



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.

March is dedicated to St. Joseph

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'
Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Faith-filled and hopeful'



28th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of another term and we're all ready to break up and celebrate Easter. The most important day in our faith. We have had such a special Holy Week in school, as we have been led by the children to Jesus' cross through our prayer and liturgy. Year 3 showed us the importance of servant leadership in their recreation of the Last Supper. Year 4 taught us about the anguish Jesus felt in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he was betrayed by one of his own and arrested. Year 5 helped us reflect on all those involved in the persecution of Jesus and how Pilate 'washed his hands' of the whole affair. Today, Year 6 led us in our stations of the Cross, and it was lovely to see so many parents and members of the Parish, in the Church. On Sunday, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection and on behalf of the Governors and all the staff, I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Included in this newsletter are key dates for the Summer term. Please continue to check the dates page of the newsletter for any additions to these dates as the weeks go on.

Have a marvellous break and we will see you in 2 weeks time on Monday 15th April (normal time).

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Philippians 2: 8-9

"Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high."

What are the Stations of the Cross?

The Stations of the Cross – or the Way of the Cross – is a Lenten devotion which helps us to reflect prayerfully on Jesus' final steps on the way to his crucifixion and death. It marks 14 different stages of Christ's Passion from the moment he was condemned to death, to receiving the Cross and then the events on the walk to his crucifixion.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to show our love for you. Prepare our minds, hearts and souls to follow You on Your final journey on the road to Calvary. Thank you Jesus for being our friend and for dying for us. Give us strength to carry Your cross with You.

Amen

Catholic Life in School



Year 5 School Mass - 3rd Week of Easter - Votive St Bernadette

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 17th April 2024**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 will be leading our Mass and Year 6 will also be attending. All parents are welcome to attend.





Palm Sunday

*"Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!"*

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 set our scene: -

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they waved palm branches...



The Last Supper

*"Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you are proclaiming the death of the Lord"*

Year 3 showed us the love of Christ. Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples and washed their feet at the Last Supper.



The Garden of Gethsemane

"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"

Year 4 helped us to reflect upon the events that took place in the Garden of Gethsemane and then Peter's denial. We were asked to consider how Jesus was feeling as he prayed to His Father in Heaven.



Good Friday

"My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world"

Year 5 re-enacted Jesus' trial and sentencing to death. They encouraged us to reflect on how by washing his hands of Jesus' blood, Pontius Pilate sentenced him to death.



The Stations of the Cross

"Truly this was the Son of God"

Year 6 retold the Stations of the Cross and linked the suffering of Jesus, to the suffering and persecution that still takes place today.



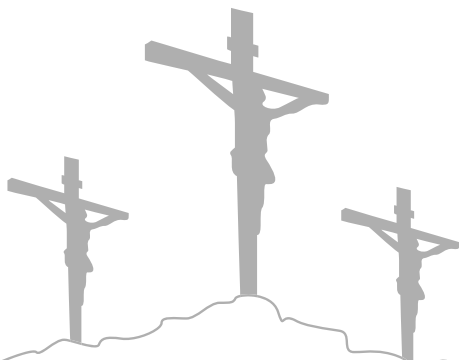
We are so proud of our amazing RE learning this week...

