-school uniform*

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

Year 3T non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Therese

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3T and 11:00 3I)

Play leaders at Bishop Challoner school

Film club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 - PTA

Year 1F non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Francis of Assisi

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 6 classes attend) - parents welcome

National Poetry Day

Year 5F non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Faustina

Film club for Y1, Y2, Y3 - PTA

Year 1 Prayer Service for all Year 1 parents

Mental Health Awareness Day

Parent hub - come have tea and sweet treats in the school canteen

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

School Photo day

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

U11s boys' football match

Year 6 Year group Assembly

Please send in donations for our Harvest Collection

Children in St. Teresa of Avila House - wear blue non-school uniform

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

Year 1L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Luke

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

Children in St. John Paul II House - wear red non-school uniform

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Flu immunisations

Parent Consultation Evening

PTA circus workshops in school

INSET Day - school closed to children

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Natan	<i>Being a fantastic role model and trying really hard in everything he does</i>
Year RT	Oliver	<i>For always trying his best in all of his learning!</i>
Year IF	Esme	<i>For making an effort to actively participate in class discussions</i>
Year IL	Reena	<i>For always trying her best!</i>
Year 2E	Ada	<i>or super writing based on stories from The Old Testament</i>
Year 2G	Cillian	<i>For consistently trying his best in everything he does</i>
Year 3L	Savannah	<i>For trying her best in all of her learning and always being positive!</i>
Year 3T	Reese	<i>For her super resilience in learning and kindness to all</i>
Year 4J	Charlie	<i>For always making sure his learning is well presented</i>
Year 4M	Emanuel	<i>For being an excellent role model in the classroom</i>
Year 5F	Olivia	<i>Excellent work ethic, participation in lessons and spirituality</i>
Year 5M	Melissa	<i>Amazing effort in ALL her work but exceptional effort in Netball</i>
Year 6O	Katy	<i>For successfully making links between the Old Testament and the New Testament</i>
Year 6R	Mykey	<i>For being very organised for lessons and participating well</i>

