



Archdiocese of Birmingham
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
 SCHOOL**

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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.



November is dedicated to the Holy Souls.

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Learned and Wise'

Dear parents and carers,

12th November 2021

This week has been poetry week in school and the children have enjoyed learning about the symbolism of the poppy, the sacrifice of soldiers and the power of the spoken language. They have learnt and recited poetry to their peers and written poems of their own. It has been very moving.

We thank you for your support for the 'children in need' appeal today. As we approach Advent, we are asking for donations of new toys that can be given to children in Birmingham who will be less fortunate this Christmas time. Please bring any donations to the office. I wish you all a blessed and restful weekend.

Miss Louise Price

This week's Gospel and prayer

Mark 12: 41-44

"A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny"

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

- God provides us with everything we need.
- Jesus isn't interested in outward shows of generosity, but in the generosity of our hearts.
- Jesus demonstrates the ultimate act of generosity and trust in God by giving his life for us on the cross.
- We don't need to have much to be generous with what we have.

Father God,

You provide us with everything
that we need.

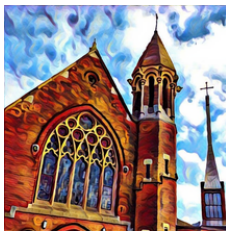
Help us to trust in you and be
generous with what we have.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 2 Mass - Remembrance

Year 2 led us in a Mass of Remembrance on Wednesday and we prayed for all those who loss their lives. The children read and sang beautifully and confidently.



Year 6 Mass in Church - 15.11.21 at 9:15am - St. Andrew

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 15th November, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and **parents are welcome to attend** (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).

Remembrance Day

The prayer areas in school have been updated to reflect our focus on remembrance.

Our Spiritual Council have been monitoring these areas and taking photos.

The children have been creating art work and poppies to place on the tables, and they have been bringing in photographs and names of loved ones that they would like to remember.

We have a remembrance book in school – please let school know, via email or by sending in the names on a strip of paper with your child, if you would like any names added to our book of remembrance.



Prayer Service and 2 minute silence

On Thursday 11th November at 11am, we remembered a time when the guns fell silent, marking the end of World War I. All children and staff members gathered outside for a special prayer service and 2 minute silence.



Poetry Week - Remembrance Poetry

The children have been reciting and performing poetry as part of our remembrance focus this week.



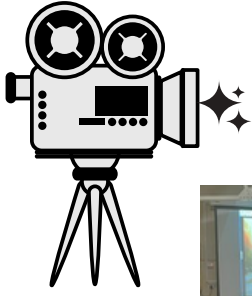
Year 5F Class Assembly

Y5F led us in an assembly about supporting those in need today – it was perfectly fitting as we have been focusing on 'children in need' today. Well done 5F.

Children in Need Fundraising

Thank you for supporting us in our 'children in need' appeal today.





Film Club

Thank you to our PTA for organising our film evenings this week. All money raised will go towards our **Advent Inspire Workshops**.



Birmingham Music Festival

We have incredibly talented children at St. Mary's! Congratulations to Tom, who competed in Birmingham's Music Festival in October. The youngest player in his two classes, Tom has won 1st Prize in the Chopin's Polish Legacy class and 2nd Prize in Sonata class. We're very proud of him.



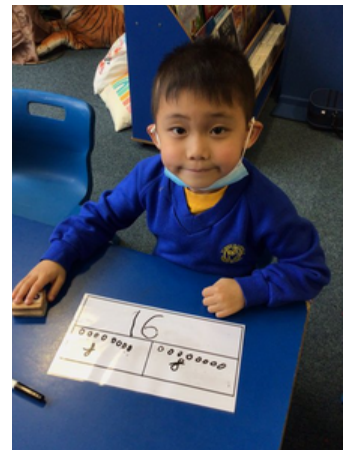
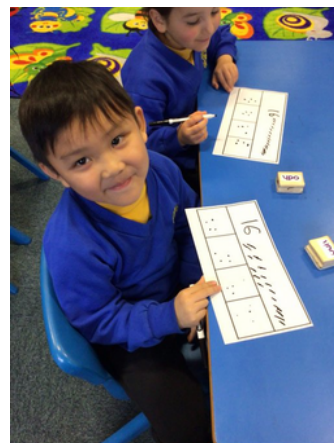
Reception news: -

Reception class have been learning all about baptism.



