



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.

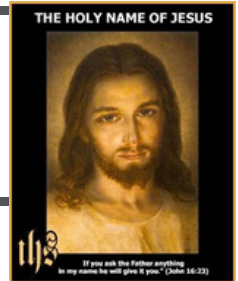


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

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



Dear parents and carers,

10th January 2025



All of the staff and Governors of St. Mary's wish you a very Happy New Year and may God bless our families, school, children and staff as we venture through 2025. I do hope that you had a lovely break with the children and have come back feeling refreshed.

We continue to celebrate and learn more about Christmas this week, as we focus upon the Epiphany and what we can learn from those who visited Jesus: the Shepherds and the Kings. Beautiful examples of prayer has taken place, and this has mainly been led by the children.

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. Wearing a tie is part of our winter school uniform and smart watches are not allowed in school. On PE days, children must wear the St. Mary's PE uniform as well - and we do not allow logos in school. Tracksuit bottoms and shorts must be plain and in the colour of blue or black. We will notify parents if uniform is not quite right. Our uniform policy can be found on the website and please speak to school if you need help with uniform. Thank you for supporting us with this - we are very proud of the identity of our school.

You should have received the class newsletters this week, which outlines the curriculum that your child is following this half-term, how you can help at home and key dates. Please keep an eye on the dates within my newsletter each week as I will update them with anything else as the weeks progress.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Most Rev. Archbishop Bernard Longley to St. Mary's parish on the weekend of Saturday 25th January and Sunday 26th January. It would be wonderful to fill our Masses with families and children from St. Mary's. St. Mary's staff will be going to the family Mass on the Sunday. We are hoping to do something as a school and I will share this with you, when I know more.

We have had a calm return to school and the children have been beautifully behaved and worked really hard. I hope that you all enjoy this cold weekend together. God bless,

Mrs Yorke



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer



Matthew 2:11

'they saw the child... and they fell down and worshipped Him... they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Epiphany celebrates Jesus being revealed to the world, to the Wise Men and to each of us individually.
- We can make an offering to Jesus just like the Wise Men did.

'When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him.'

Matthew 2:10-11

Lord Jesus,
Thank you for shining out your love to us all.
Help me see you clearly and love you dearly.
Show me how to share your light and love with others.



Year 3 Mass - 8.1.25

-The Epiphany.

Year 3 led us in a peaceful and reverent celebration of the Epiphany this week.



Our next Mass: - Y1 Mass for Baptism of our Lord

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 15th January 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 will be leading this Mass and Year 2 will be there too.
All parents are welcome to attend.



Year 1 have been thinking about how they can be like the three kings with their God-given gifts.

Prayer



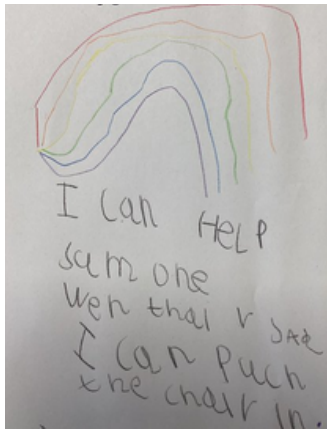
Year 3 children leading prayer.



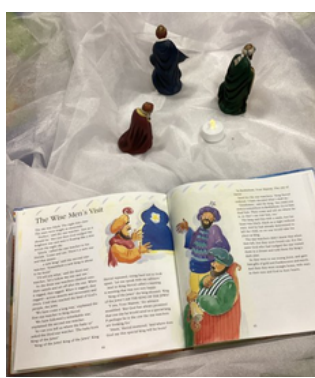
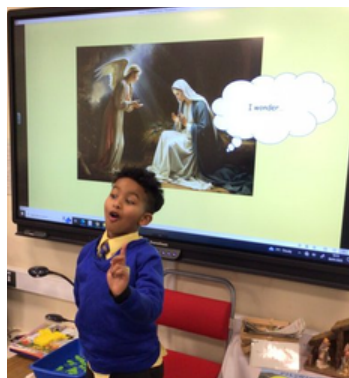
The children from St. John Paul house, in Reception, leading prayer.

Catholic Life

Look at our lovely RE learning this week: -



Reception class have been learning about how to use their hands best, to help others.



Year 1 have been learning the story of 'The Annunciation' and have been saying what they wonder about the story.

Year 2 have been listening to the story of the Epiphany, reflecting on the Wise Men's story.



Year 6 explored how they could use their God-given gifts to build His Kingdom on Earth.



Year 3 have been thinking about the work people do at school and their job roles. They have considered and thought about which job is the most important. After discussion, they realised everybody's job at school is equally important and without them, it would not be the same!

Year 4 children are thinking about how they can be pilgrims of hope.

Year 5 shared prayer time about the Epiphany and what we can learn about how to lead our lives based on the people in the account.





Year 4 Harborne Library Visit - 14.1.25

Year 4 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

4J will leave at 8:45am

4M will leave at 10:15am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 4 staff know.

