



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.

July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Solidarity and the Common Good'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Intentional and Prophetic'



Dear parents and carers,

14th July 2023

Our penultimate week in school has been very exciting: Year 4 enjoyed their trip to Harvington Hall, we received our Live Simply Award, Year 6 performed in their end of year production to parents and the children met their new teachers on transition day. The classes for next year and teachers are confirmed within the newsletter. SATs results for Year 6 also came out this week and have gone out with the Year 6 reports today. Headline data is included in this newsletter. I am sorry to report that we have had several incidences of the school playground and property being damaged over the weekends when the gates are open for families to attend Mass. I know that most of our families will be monitoring their children and ensuring that the school site is treated with respect but unfortunately this is not the case for everybody and we often come back in on a Monday to equipment having been used, taken and broken; graffiti (with our most recent being the prayer benches being scribbled on); and areas of the playground being used that shouldn't be. Please may I ask that only the astro-turf is used for children to play on (not the gym equipment) and for all play to be supervised.

It is unfair for the children to come back in to broken equipment, litter and graffiti on the Monday.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Finally, I do hope that you all have a lovely weekend (and the rain stops).

Mrs Yorke



scribble on prayer benches



equipment used, left out in playground (some broken)



our outdoor connect 4 broken

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me... and I will give you rest."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Resting is good and necessary
- We can hand over our concerns and worries to Jesus
- Jesus shows us a simple way to live

Dear Jesus,

When I am busy, with so much to do, you say: "Come to me and rest"

When I am worried with thoughts running around my head, you say: "Come to me and rest"

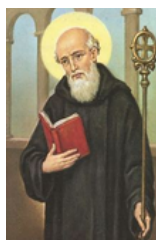
When I am tired from trying so hard, you say: "Come to me and rest".

Jesus help me to come to you... and rest! Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 1 Mass - 11.7.23 - St. Benedict

Year 1 prepared a special Mass about St. Benedict and all about monks. Miss Bennett even wore the special clothes that monks wear.



Whole School Mass - Y6 Leavers Mass

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 19th July 2023, starting promptly at 9:30am. All children and staff will be attending Mass. All parents are welcome to attend, especially Year 6 parents for your child's final Mass at St. Mary's.



"To change is to grow..."

Transition Day

The children met their new teachers on Wednesday. It was a lovely day in school. Most of our Year 6 children were at their new schools too and came back excited about the next step of their learning journey.

Transition is about change, which we appreciate comes with worry sometimes - we will support all children through any periods of change and transition.



Class teachers and support staff for September 2024

Year group	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
Reception Classes	Mrs Richards Mrs Russell Miss Detheridge	Mrs Campbell Mrs Pitt Mrs Ward
Year 1	Miss Bennett Miss Hunt	Mrs Kopera Miss Lawlor Miss Robinson
Year 2	Miss Ruhan Mrs McConnell Miss Busby	Miss Leacey Mrs Shipman
Year 3	Miss Thompson Miss Heath	Mrs Whittingham
Year 4	Miss Heneghan Miss James	Ms Parmar
Year 5	Mrs Snios Miss Frost (soon to be Mrs Gidley)	Mrs Lassey
Year 6	Miss Horton Mrs Tibbatts Miss Preedy Mrs Noone	Mrs Nguyen

Mrs Woodcock

Welcome to the staff joining us at St. Mary's

We are so happy to have Miss Hunt, Miss James and Miss Frost (soon to be Mrs Gidley) joining us as teachers, and to welcome Mrs Ward and Mrs Whittingham to our support staff.

I'm sure that all new staff will bring so much to our already outstanding and hard-working team.

Reception news: -

Reception class have been working as a team to build pirate ships and fairy houses.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been using their cutting skills to cut the fruit and vegetables for their smoothies! The children then used a blender to blend it together and after, tasted their creations!