PIC•COLLAGE

Year 1 news: -
Year 1 have been finding one half and one quarter of an amount, using bar models.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 are doing their bit to save the planet by using their recycling from home to make something new!



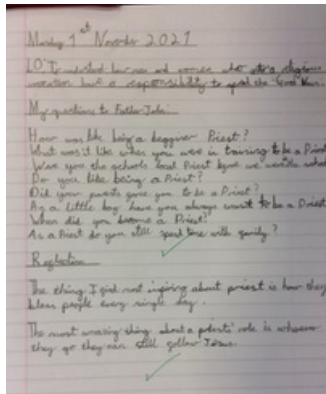
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been creating exciting stories for their class teachers to read.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about vocations to religious life and have interviewed Fr. John in his role as a priest.



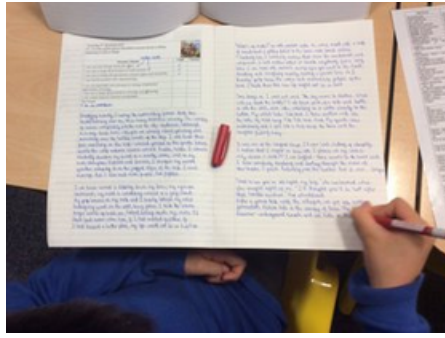
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been thinking about their new topic, 'Walls and Barricades!' They have been looking at physical walls (such as The Great Wall of China) and non-physical walls (such as Apartheid). and asking big questions - How do walls separate people and places?

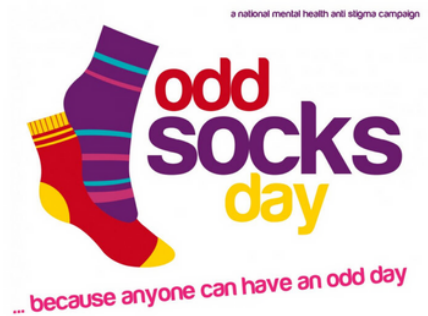


Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been very busy writing up a descriptive first person account of a Viking raid.



Next Week



Thank you to our PTA for organising our film evenings this week.

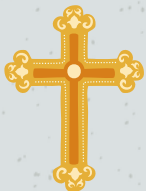
All money raised will go towards our **Advent Inspire Workshops**.

advent inspire workshops

We look forward to having parents working alongside their children over the next couple of weeks at our Advent Inspire Workshops. In these workshops, you will have the opportunity to complete arts and crafts with the children (purchased with the money raised at the film club). Please bring money with you as there will be opportunity to purchase items such as: a ticket for our Christmas raffle, or a festive mince pie.

Parish News

9:30 family Mass



When attending the St. Mary's 9:30am family Mass, please take your Reception child (and Year 1 sibling) straight in to the Parish centre for 9:30am.

Our next children's liturgy will be held on **Sunday 21st November 2021**.

Face Masks

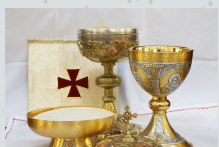


Masks are needed please when attending all Masses at St. Mary's.

This includes the Wednesday school Mass at 9:15am.

Please do not sit in the front row on the left hand side (that is where the HT sits).

First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programmes



Thank you to the parents of children in Years 3 and 6 for your turn out last Tuesday and Wednesday for the Parish First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes.

Wreath making workshop - PTA

TUESDAY 30TH NOV 7PM



Parents and friends, please join us for our wreath making workshop on **Tuesday 30th November** from 7- 9pm in the school hall.

£20 per person - includes all your greenery, plus a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie on arrival!