Early Reading and Phonics workshop for parents of Year 1 children - Tuesday 14th January at 2:30pm

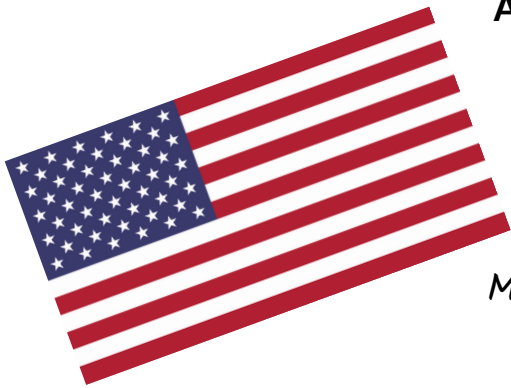
On Tuesday 14th January at 2:30pm, we are hosting an Early Reading and Phonics meeting in the school hall. In this meeting, we will be sharing information about our phonics program - Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised and how you can use the resources to support your child with their reading at home.



American Theme Lunch in school - 16th January 2025

If your child isn't normally school dinners, but would like to have our American menu - please let the school office know via Gateway by 13th January.

Menu - pepperoni pizza; cheese and tomato pizza; hot dog; quorn dog; chips; beans; sweetcorn; assorted salads.
Desserts: Apple pie with cream; fresh fruit salad.



Thursday 16th January at 2:15pm

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 Thursday 16th January at 2:15pm.

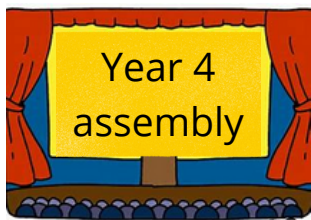
You will have the chance to listen to how we prepare your child for SATs and ask any questions about access arrangements and how you can support at home.



Parent Workshop

Year 4 Assembly - Friday 17th January 2025 -

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 4 children into school next Friday 17th January, for their year group assembly based on the baptism of our Lord.



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

If you have a concern that a child is being harmed, is at risk of harm, or you receive a disclosure (intentionally or unintentionally) you must contact one of the following staff members as quickly as possible:



Amy Davis Deputy Headteacher Lead DSL	Louise Yorke Headteacher Deputy DSL	Rachel Jones Senior Teacher DSL	Rachel Richards EYFS Lead DSL	Sharon Tame School Counsellor DSL	Laura Noone AHT DSL	Jade Preedy AHT DSL
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Alternatively, email DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

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 last week was –

Week 06/1/25-10/1/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	94.6	96.3	92.6	95.3	96.3	98.6	96.3	95	94.3	98.3	95.3	94.6	91.3	97
Lates	5	3	7	10	7	5	5	3	0	6	7	8	4	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.6%	School Target					97%		

Well done 2G: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this half-term

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

6th January - all day

8th January 2025 - 9:15am

14th January 2025 - am

14th January 2025 - 2:30pm

15th January 2025 - 9:15am

16th January 2025 - 2:15am

17th January 2025 - 9:15am

21st January 2025 - am

22nd January 2025 - 9:00am

22nd January 2025 - 9:15am

24th January 2025- all day

28th January 2025 - am

29th January 2025 - all day

29th January 2025 - 9:15am

31st January 2025 - am

WB 3.2.2025

4th February 2025 - all day

4th February 2025 - am

5th February 2025 - 9:15am

6th February 2025 - 1:30pm

6th February 2025 - 4:00pm

WB 10.2.25

11th February 2025 - all day

12th February 2025 - am

14th February 2025 - 9:15am

14th February 2025 - end of day

Dignity of Work

Grateful and Generous

Children return to school at normal time

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

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (8:45 4J and 10:15 4M)

Year 1 Phonics and Early Reading Workshop for parents

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

Year 6 SATs workshop for parents

Year 4 Year group Assembly

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (8:45 3L and 10:15 3T)

Early Writing Workshop for Reception parents

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 6 classes attend) - parents welcome

Jubilee Launch Day

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (8:45 2E and 10:15 2G)

Year 6 visit to St. Chad's visit

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

Author visit for Year 4 and Year 5

Children's Mental Health Week

World Mental Health dress-up day (organised by school council)

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:45 1F and 10:15 1L)

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

Year 2 INSPIRE workshop for parents

PTA meeting

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day

Reception Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome

Year 3 Year group Assembly

Break up for half-term break - normal time

Term Dates: - Academic Year 2024-2025

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3rd September - Thursday 24th October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 4th November - Friday 20th December
Spring Term	Monday 6th January - Friday 14th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 24th February - Thursday 17th April
Summer Term	Tuesday 6th May - Friday 23rd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 2nd June - Friday 18th July

School Closed:

- Monday 5th May 2025 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Friday 25th October 2024
- Monday 17th March 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025 and Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Beatrice	For her brilliant blending in guided reading!
Year RT	Eric	For having a positive start to the year and working hard to improve his behaviour.
Year 1F	Harlem	For having a wonderful first week back and engaging exceptionally well in all his lessons.
Year 1L	Issac	For his excellent effort during his learning this week
Year 2E	Nathan	For always listening carefully and trying his best in everything he does!
Year 2G	Esme	For always being a fabulous role model in our class!
Year 3L	Grace	For a wonderful piece of writing in English based on 'The Little Match Girl Strikes Back.'
Year 3T	Anji	For being an incredibly kind friend and modelling fantastic behaviour!
Year 4J	Sofia	For her enthusiasm when practicing our assembly songs!
Year 4M	Danny	For an excellent start this year: with focus and enthusiasm
Year 5F	Nathan	For fantastic work in RE this week.
Year 5M	Raman	For beautiful effort in everything he does
Year 6O	Maya	For challenging herself in her writing to use a variety of punctuation.
Year 6R	Isla	For her keen interest in our new class text, 'Macbeth.'

