



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.

## April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Stewardship'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Eloquent and Truthful'



26th April 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to give a massive thank you to those who are supporting our PTA. We had a great group of volunteers last week for our film evenings and plans are in place for this term's fundraising. We have so many enrichment ideas that we would like to put in place and the money raised by the PTA is a massive step towards this. If you want to get involved and help with school projects please contact your PTA year group link and look out for how you can support our upcoming Summer Fair, which is always so popular. I would also like to thank our families who regularly donate to school fund and gift aid too. We use this money to supplement experiences, visits, school trips, curriculum and so forth and it really helps us provide the best opportunities for the children. If you would like to know more about donating to our school fund, please contact the school office. Please note important dates for statutory assessments - particularly for children in Year 6. Their SATs week is week beginning Monday 13th May. During this week, we ask Year 6 children to get in to school for an 8am breakfast club. Children will have breakfast with their teachers and have the opportunity to settle any nerves, socialise with friends and prepare before the beginning of the school day.

We have had a lovely week in school and the children have grown so much since September. We're really pleased with their progress. Please remember that school is not open next Thursday 2nd May as we are a polling station and closed for voting. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Yorke

### *This week's Gospel and Prayer*

*John 10:11*

*"I am the good shepherd."*

God our Father,

Thank you for being close to us!

Help me to make time to be in your presence.  
Show me how I can share your love and presence  
with others.  
Amen

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and we are His sheep.
- Jesus knows each of us individually.
- We can follow Jesus' example by caring for others.

### Catholic Life in School

#### Year 2 Mass - 24.04.24 - Votive of St George

On Wednesday, Year 2 led us in a Mass commemorating St. George celebrating this Saint's bravery and courage.



#### Y3 Mass - Votive of St Philip and St James

Our next Mass is in the Church on Wednesday 1st May 2024, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 children will be leading our Mass and Year 4 will be attending. All are welcome to attend.





Reception news: -

Reception have been campaigning to save the rain forests this week!  
They learnt about deforestation and how humans are endangering animals by destroying their habitats.



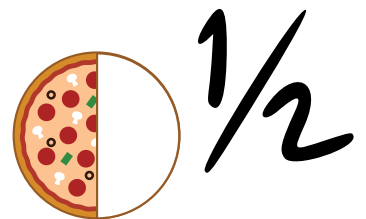
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have learned how to make equal groups using counters in Maths this week.



Year 2 news: -

Mathematicians in Year 2 have been halving different amounts using counters and beanbags.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 explored the climate of rainforests this week in Geography.  
They presented weather forecasts for different rainforests!





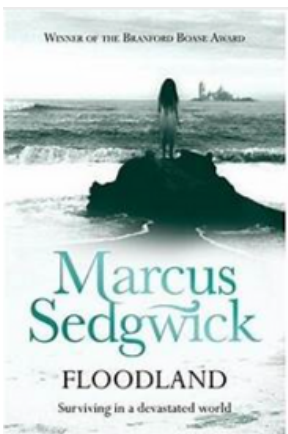
Year 4 news: -  
Year 4 learnt how to outwit an opponent in Badminton this week.



Year 5 news: -  
Year 5 learnt about the ways that rivers change along their course in Geography and how can we be caretakers of these changing environments.



Year 6 news: -  
This week, Year 6 edited their Exciting Writing character descriptions of Zoe from the text, Floodland. They worked with their partners to help each other improve their sentence types and punctuation.





# Child-led Collective Worship

Year 5 led a beautiful Prayer Service on Thursday with a focus on SM's patron - St Maximilian Kolbe. His witness to Christ's Resurrection inspires us to live with hope and courage, even in the face of adversity.