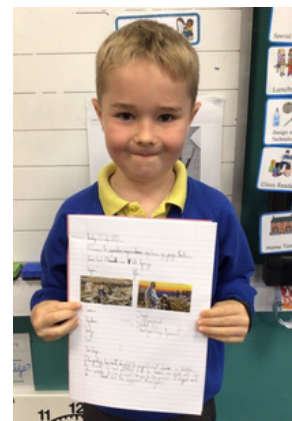
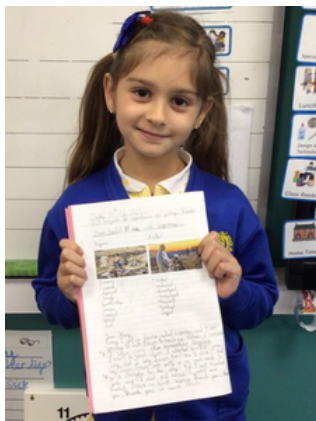
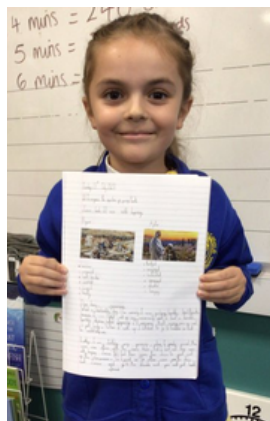
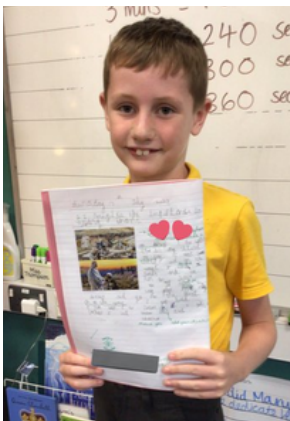
Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have found out about the signs and symbols in St. Mary's Church.



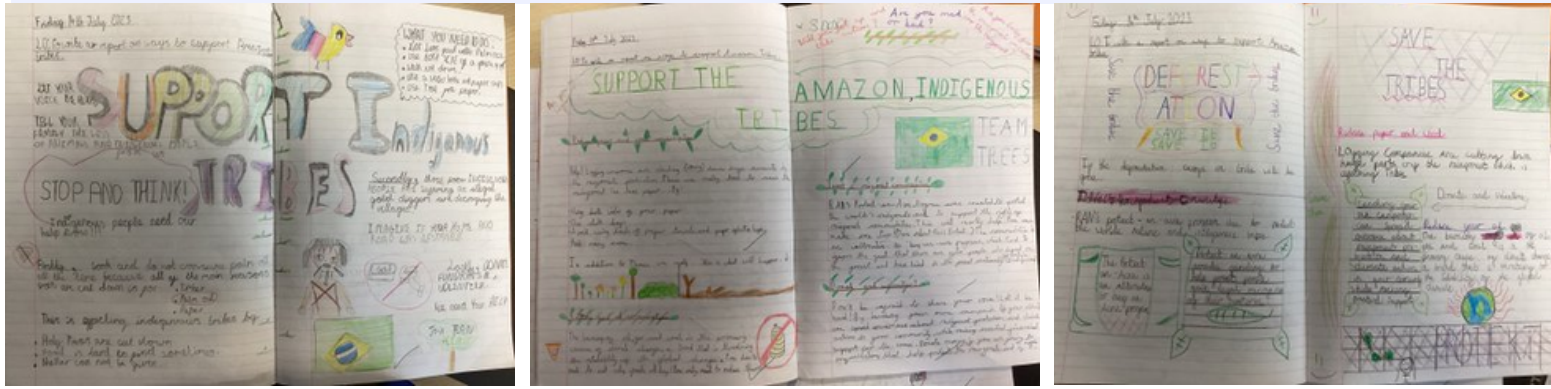
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning about the importance of giving thanks, in their RE lessons. They read about the miracle of Jesus healing the 10 lepers and retold the story as if they were the leper who gave thanks.