Tickets available from your class reps / PTA committee

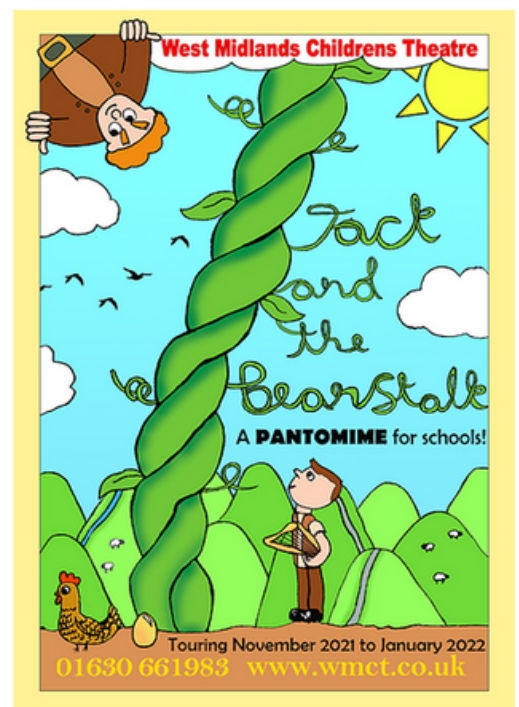
Please bring with you, your own secateurs and any baubles, lights or ribbons to personalise your wreath.

Any information required please contact ptaofstmarys@hotmail.com

Christmas Pantomime in School

Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum!

We are very excited to inform you that we are welcoming West Midlands Theatre Company into school to perform Jack and the Beanstalk to all children on Thursday 2nd December 2021. The cost of this is £2 per child which can be paid via School Gateway. Please make payment by Friday 26th November.



Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas

CHRISTMAS

TOY APPEAL

Please give new toys
(unwrapped) for our local
children in Birmingham
for all age groups
ranging from
0-15 years

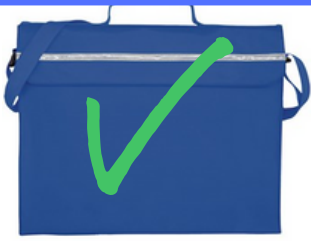
Gloves
Games
Dolls
Hats
Books
Pull along toys
Jigsaws
Cars
Jewellery
Teethers
Football
Makeup
Toiletries
Scarfes

St Mary's Catholic
Primary School

 Birmingham Irish
ASSOCIATION

Collection Dates:
1st November -
16th December

Irish TV are coming to
school on Friday 26th
November



Book bags

A massive thank you to our parents who have worked with us to ensure that bags are within the dimensions needed to safely fit on the pegs designated to the children. As mentioned in previous newsletters, there is not room on the pegs for bulky bags / rucksacks.



Any children bringing bags / rucksacks that can not fit on the pegs will now be asked to leave them at the designated 'rucksack stop' where the lunch boxes are kept.

Correct Uniform

The children should now be wearing their winter uniform i.e. shirts/blouses and ties.

We also ask that children come to school in their winter PE kit on the days that they have PE. Again children should be in uniform for PE which is black/blue plain jogging bottoms (not patterned / not another colour), yellow t-shirt, school jumper and **black trainers**.



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. .

SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022. All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

Labelling of clothing

There is a very high volume of unnamed jumpers, cardigans and coats now in the parent shelter.

Please label all belongings for your child (including lunch boxes / water bottles / 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.



Additional school clubs

We have several school clubs running in school now

Before school clubs

Wednesdays (7:45-8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4

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

Fridays (7:45-8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2 and Y3 (*this club is full*).



After school clubs

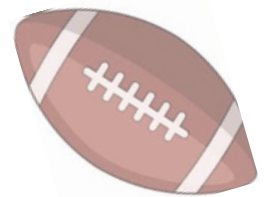
Mondays (3:20 – 4:20) – Rugby – For Y1 and Y2 (still spaces)

Wednesdays (3:30 – 4:30) – Netball – For Y5 and Y6

(3:30 – 4:30) – Football – For Y6

(3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y3

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



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.

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. We have received notification that unfortunately, a student from a local Primary school was involved in an incident this week, on the way into school, whereby a stranger pulled up next to him in a car and tried to grab him. We ask you to be extra vigilant at this time and to not leave your child without supervision at the start of the school day. The safety of your children is your responsibility until they are handed over to an adult in school.