Our Last Supper Work

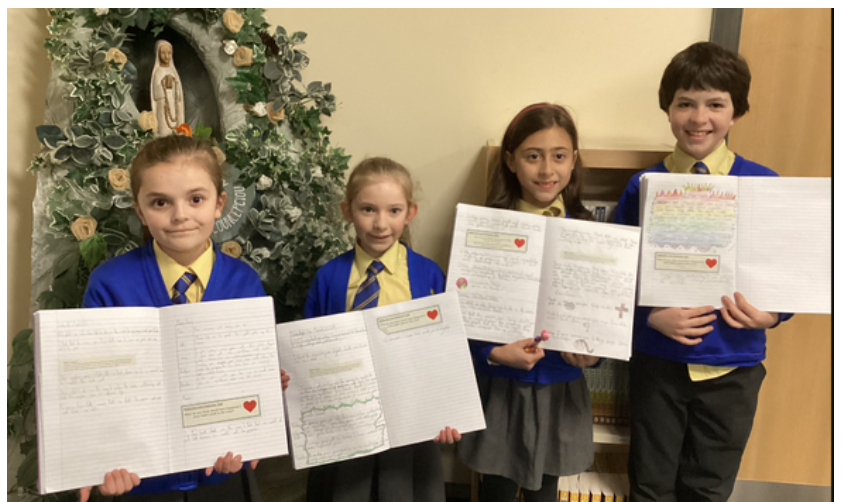


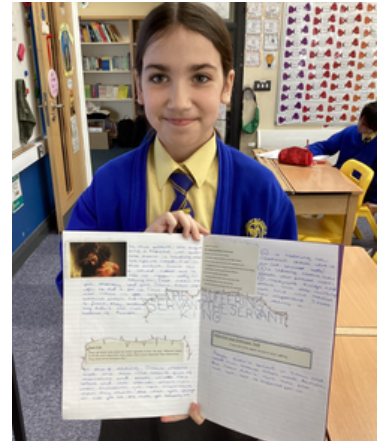
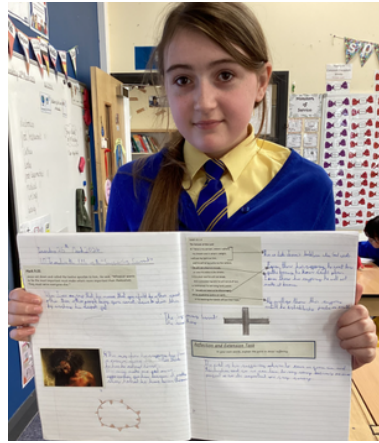
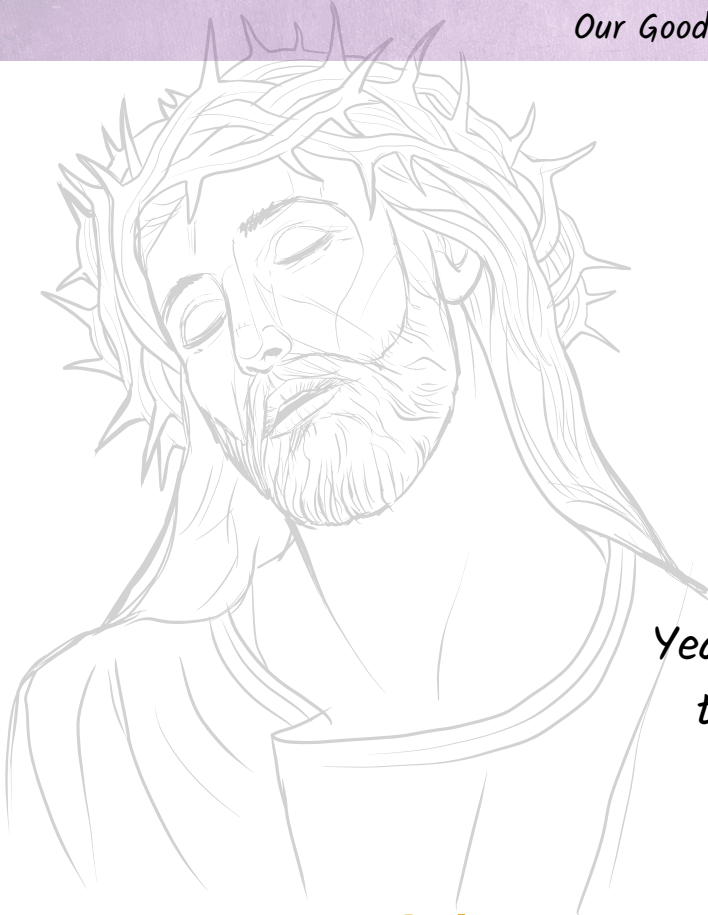
Jesus' journey to the Cross

Following the Stations of the Cross, Year 5 discussed the thoughts, feelings and emotions of Simon of Cyrene and Veronica when they met Jesus on his way to the cross.

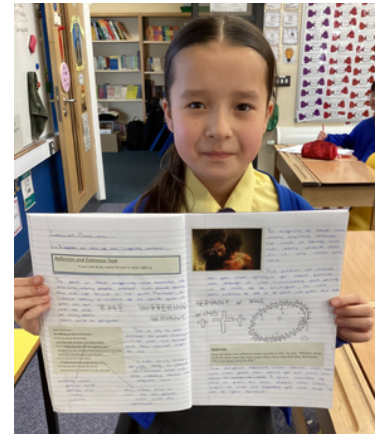


Year 4 reflected on why Jesus had to die on the cross during Holy Week





Year 6 examined Jesus' title, The Suffering Servant



Other Easter Activities

Thank you to the PTA for organising our Easter raffles and for purchasing the Easter Eggs for the children.



Reception class were wonderful in their Easter Bonnet parade. Amazing dancing and singing!



HAPPY EASTER

KS2

KS2 have taken part in The Big Lent Walk!
All KS2 children walked 200km collaboratively over Lent.
The children have raised an impressive £483 for CAFOD.
All money raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.



<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-big-lent-walk2025>



Year 5

Year 5 completed their Big Lent walk, carrying buckets of water to raise awareness of water poverty.



Year R

Reception class baked cakes to sell at our Easter bonnet parade. Children brought in home-made cakes and we made £221.16, which will go to local charity - FOCUS Birmingham



Ingredients
Cornflour
Milk chocolate
Mini Eggs
Rainbow sprinkles

Year 1

Year 1 have been visiting our residents at Heathcote House during Lent - gifting them with their time. The children have enjoyed reading, singing and playing games with the residents.