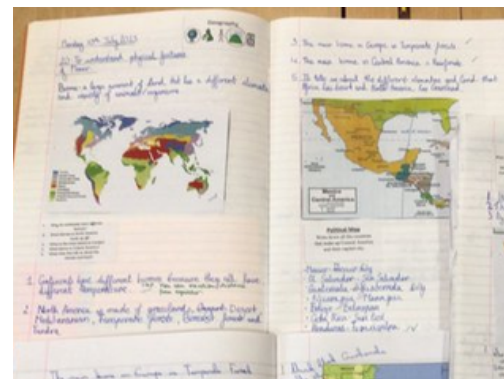
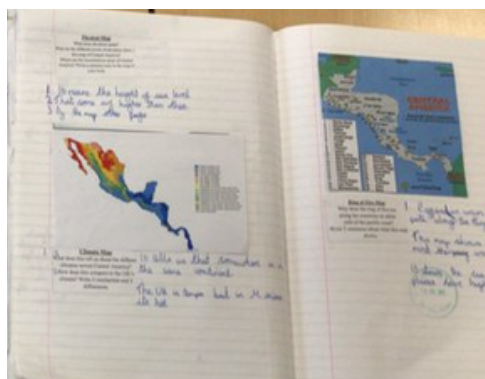
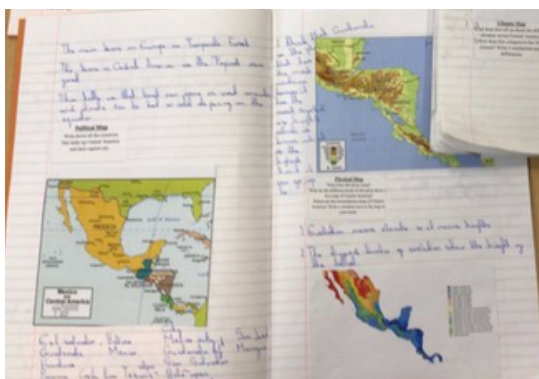
Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about amazon tribes and had a wonderful end of year trip to Harvington Hall. They even found some priest hides...



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 cartographers studied variety of maps to learn more about Mexico and its climate.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been investigating how the shape and size of a shadow is determined.



Matilda the Musical!

CLASS
of 2023



On Monday 10th June 2023, we were assessed and achieved our Live Simply Award

Pupils and staff from St Mary's Catholic Primary School have been recognised for living simply, sustainably and in solidarity.

Pupils and staff from St Mary's Catholic Primary School have achieved the LiveSimply Award after taking action to demonstrate they are living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world's poorest communities.

Championed by overseas development charity CAFOD, the award was presented to pupils and staff on Monday 10th July 2023. St Mary's implemented a number of exceptional projects that highlighted the importance of caring for people and the planet. Their actions had a positive impact on their school community and also reached out to embrace the local and our global community too.

Since forming a CAFOD Club with a child from each class, St. Mary's have been working hard to Live Simply by: making pledges, taking part in prayer and liturgy and taking care of the school grounds and prayer garden. In order to live sustainably, they have been recycling, using eco-monitors, promoting pre-loved uniform and trying to reduce waste at school. Finally, they have fundraised through the 'Big Lent Walk', 'Brighten up day' and 'CAFOD earthquake bake sale'.

*A Year 2 student commented on why they took part in the LiveSimply Award:
"every action we are taking is making the world a better and kinder place"*

*When asked why we need to live simply, a student from Year 5 added:
"it is as though we ourselves push the thorns in to Jesus' heart, when we do not look after God's planet!"*

Miss Heath, Teacher at St Mary's who led the LiveSimply journey, said:

"The children have clearly demonstrated their understanding of why we must live simply and they have worked extremely hard to fulfil our actions, in order to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with our global family."