**This is an Operation
Encompass School**

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.

KEEPING SAFE

Online Safety



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!!!

Talk to your children about accepting instant messages, pictures, texts, emails or files online from somebody that they do not know. Explain that opening such messages can be dangerous - they may be nasty messages and the files may also contain viruses.

If you don't know the person - do not open!
DELETE!

Parking Safety



Parking enforcement officers are now circulating at the start and the end of the school day. Please be aware of this as they are issuing fines to those parked illegally.

Own clothes day - Friday 26th November. All money raised to go towards small people bollards!

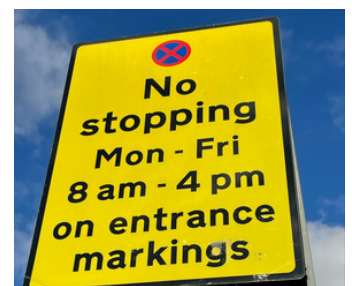


NO STOPPING

The yellow lines outside of school have a 'NO STOPPING' rule between the hours of 8-9 am and 3-4 pm.

SAFE PARKING

There are places where you can park safely around the school area - please be considerate and keep our children safe by choosing one of these options.



When should my child self-isolate or miss school?



YES

- If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PRC test, **NOT** a Lateral Flow test.
- If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PRC test.
- If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.



NO

- All children **MUST** attend school unless they are ill.
- From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid.
- Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.

15th November 2021 - all week -

16th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

17th November 2021 - 9:15am -

17th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

19th November 2021 - all day

19th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

22nd November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

23rd November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

24th November 2021 - 9:15am -

24th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

26th November - all day -

26th November 2021 - 1:30-3:30 -

30th November 2021 - 6:45 - 8:45pm

1st December 2021 - 9:15am -

2nd December 2021 - morning

3rd December 2021 - 9:15am -

3rd December 2021 - morning

7th December 2021 - 3:15 - 4:15 -

9th December 2021 - 3:30 - 4:30 -

10th December 2021 - all day

WB 13.12.21 - Nativities in school

17th December 2021

Anti-bullying Week in school.

Y3 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome).

Y4 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

Reception bedtime story day - Reception class wear pyjamas.

Y5 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

Y1 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

Y2 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

Y5 Mass in Church (Y5 parents welcome).

Reception Advent Inspire (parents and children work together).

Non-school uniform day in school to raise money for school council.

Y6 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

PTA Wreath making workshop for parents in school.

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome).

Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime in school.

Year 5L Class Assembly in school (5L parents welcome).

Flu immunisation day

Reception and KS1 disco in school

KS2 disco in school

Christmas jumper day and Fr. Christmas in school

More information about nativities to follow...

Break up for Christmas break!

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

INSET Days

The following days are INSET days and the children will not be in school on these days...

- Tuesday 1st February (INSET day)
- Monday 28th March (INSET day)
- Thursday 5th May (school closed for voting day)
- Tuesday 5th July (INSET day)
- Friday 22nd July (extra day off for Queen's Jubilee)

Star of the week

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

Year RL	Ruby	trying really hard sounding out her phonics.
Year RF	Scarlett-Rose	improving her writing this week.
Year 1L	Marta	working really hard all week and being a really kind friend.
Year 1F	Chidalu	always being a good role model and participating in discussions.
Year 2L	Matthias	fantastic contributions in discussions in RE.
Year 2F	Isabella	confidently learning and performing our remembrance poem.
Year 3L	Erina	her fantastic adapted fairy tale and for always trying her best.
Year 3F	Melissa	living out the school's virtues in everything that she does.
Year 4L	Eva	growing in confidence in maths, and learning her times tables.
Year 4F	Anaiah	always being ready to listen and learn.
Year 5L	Elizabeth	having a conscientious attitude to her learning all week.
Year 5F	Isabella	trying really hard in Maths this year.
Year 6L	Konstantina	showing curiosity which helps extend her learning.
Year 6F	Benedict	his enthusiasm towards fractions in Maths.

