



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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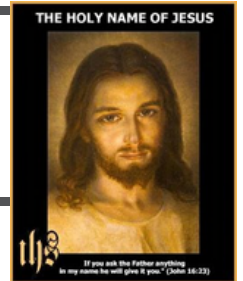


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Compassionate and Loving



12th January 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. I do hope that you had a lovely break with the children.

Thank you to those of you who took part in the Winter Reading Challenge and sent your photos in - we will be using them in our reading assemblies in school.

Following the Epiphany last weekend, we continue to celebrate Christmas: devoting our prayers to St. Mary and remembering how she connects us to her son Jesus. Next week, we will be thinking about the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt as part of our refugee week in school. We would also like to begin a collection for St. Chad's Sanctuary, who are currently asking for cooking equipment (as well as the normal donations) to support those in our community.

Having returned to school, we will begin our uniform checks - this includes appropriate hair styles, not wearing jewellery (other than stud earrings and a watch) and wearing correct uniform. We will notify parents if uniform is not quite right. Thank you for supporting us with this - we are very proud of the identity of our school. Our uniform policy can be found on the website. Mrs Yorke.



This week's Gospel and Prayer

Mark 1 : 11

"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Lord Jesus,

*At your baptism, you started your work for God.
Guide us as we work for God, spreading His love and
kindness to everyone we meet.*

Amen

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus' baptism was a significant event in His life.
- We are all a part of God's family and are invited to become a child of God through baptism.
- Baptism for us marks the new life we begin with God.

Catholic Life in School

Year 3 Mass - 10.1.24 - Baptism of our Lord

Year 3 led our Mass about the significance of Jesus' baptism for us on Wednesday.



Y1 Mass - Refugees

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 17th January 2024, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 children will be leading our Mass and Year 2 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.

This week's news

Reception news: -

Reception class enjoyed gymnastics this week and showed their teachers how flexible they are!



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 took part in various athletic activities with Bishop Challoner this week.



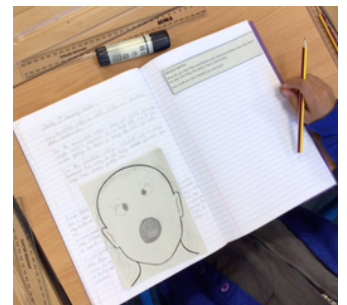
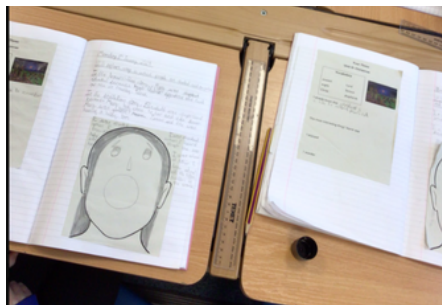
Year 2 news: -

This week, Year 2 have been working really hard in Maths recapping doubles to double 5!



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 reflected deeply in RE, thinking about how Mary would have felt when she found out she would give birth to the Son of God.



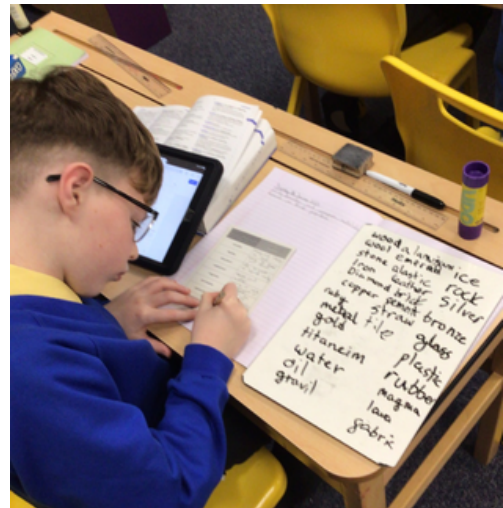
Year 4 news: -

Year 4 retold the Christmas Story in their RE learning.