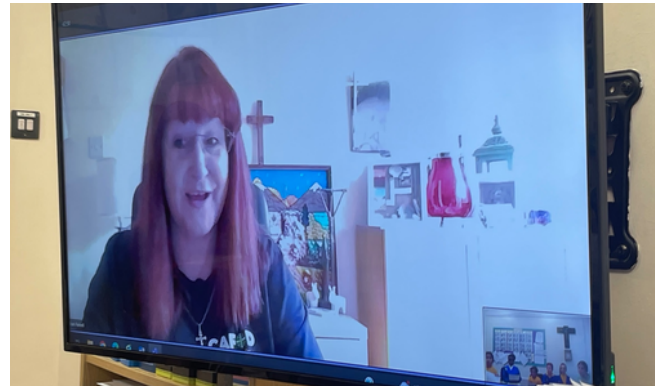
Siobhan Farnell, CAFOD LiveSimply Award assessor said:

"Congratulations to the pupils and staff from St Mary's on achieving the LiveSimply Award. The pupils and staff have truly embraced living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world's poorest communities. Their inspired actions are making a real difference in their school, local community and throughout the world. Well done and many congratulations."

St. Mary's are thrilled to receive the award and are very proud of the kind, caring and thoughtful children who have worked so hard to make sure that we are caring for God's planet.

Report created by: CAFOD CLUB!





Sports Award Afternoon

We had a wonderful afternoon in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday 11th July, where all those who have achieved something for Sports this year, received a certificate and award. It was fantastic to see so many parents who came to celebrate with us too.





BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

A massive well-done to Paris, Victoria, Anji, Anya, Mieke and William from Y1 who have successfully gained a place on the Dance Track programme at the Birmingham Royal Ballet from September! They were selected as showing excellent promise and talent! *Amazing!*

Other News

We had a lovely visit today from 10 year old Victor and his brother Oscar. Victor had heard about St Chad's Sanctuary at school and decided to raise money for us by using a skill he learnt at Cubs. Over the last few months he has been making keyrings out of rope and selling them at school, on special occasions like St Patrick's Day, whilst in Spain and to friends and family. He came in today with his mum and brother to give us the money that his sales had raised - nearly £115! We were so impressed by his entrepreneurial spirit, his dedication and his generosity. Thank you so much Victor, and of course to your sidekick Oscar.



ST. CHAD'S SANCTUARY

Well done to Victor and Oscar who have been making and selling keyrings to raise money for St Chad's Sanctuary. We are so impressed with your kindness and generosity!



We would be delighted to receive your donations **between 10:00 and 15:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** when we are open. Please check with us in advance if you want to come in at any other time.

We are focusing on donations of men's clothing at this time. All sizes of casual clothing is welcomed, such as jeans, joggers, underwear, hoodies, jumpers, tshirts, and pyjamas.

We are also in need of the following:

- ALL FOOD ITEMS - tinned, dried, non-meat containing
- ALL HYGIENE ITEMS - especially shaving foam/gel; deodorant
- Backpacks
- Suitcases
- Girls clothes, especially teenage sizes - GIRLS COATS IN ALL AGES ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED
- Boys clothes, especially teenage sizes
- Men's clothing in all sizes - t-shirts, joggers, jeans, jumpers, hoodies and trainers

Thank you for your support!

PLEASE NOTE WE CANNOT ACCEPT DONATIONS WHEN WE ARE CLOSED. PLEASE DO NOT THROW THEM OVER THE BACK GATE OR LEAVE THEM BLOCKING OUR DOORS AS THIS CAUSES A HAZARD.

This list is updated regularly - last updated 03/07/2023

Thank you for your support

SATs Results

We are so extremely pleased to share with you our outstanding Year 6 SATs results. We are really proud of the children! Their resilience, hard work and effort will ensure that they will continue to achieve incredible things as they move in to Secondary school and beyond.

Year 6 SATS Results – July 2023

Reading		SPAG		Writing		Maths	
Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth
90%	57%	90%	67%	87%	12%	85%	50%

Next week - WB 17.7.23

Year 6 Leavers Mass - Wednesday 19th July 2023 - 9:30am

We will be celebrating Year 6 and their time at St. Mary's with a whole school Leavers Mass on Wednesday 19th July at 9:30am.

All parents and family members are able to attend this Mass. For the Mass, we will ask parents to sit in the old part of the Church.

