



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.

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

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

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



15th October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

This week was mental health week in school and we've been learning about how to look after our minds and each other. We know that words do matter and that we should use kind words to support one another. We have also started our black history month learning and alongside our overarching theme of 'dignity of the human person', we are embedding the importance that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and therefore we should love and respect each other. This fits wonderfully in with our school mission - 'in all things - love!'

Miss Louise Price

This week's Gospel and prayer

Mark 10:17-27

"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God."

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

- Humans have a tendency to love things
- If our possessions stand in the way of loving God or loving others, it is better for us to let them go.
- Because of God's love, we already have everything we need.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for teaching us that people are more important than things. Show us when we become too attached to our things. Help us to let go so we can focus on loving you and loving others. Help us to remember that your love is all we need.

Amen

Catholic Life in School



Reception Welcome Mass in Church - 20.10.21 at 9:15am - HARVEST!



Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 20th October, starting promptly at 9:15am. We will be officially welcoming our Reception pupils in to our St. Mary's family in this Mass next week. We will also be celebrating the harvest and **would like to invite all Reception parents to attend.** (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



HARVEST!

Please send any donations for our harvest in to school on Monday and Tuesday next week.



St. John Henry Newman

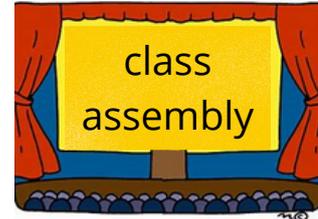
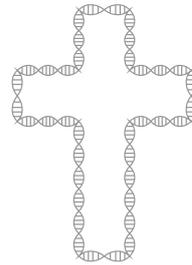


Year 6F Assembly

This week, the children have been learning more about St. John Henry Newman and thank you to Year 6F for leading us in our assembly this morning. It was fabulous to see so many parents.



The Spiritual Council have lots of ideas about how we can continue to develop our prayer areas in school and will be bringing examples to their next Spiritual Council meeting.



October - Pray the Rosary

Mrs. Davis and the Spiritual Council are continuing to lead the Rosary every Friday lunchtime in October and many children are taking up this opportunity. We are also continuing to pray the Rosary in our classes too. October is a good time to pray the Rosary at home, it is the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the 'Glory Be'.



This week's news

10 WAYS PARENTS CAN SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN TO BUILD POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH HABITS

- 01 Encourage your child to openly talk about their feelings and thoughts
- 02 When your child is wearing help them to effectively problem solve
- 03 Support them to connect and build positive relationships with others
- 04 Encourage them to look after their physical health (Sleep, food, exercise)
- 05 Help them to stay focused on the present moment using mindfulness
- 06 Highlight the importance of looking after both physical and mental health
- 07 Be a mental health role model. Demonstrate positive behaviours
- 08 Praise, encourage, motivate and regular support your child to build their self-esteem
- 09 Work together to learn some coping skills such as deep breathing
- 10 As your child grows up encourage and support autonomy

@BELIEVEPHQ

Mental Health Week

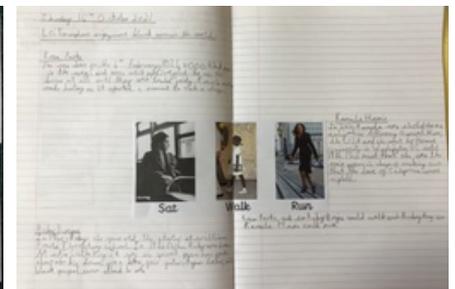
This week, the children have been learning about the importance of mental health.

it's okay not to be okay



Black History Month

We are learning about what makes us special and unique. We are learning about people of all backgrounds and the difference that they made.



PTA meeting

We had a very successful PTA meeting yesterday, where we have put plans in place to raise money to sponsor events and resources for the children in school. We will provide more information about how parents can become involved with events and projects in the near future.

Reception news: -

Reception class have been reflecting on Jesus being the light of the World.