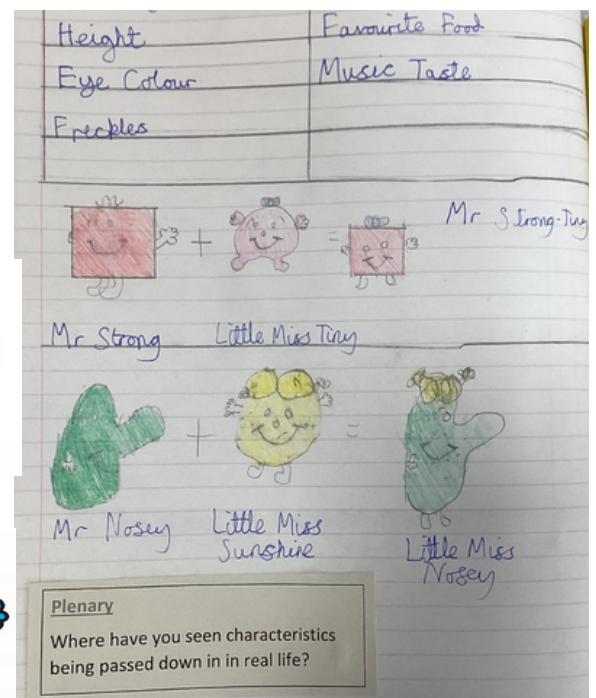
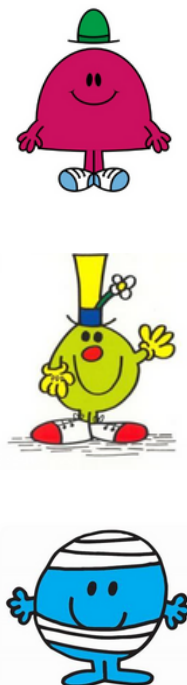
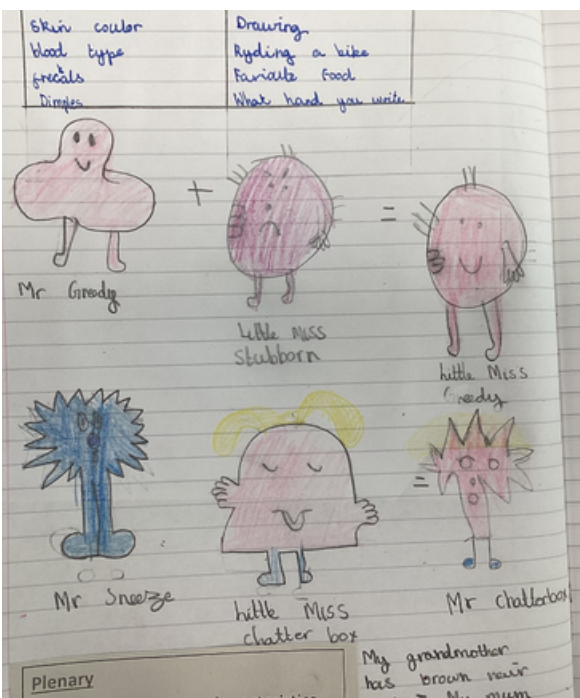
Year 5 news: -

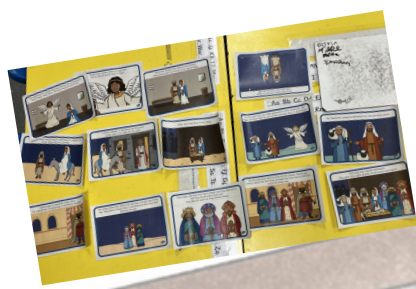
Y5 have been researching scientific terms as part of their new unit of their learning about materials in Science..



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been learning about inherited characteristics in Science and predicted what the offspring of Mr Men and Little Miss characters would look like!



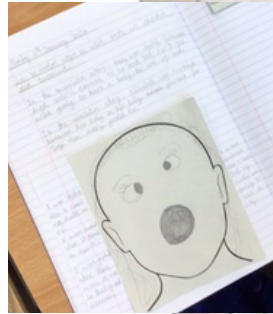


Christmas

Y2 began their Christmas unit by recapping the sequence of the Christmas story.



Wonderful home learning from Joseph and Florence showing the Peace of Christmas.



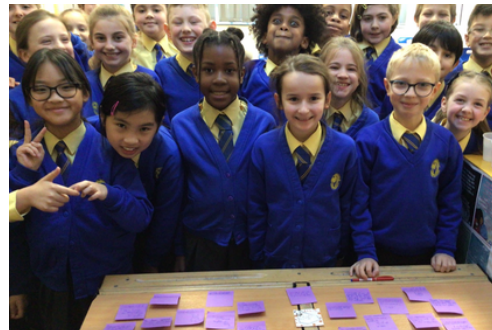
Y3 have been thinking about when they have felt shocked or surprised. Then, they reflected on how Mary and Elizabeth might have felt, when they knew Mary would have the the Son of God

Stunning start

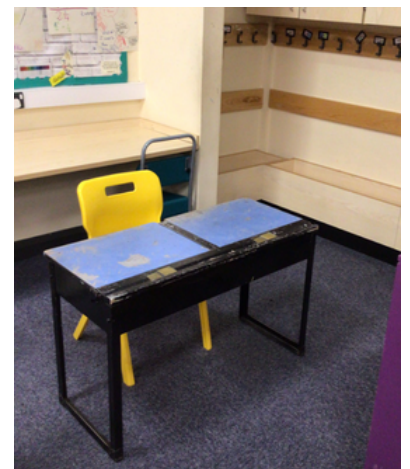
Options for the Poor and the Vulnerable



Y6 - explored their big question: Should we accept our place in society? They have been researching extraordinary people who have broken societal rules for the greater good of others



Y5 - As part of their 'Stunning Start', Year 5 found an empty desk in their classrooms and it was revealed that their new class text is 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Q Rauf



Winter Reading challenge:



Winter Reading challenge:-
It was wonderful to see so many of you continuing with your reading over the Christmas Holidays. Thank you for sharing your photos with us.