After Mass, the rest of the school will leave and return to have break time. Year 6 will remain in the Church and parents will join them to watch their slideshow of memories in the Church.

This will be when we hand out presents too.

The rest of the school / siblings will watch the slideshow in their classrooms.



Friday 21st July 2023 - Y6 shirt signing and guard of honour (2pm)

Year 6 (and any leavers) shirt signing will take place on the final day of term. We also continue to encourage parents, staff and children to join us in the guard of honour as they leave school for the final time as Year 6 pupils. Collection times of all children are in red in 'dates for this term' - all children will need to be collected by 2pm and then Year 6 (and any staff leavers) will come out.

Our final week in school

We have lots of fun activities for children to do in school in their final week.

We break up on Friday 21st July at our earlier times of:

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

GOODBYE



The main gates will be open - once children have been collected - parents and children will be invited on to the playground to create our 'guard of honour' for all children (and staff) who are leaving us.

Next week, we will put all lost property out after school each day in the hope everything will be returned to the correct person before the summer holidays! Please keep a look out for any items belonging to your child/children.

Also, if you have any 'nearly new' or new items of uniform that you would like to donate - please bring to the office on Monday. It would be great to give out the uniform to families so that they have spare items for next year (rather than buying everything new).



Ready, Steady, Read! Today is the day! Your children can register for the Summer Reading Challenge from today. So get their skates on head on down to your local library. 🏃🏃🏃



Summer Reading Challenge

It is that time of year again - join Harborne Library and St. Mary's to encourage as many children as we can to read over the Summer Holidays.

Step 1: - sign up to the challenge at Harborne Library
<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/#library>

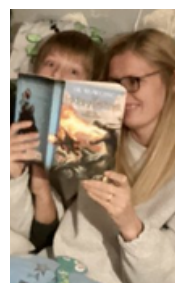
Step 2: Upload your photos on to our school twitter feed. Photos of children reading with siblings, parents, other family members, friends and on their holidays - share your love of reading with the whole school community.
@StMaryB17

Challenge: - Which year group will upload the most photos?

Winners will be announced in the new school year!

- #MyTeacherReads
- #MyParentReads
- #MyChildReads
- #SchoolCouncil
- #Reading and your year group e.g #YR, #Y2, #Y5,

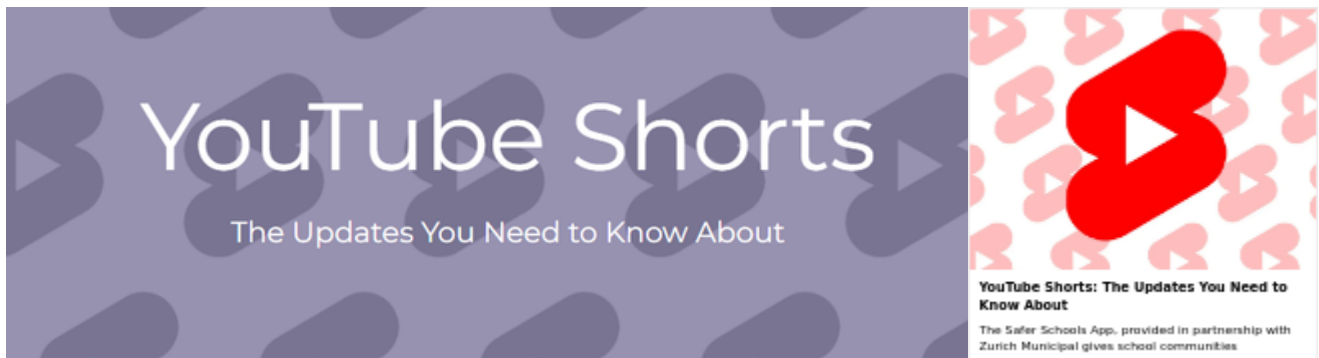
#StMarysLovesToRead



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



Is YouTube safe?