Children in Year 2 led a lovely collective worship thinking about meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

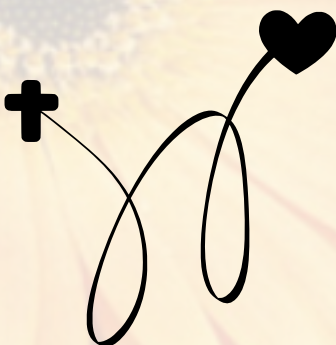


Even the youngest children in our school plan, lead and participate in Collective Worship. This week, Reception reflected upon how we know Jesus is all around us in how we treat others.



➡ faith ➡

In Year 1, the children decided to look at the calling of the disciples and responded by writing down what their calling is!





# Fast-track Ballet



Year 1 had a fantastic morning with the Birmingham Royal Ballet this morning. During their workshop, the children had a lovely time learning the basic skills of ballet.

## Winning house group - St. Gianna



Massive congratulations to the children in St. Gianna house group who gained the most dojo points in Spring term and earnt an extra special treat this afternoon. It was wonderful timing too as we celebrated the feast day of St. Gianna today (28th April) and the children in this house wore green to school. Happy feast day for all the children in St. Gianna. St. Gianna...Pray For Us!





# 2G's St George's Celebration



2G enjoyed a fantastic celebration of their Class Saint on Tuesday - they wore their own red clothes to school and learnt all about their special Class Saint!

## OPAL Update



More and more OPAL resources are being added all the time - as you can see the children are having a great time and really enjoying being creative.

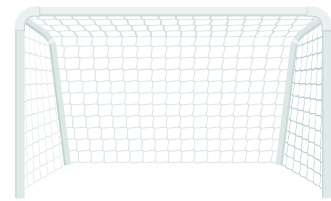


## St. Mary's U11 Boys Football team



Another amazing game for our U11 boys this week. They have played their last league match and won 7-2! Incredible playing from all eight of them. Thank you to our parents for their support this season 🌟

We look forward to hearing the final league positions!



Next week - WB 29.04.23

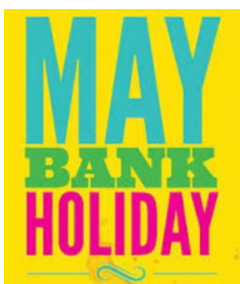


### Y6 Alton Castle Trip Meeting - Monday 29th April - 3:45pm

Parents of Year 6 children who are going to Alton Castle in June have been invited to a meeting in school about the upcoming residential. The meeting will start at 3.45pm.



**School closed for Polling Day - Thursday 2nd May**  
There will be no access to the school building for children or staff on this day.



### School closed - May Day - 6th May 2024

We are closed for the bank holiday on Monday 6th May.



# PARTY WITH US

## ST.MARY'S PTA SUMMER DISCO

FROM 6.30-8.30PM

FRIDAY 10TH MAY  
GET YOUR TICKETS  
NOW!

MUSIC, DANCE, TOYS,  
ICE-CREAM,  
AND MORE!

ST.MARY'S PARISH CENTRE.  
£4 FOR CHILD  
£2 FOR ADULT

PTA fundraising event  
St. Mary's PTA Summer Disco

Friday 10th May at 6:30pm

Tickets are on sale from today.  
Contact your class Rep!



### Reminders

#### Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)



Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May 2024**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **3rd June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 10th June**

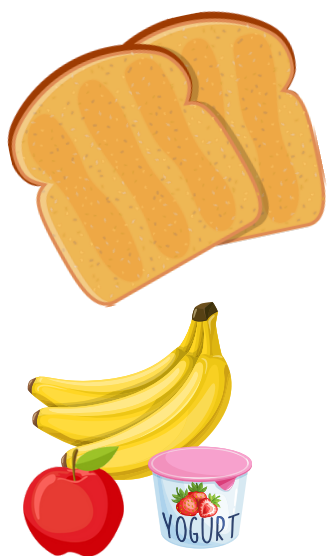
**Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates.** Further details will be given out nearer the time.