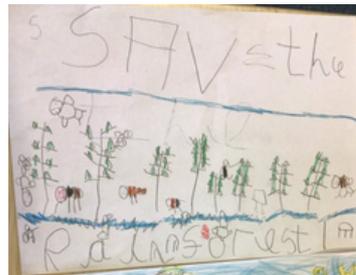
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been learning about keeping safe and their mental health.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been reading 'the trouble with dragons' and learning all about climate change.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been sequencing stories from the Bible in their RE lessons.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been creating posters about protecting our planet.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been trained as playground leaders and will be leading classes in games during break times.



Year 6 news: -

In Collective worship, Year 6 have been listing attributes about one another.



Next week

Parents Consultations

Next week, we look forward to welcoming you to our Parent Consultation Evenings

*Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days -
Tuesday 19th October 2021 and Thursday 21st October 2021.*

This year, all appointments will take place in the school hall. After consultation with the teacher, your child's teacher will give you your child's books to look at. You will then be escorted to the Y3 classrooms to look at the books and fill in a parent questionnaire.

After looking at your child's books, please leave them with the TA in the classroom and you can either go to your next appointment, visit the book fair or leave the school via the playground and main gate.

The appointment will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please do not arrive any earlier than 5 minutes before your first appointment to help us keep numbers in school to a minimum.

As we are keeping numbers down in school, we ask that you do not bring children (including pre school children and babies) to your appointment.

Please wear a mask on your arrival to school and during your time in the building. We also ask that you use hand sanitiser on entry and exit. If you are feeling unwell, please do not attend your appointment and instead phone school to book an appointment at a different time.

Book Fair

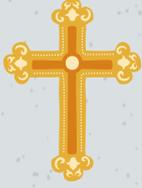
Next week, we have the book fair in school – your child will have the opportunity to peruse the books available during the school day.

There will be opportunity to purchase books during parents' evening. Follow this link to browse the book titles available

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases>



Weekend Masses



Weekend Masses are on Saturdays at 12:00 and 6:00pm
Sundays at 9:30am, 11:00am and 5:00pm
St. Mary's Church is open weekdays at 8:30am for a twenty-five minute Mass and then remains open till 4:00pm for private prayer and candles.

About Being Catholic Course St. Mary's Church



The *About Being Catholic* programme, for those interested in knowing what Catholics believe so as to be able to help the children, continues on Thursday 21st October at 7.30pm in the St Mary's Parish Centre, - with masks and social distancing.



Baptism

If you are looking to have your child / baby baptised at St. Mary's, please see Fr John, - or come to the Parish Office and speak with the the Parish Secretary.



Altar Servers training

Thank you to those who turned up the altar servers' training last week. We have 8 new altar servers now and 4 who have re-trained. This is great news.



Confession

*Confessions at St Mary's Church are on Saturdays,
10.30 - 11.30, in the Sacristy, behind a screen*

Other News

***'Moms' Meeting' - Thursdays 8:45am - 9:45am
in the Parish Centre***

Getting together after School/Nursery Drop-Off - A Place to Belong

Are you a mum rushing to get the children to school or nursery on time? Or are you a 'new mum' looking for a place to dwell? Come and chat over a coffee after the school drop-off! We will get together for a natter and a little time of reflection every Thursday morning. Everybody is welcome (including your little ones who do not go to school/nursery!)- For more info email [Elena: erivafisher@gmail.com](mailto:Elena:erivafisher@gmail.com)

Harvest Festival 2021

We are now asking for donations for our Harvest Festival.

Please could we have the items listed below.

We thank you for your generosity at a time when families are in need.

Reminders

Book bags - not rucksacks



After half-term, **school will no longer be able to allow ruck sacks in to the building.** The rucksacks are unfortunately too bulky and there is not enough space on the children's pegs for them all.

This is causing them to fall off pegs, which means they are **becoming a trip hazard, and are blocking corridors and doorways.**



For health and safety reasons, your child will need to use their book bag and draw-string PE bag from now on.



Logo prints provide a service where book bags can be personalised if you wish for your child to have a bag that feels unique and special to them.

Miss Price would like to thank you for your support with this - the safety of the children is her first consideration when making all decisions.