YouTube Shorts is a new feature within the YouTube app. The feature has the potential to pose some safeguarding risks to children and young people. Please read the information attached to support you in keeping your children safe...

oursaferschools.co.uk

YouTube Shorts is a new feature within the YouTube app that allows users to create short videos (lasting no longer than 60 seconds) on their phones and upload. When clicking on shorts - these videos will pop up, without being searched for.

The content of these videos can be anything. Current trends include exercise tips, dance challenges, and funny pet videos. Influencers use shorts to 'influence' people - messages they give out may not be appropriate for children or in keeping with your home values.

Once seen, the algorithm means that the person watching continues to see similar messages and viewpoints, which can be dangerous for influencing young minds.

Please look at Youtube shorts when assessing whether you are happy for your child/ren to have access to Youtube in the future.

Use **YouTube** instead
Kids

STAY SAFE ONLINE THIS SUMMER

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD SOLIHULL APPROACH

inourplace

NHS



School's Out Take an emotional health check

Head into the summer with a better understanding of your child's brain development and their emotional wellbeing as you support them into their next new phase.

FACT

Our brains develop most rapidly in childhood shaping our emotional health and wellbeing for the rest of our lives.

HERE FOR YOU

Online courses developed by clinical psychologists can help you to understand your child, read their behaviour and help them look after their emotional health.



inourplace.co.uk

Understanding your child online course has been paid for by Birmingham Children's Partnership, so you can access it completely free using the code **COMMUNITY**

Short courses on Understanding the impact of the pandemic on your child or teenager also included.

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 3rd July – 7th July

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	94.6%	91.7%	100%	95.6%	99.4%	98.9%	100%	98.3%	98.9%	97.2%	81.7%	98.3%	86.8%	96.6%
Lates	5	6	0	6	2	3	4	5	2	3	6	1	0	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.8%		School Target				97%		

Well done Y1L and Y3L: - our Attendance Champions

Summer theme -

Summer II Virtues

WB 17.7.23

19th July 2023 - all day

19th July 2023 - 9:30am

21st July -

Solidarity and the Common Good

Intentional and Prophetic

Final week in school for the children

New Reception cohort transition meetings with parents / class teachers

Year 6 leavers Mass (Y6 parents welcome)

Break up for Summer holidays

Early finish time

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

*Term Dates for next year
2023-2024*

Autumn Term	Tuesday 5th September - Thursday 26th October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 6th November - Friday 22nd December
Spring Term	Monday 8th January - Friday 9th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 19th February - Thursday 28th March
Summer Term	Monday 15th April - Friday 24th May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 3rd June - Friday 19th July

School Closed:

- Monday 6th May 2024 - Early May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Monday 4th September 2023
- Friday 27th October 2023
- Monday 22nd July 2024

2 more INSET days to be announced

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Joseph	<i>always making the right choices and trying hard in Forest School this week</i>
Year RT	Nathan	<i>brilliant work in Forest School and being a wonderful role model for others</i>
Year IF	Cillian	<i>trying his best and working hard with his DT project and using his manners</i>
Year IL	Imogen	<i>always being a brilliant role model</i>
Year 2E	Amelia	<i>always trying her absolute best</i>
Year 2G	Theo	<i>always trying his best</i>
Year 3L	Alicia	<i>showing resilience and hard work</i>
Year 3T	Noah M	<i>super effort and improvement in his writing</i>
Year 4J	Kitty	<i>fantastic persuasive deforestation work</i>
Year 4J	Brigid	<i>wonderful piece of work on deforestation</i>
Year 4M	Isabella	<i>continuous effort and hard work this year</i>
Year 5F	Jotham	<i>actively helping to organise the classroom</i>
Year 5M	Yumi	<i>always being the best that she can be</i>
Year 5M	Joshua F	<i>for his amazing responses in our CAFOD award assessment</i>
Year 6O	Holly	<i>enthusiastic portrayal of a 'big kid' in our Y6 production</i>
Year 6R	Austin	<i>for impeccable manners especially when helping to show children to their seats for Matilda.</i>