#### Breakfast Club for Y6 SATs week

*We will be running a Breakfast Club for Year 6 during their SATs week (Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May 2024) in the school hall – this is free and **for Year 6 only!***

*Research has shown that children can concentrate and perform better in tests and exams if they are relaxed and have eaten beforehand. By attending, we can ensure that all children are in school on time, have had time to relax with their friends and feel settled.*

**All Year 6 pupils are to attend breakfast club between 8:00am – 8:30am during this week. Thank you :)**



#### Lego donation for school

*The children have requested for more lego to be purchased for them to play with at break times in school.*

*We would gratefully receive any donations of lego as we look to increase the amount we keep in school for wet breaks.*

*Thank you*







### First Holy Communion Information

The final parent meeting is on Tuesday 30th April at 8.00pm in Parish Hall, with Sr Brenda and Team. This session will include practical details regarding the three Celebrations of First Communion.

Dates for the Diary - Saturday 8th June  
Sunday 9th June

### Consultation - Changes to Parish Mass times

Parish Sunday Mass times throughout the Archdiocese, and especially in our local Deanery (Birmingham South: Harborne, Quinton, Bearwood, Weoley Castle etc ) are under ongoing discussion. It is suggested that Mass times need to be staggered in order to allow one priest to cover two or more Churches for Sunday Mass. This is needed if/when a neighbouring priest is not available (sick, holidays, bereavement, death).

The changes will be implemented in the next couple of years....  
Have your say after each Mass at St Mary's Pentecost Sunday May 18/19th.



**ST MARY'S PARISH SUMMER FETE**  
**CARNIVAL THEME**  
**VIVIAN ROAD, HARBORNE**

**SUNDAY 7TH JULY 12-3PM**

ANIMAL MAN  
STEEL BAND  
STILT WALKER  
GAMES  
DELICIOUS FOOD  
RAFFLE  
STALLS: BOOKS, TOYS,  
GOOD AS NEW,  
JEWELLERY  
AND LOTS MORE.

COME IN CARNIVAL FANCY DRESS

**GAMES**

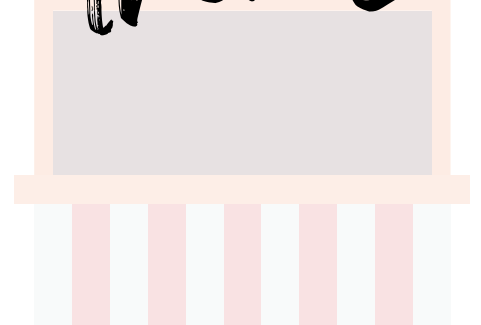
Fundraiser for St Mary's Parish

### St. Mary's Parish Fete

Please take note of the date for our Parish Fete. Complete with fancy dress, entertainment, food, drinks, stalls and a raffle.

We look forward to seeing many of our families and children.

*Carnival theme*





# Multi-activity camp

WHITSUN HALF-TERM

## PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

**INSPIRING ACTIVITY**

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps](https://premier-education.com/holiday-camps)

**Trustpilot**  
★★★★★  
Based on over 20,000 reviews

### YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

**Venue:** Harborne Academy Harborne Road Edgbaston B15 3JL

**Dates:** 28th May 2024- 31st May 2024

**Times:** 9am - 4pm (4 year olds allowed from 9am - 1pm)

**Price:** £18.84 full day (£12.30 for 4 year olds 9am - 1pm)

**Ages:** 4-11 (4 year olds 9am- 1pm)

**Additional info:** EARLY BIRD 30% discount ends on 1/5/24

#### PLEASE BRING

A packed lunch  
Plenty of water  
Suitable clothing  
Loads of energy!

Our 5\* Holiday Camps are the perfect place to keep your kids entertained over the Whitsun half-term.

Children can meet new friends, have lots of fun, and create wonderful memories!

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before – from dodgeball to cricket, basketball to archery.

**Book now** for a half-term full of fun!

#### CAMPS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!

**TREAT YOUR FRIENDS TO 20% OFF...AND GET 20% OFF TOO!**

\*Ts&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.