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. .

Y6 applications for Secondary Schools - apply before 31.10.2022

If you have a child currently in Year 6, please make sure that you have applied for their 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 2021.**

It is important that you submit your application by 31 October 2021. Applications received after the national closing date of 31 October 2021 will be treated as late applications. Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools, and these applications will be processed after 1 March 2022, in accordance with Birmingham's coordinated admissions scheme.



Coats

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

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.



Homework

The school is currently in the process of reviewing homework. Following COVID, there have been lessons learnt and changes to expectations. We will provide more information in the upcoming weeks.



PE day

Please make sure that children are still wearing PE uniform on the days that they are wearing their PE kit in to school. PE uniform is the Gold t-shirt, Royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and **black trainers**.

Additional school clubs

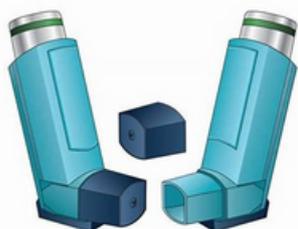
We have several school clubs running in school now

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 (to start after half term)
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



Asthma / inhalers in school

Letters have now been sent home to all children with asthma to update our records. If you have not received a letter to update your child's details, please collect one from the office and return marked FAO Mrs Davis.

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.



Parking

School are receiving several complaints about parking – these are coming from parents, the local community and even the local police station has been in touch. We must be courteous at pick-up and drop-off times and put the safety of our children first. Miss. Price and Mrs. Tame will be working with the school council, PTA and police to ensure that parking is legal and safe in and outside our school. Please park safely.



Dates for the diary

18th October 2021 - all week -
19th October 2021 - after school -
20th October 2021 - 9:15am -
21st October 2021 - morning -
21st October 2021 - 9:15am -
25th October - 29th October -
Half-term homework
2nd November 2021 - morning -
3rd November 2021 - 9:15am -
4th November 2021 - 2:00pm -
8th November 2021 - all week -
10th November 2021 - 9:15am -
12th November 2021 - all day -
12th November 2021 - 9:15am -
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 - 1:30-3:00 -
22nd November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -
23rd November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -
26th November 2021 - 1:30-3:30 -
3rd December 2021 - 9:15am -

17th December 2021

Book Fair in school.
Parent Consultations.
Reception Welcome Service in Church (YR parents welcome).
Photographer in school.
Parent Consultations.
Half term week.
Create a piece of art work for our 'all Saints display'
Flu vaccinations in school.
Y1 Mass in Church (Y1 parents welcome).
Reception open afternoon (for prospective parents of the school).
Remembrance week in school.
Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome).
Children in Need non-uniform day in school.
Year 5F Class Assembly in school (5F parents welcome).
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).
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).
Y6 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).
Year 5L Class Assembly in school (5L parents welcome).

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

Other

Walking home policy

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.



Twitter
@StMaryB17

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!!!

Questions to ask your children about what they like to do online...

1. What is your favourite thing to do online?
2. What things make you happy when you use technology?
3. What things make you unhappy when you use technology?
4. What are the rules for using technology at home?
5. Who helps you to stay safe?

COVID

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.



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

Year RL	Theo	brilliant efforts in phonics all week!
Year RF	Aila	excellent blending in guided reading
Year 1L	Lucy	working super hard in Maths
Year 1F	Theodore	excellent manners and a super attitude to learning
Year 2L	Jhanvi	for settling so well in to Y2 at St. Mary's
Year 2F	Alicia	writing an interesting set of instructions
Year 3L	Annabel	consistently trying her best and being a role model to others
Year 3F	Arthur	fantastic effort and attitude towards learning
Year 4L	Raffaelle	excellent work in RE when writing as Mary
Year 4F	Erin	outstanding behaviour and an excellent role model
Year 5L	Milly	asking well thought-out and insightful questions
Year 5F	Emilia	thought-provoking poetry based on climate change
Year 6L	Jacob	a wonderful 'can do' attitude towards learning
Year 6F	Matteo	enthusiasm and hard work during assembly practice