READ
well



Extra-Curricular



Blue Peter badge



Well done Thomas, who was very pleased to get his Blue Peter book badge. Great work!

Other News

Mexican Food Theme day in school - 18th January 2024

If your child isn't normally school dinners, but would like to have our Mexican menu

- please let the school office know via Gateway by 12th January 2024.

Menu - Chicken fajitas; veggie quesadillas; fish fingers; Mexican rice; Herby diced potatoes; Mexican sweetcorn; Nachos with salsa and guacamole; churros, yoghurt, fruit





KS1 Fantastic Phonics Day – Tuesday 16th January
KS1 will be celebrating a fantastic phonics day in school on Tuesday 16th January. To help celebrate the day, children in KS1 can come to school dressed as their favourite letter. For example, if their favourite letter is 'g' they could come to school wearing 'green' or if their favourite letter is 'd' they can come to school with a 'dinosaur' T-shirt on.



Year 5 Harborne Library Visit – 16.1.24

Year 5 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

5F will leave at 9:00am

5M 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 5 staff know.



Early Reading and Phonics workshop for parents of Year 1 children – Tuesday 16th January at 2:15pm

On Tuesday 16th January at 2:15pm, we are hosting an Early Reading and Phonics meeting in the school hall. In this meeting, we will be sharing information about our phonics program - Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised and how you can use the resources to support your child with their reading at home.



Wednesday 17th January at 8:45am

If you have a child in Year 6, who is due to take their SATs in May, please join us for our parent workshop on Wednesday 17th January at 8:45am.

You will have the chance to listen to how we prepare your child for SATs and ask any questions about access arrangements and how you can support at home. There will then be an opportunity to work with your child.

Parent Workshop



REFUGEE WEEK



St. Chad's Sanctuary – Donations required for WB 15.1.2024

St. Chad's Sanctuary are experiencing an increased number of requests for kitchen equipment, especially pots and pans with lids. If you are able to donate some, they have lots of people who would love to get cooking! We are hosting our refugee week next week and it would be wonderful to send some children across with the cooking equipment. Thank you for helping where possible.



PE days

Children are required to wear the school PE kit on the days that they have PE in school - it is important that they are in correct uniform on PE days. Swimming day is on Thursday for certain year groups - you will be informed if your child is going swimming each term.

PE Uniform

Gold t-shirt

Royal blue shorts

School jumper / cardigan (with school badge)

*Dark navy or black **plain** tracksuit bottoms*

Black plimsolls

Trainers

No jewellery - earrings taken out

**PE days**

Reception	Tuesday – Gymnastics Friday – Gross Motor skills / Forest School
Year 1F Year 1L	Tuesday – Athletics Wednesday – Ball skills
Year 2E Year 2G	Monday – Ball Skills Wednesday – Dance
Year 3L Year 3T	Tuesday - Hockey Thursday – Dance
Year 4J Year 4M	Monday – Dance Thursday – Swimming
Year 5F Year 5M	Monday – Cricket Friday - Dance
Year 6O Year 6R	Monday – Hockey Friday - Athletics

SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from

Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May 2024.

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

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?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here:

[https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety/blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube)

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 the Autumn term was:-

Autumn Term - 4th Sept – 22nd Dec

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	95.6%	94.5%	95.9%	95.8%	93.9%	98.6%	97.2%	97.3%	96.8%	96.9%	96.4%	96.7%	95.8%	97.3%
Lates	91	83	117	66	95	43	35	33	64	97	66	44	69	38
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%	School Target					97%		

Well done Y2G: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

8th January - all day

10th January 2024 - 9:15am

11th January 2024 - 3:30-4:30

WB 15.1.24

16th January 2024 - all day

16th January 2024 - am

16th January 2024 - 2:15pm

17th January 2024 - 8:45am

17th January 2024 - 9:15am

23rd January 2024 - am

24th January 2024 - 9:15am

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Compassionate and Loving

Children return to school at normal time

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

PTA meeting in school

Refugee Week - collection for St. Chad's Sanctuary

Fantastic phonics day for Reception and KS1

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 SF and 11:00 SM)

Year 1 Phonics and Early Reading Workshop for parents

Year 6 SATs workshop for parents

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

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

Year 5 Mass for Year 5 parents in school hall