**Trustpilot**  
★★★★★  
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# Football camp

WHITSUN HALF-TERM

## PREMIER FOOTBALL CAMPS

**INSPIRING ACTIVITY**

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Our 5\* Holiday Camps are the perfect place to keep your kids entertained over the Whitsun half-term.

Children can meet new friends, have lots of fun, and create wonderful memories!

For football fans, our sport-specific camps are the perfect way to spend the school holidays.

**Book now** for a half-term full of fun!

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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



## Summary of Child Protection Information for Visitors and Volunteers

Our school is committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care.

Our school will support all children by:

- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment
- Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness
- Effectively tackling bullying and harassment

## 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.*

*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 22/04/24-26/04/24**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	98.3	97.3	92.6	96	92.3	99.3	98	100	92.6	100	97	98	96.1	99.3
Lates	4	4	4	3	4	0	1	1	3	3	2	1	2	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.3%			School Target				97%	

**Well done 3T and 4M: - Our attendance champions!**



# Dates for this term

Summer theme -

Summer 1

30th April 2024 - am

1st May 2024 - 9:15am

2nd May 2024 - all day

3rd May 2024 - all day

6th May 2024 - all day

7th May 2024 - am

9th May 2024 - 10:00am

10th May 2024 - 9:15am

WB 13.5.24

WB 13.5.24

16th May 2025 - 2:30pm

17th May 2024 - all day

17th May 2024 - all day

21st May 2024 - am

22nd May 2024 - 9:15am

24th May 2024

Stewardship

Eloquent and Truthful

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (9:00 2E and 10:45 2G)

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

Voting day - school is closed

School is open as normal

May Day Bank Holiday - school is closed

Reception class visit to Harborne library (9:00 RT and 10:45 RB)

Whole School Ascension Mass and May procession - parents welcome

Year 1 Year group Assembly

Mental Health Week

Year 6 SATs Week

Year Reception Year group Assembly

'Feel happy' dress down day - wear the clothes that make you feel the most happy - PTA treat too!

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (9:00 1F and 10:45 1L)

Reception Mass ONLY for Reception parents in school hall

Break up for half-term break - normal time

Summer theme -

Summer 2

3rd June 2024 - all day

WB 3.6.24

4th June 2024 - am

5th June 2024 - 9:15am

11th June 2024 - am

12th June 2024 - 9:15am

19th June 2024 - 9:15am

25th June 2024 - am

2nd July 2024 - am

Stewardship

Learned and Wise

Children return to school at normal time

Year 4 Multiplication check window - 3 weeks

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:00 3T and 10:45 3L)

Year 1 Mass ONLY for Year 1 parents in school hall

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (9:00 2E and 10:45 2G)

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

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

Reception class visit to Harborne library (9:00 RB and 10:45 RT)

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (9:00 1L and 10:45 1F)



# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Zoe	Fantastic learning about deforestation and her incredible poster to save the tigers!
Year RT	Zulekha	Wonderful writing about the Easter story in RE.
Year RT	Ibrahim	Well done for confident independent writing this week!
Year IF	Jayden	Being a fantastic role model and working hard in all areas of learning.
Year IL	Ian	For his fantastic effort in phonics.
Year 2E	Ada	For being a hardworking, polite and all-round fantastic member of 2E!
Year 2G	Tess	Well done for trying hard to improve your handwriting this week!
Year 3L	Alvin	Super attitude to learning and trying his best in all of his learning!
Year 3T	Amelia	incredible kindness, beautiful manners and living out our school virtues daily .
Year 4J	Abigail	Always being on task and showing good sitting, looking and listening .
Year 4M	Maya	For always trying her best to live out the school virtues.
Year 5F	Ivan	Excellent manners and behaviour both in school and when representing school in football.
Year 5M	Kate	For designing a beautiful Paschal Candle.
Year 6O	Erin	Always setting an exceptional standard of behaviour and attitude towards work!
Year 6R	Ebubedike	For working really hard this week and for being well-mannered to his teachers.