Year 4

Year 4 children continued their collection for homeless charities, inspired by their reading of 'The night bus hero' in class. Thank you parents for your support and donations.



Spiritual Council

Our Spiritual Council have been involved in the Community tidy up - litter picking in our local area around St. Mary's and high street. Thank you to the parents and staff who joined us too.



We celebrated all the wonderful achievements of our children in two assemblies today recognising those who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, effort, kindness and who live out our virtues. Well done, children. We are so proud of you!



KEEP
IT
UP!



100%

A very big well done to all our children who achieved 100% attendance this term also!



Amazing!

Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **3rd June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 10th June**



Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates. Further details will be given out nearer the time.

Summer uniform

Children can continue to wear winter uniform, if weather is unpredictable and cold.
Children may begin wearing their Summer uniform when we return after Easter...

Girls' Summer Uniform

- Yellow summer dress
- Black shoes



Boys' Summer Uniform

- Grey shorts
- Yellow polo shirt
- Black shoes

PE

- Blue shorts
- Yellow t-shirt
- Black, blue or white trainers / black indoor pumps



Staff News

Good Bye! Thank You



Mrs Fowler



Miss Ruhan



Mrs Woodcock

Mrs Fowler, our SENDCo; Miss Ruhan, our Year 2 Teacher and Mrs Woodcock, our teaching assistant are all progressing on to new roles after Easter break.

They have had a lovely last day in school with cards and gifts from the children and teachers. They will be incredibly missed by the St. Mary's community and we thank them for their hard work and service.





Holy Week Masses

Thursday 28th March at 7:30pm - Holy/Maundy Thursday
(Mass of the Lord's Supper)

Friday 29th March at 3:00pm - Good Friday
(The Lord's Passion)



Stations of the cross

Friday 29th March 2024 at 7:00pm



Easter Sunday Masses

Sunday 31st March at 9:30am, 11:30am and 5:00pm

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 Spring term was -

Spring Term - 8th Jan – 28th March

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	95.5%	96.2%	95.5%	95.8%	92.9%	96.7%	96.2%	97.1%	95.4%	95.4%	95.3%	96.7%	95.2%	97.4%
Lates	57	30	68	36	19	22	10	10	24	21	48	13	27	22
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.1%			School Target				97%	

Well done Y6O: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for next term

Summer theme -

Summer 1

15th April - all day

16th April 2024 - 9:15am

16th April 2024 - all day

17th April 2024 - 9:15am

18th April 2024 - all day

21st April 2024 - all day

23rd April 2024 - all day

24th April 2024 - 9:15am

25th April 2024 - 9:00am

25th April 2024 - 6:00pm

26th April 2024 - all day

26th April 2024 - am

1st May 2024 - 9:15am

2nd May 2024 - all day

3rd May 2024 - all day

6th May 2024 - all day

9th May 2024 - 9:30am

10th May 2024 - 9:15am

WB 13.5.24

WB 13.5.24

16th May 2025 - 2:30pm

24th May 2024

Stewardship

Eloquent and Truthful

Children return to school at normal time

RB non-school uniform day for St. Bernadette's feast day

Year 4 trip to Bosworth Battlefield

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

Year 1 trip to the Sea Life Centre

Vocation Sunday

2G non-school uniform day for St. George's day

Year 2 Mass ONLY for Year 2 parents in school hall

Year 5 prayer service to parents

PTA meeting

St. Gianna Feast day - every body in St. Gianna house can wear green

Fast track ballet in to work with Year 1

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

Voting day - school is closed

School is open as normal

May Day Bank Holiday - school is closed

Whole School Mass and May procession - parents welcome

Year 1 Year group Assembly

Mental Health Week

Year 6 SATs Week

Year Reception Year group Assembly

Break up for half-term break - normal time

2024-2025 dates

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



*INSET days are still to be confirmed by the
Governing Board
- please continue to check our school website
for updates.*

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Jessica	<i>drawing a fantastic picture of the Last Supper</i>
Year RT	Ava	<i>being a wonderful role model</i>
Year IF	Zhimu	<i>working so hard in Maths</i>
Year IL	Rory	<i>always trying his best</i>
Year 2E	James	<i>completing all his home learning</i>
Year 2G	Theo	<i>being a bright and positive member of the class</i>
Year 3L	Sofia	<i>trying her hardest with her spellings</i>
Year 3T	Krishan	<i>making fantastic contributions to our History topic - Ancient Egyptians</i>
Year 4J	Emiliano	<i>being on task with his learning all week</i>
Year 4M	Arthur	<i>creating a fantastic Roman sandal design</i>
Year 5F	Rhoda	<i>living St Mary's virtues everyday and being an excellent example</i>
Year 5M	Niamh	<i>having an amazing attitude towards learning, her peers and the virtues</i>
Year 6O	Raffaelle	<i>being a wonderful representative of the school in every way</i>
Year 6R	Joshua F	<i>being a sensible role model this half term</i>

