



Archdiocese of Birmingham
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121 464 2141

Email: enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

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: 'Dignity of Work'
Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Attentive and Discerning'



Dear parents and carers,

21st March 2025

Last weekend, Year 3 children celebrated their First Reconciliation; and the children experienced God's love and forgiveness for the first time. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important step in the children's sacramental journey towards making their First Holy Communion and we're incredibly proud of them.



Yesterday, we welcomed One Life Music in to school to lead our whole-school retreat focused on Lent in this special jubilee year. It was wonderful day filled with prayer, reflection and singing - Dan and Emily commented on what a lovely day they had with us! Today, you may have spotted lots of colourful socks around school as children celebrated World Down Syndrome Day. The children wore their socks proudly and took part in activities during the day to raise awareness about Down Syndrome - see page 7 in this newsletter for pictures!

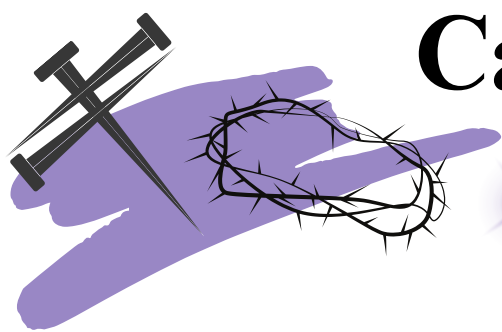
Next week, we look forward to a week filled with Inspire workshops celebrating both Confirmation (for Year 6) and mothers or special female figures for our children. The children will be taking part in some lovely activities such as sewing, drawing and gardening. Year 6 will each be painting a cross to represent their chosen Confirmation Saint which will join the display in the school corridor.

On a separate note, parents, will you please ensure that children are not bringing items from home in to school. Some of our younger children are bringing in cards and swapping these at break times which is causing upset. No items from home should be brought in to school. Thank you for your support with this.

I wish you all a very pleasant weekend and we will see you on Monday. God bless,

Mrs Yorke

Catholic Life



Luke 9:29

‘And as He was praying, the appearance of His face was altered, and His clothing became dazzling white.’

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- that we need to listen to Jesus
- Jesus went up the mountain to pray. In Lent we are called to increase our prayer life
- God may give His faithful special experiences of his grace that strengthen their faith



Year 2 Mass - 19.3.25
- St. Joseph

Year 2 led the Mass to St. Joseph this week. They sang songs and thought about the qualities of St. Joseph and how we can be like him.



Our next Mass: – **Year 5 Mass – 3rd Week of Lent**

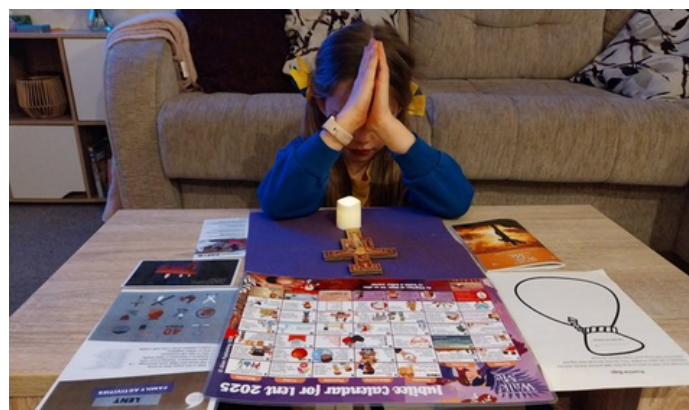
Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 26th March 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 will be leading this Mass and Year 6 will also be in attendance. All parents are welcome to attend.



Lenten Prayer bags



It is wonderful to see our the Lent prayer bags being used at home. Continue to tweet your photos @StMaryB17



Our Lenten Journey



Pilgrims of Hope - Whole School Lent Retreat - 20.3.25
Yesterday, the staff and children took part in a special retreat day. One Life Music led us in thought-provoking prayer and worship, designed to support our journey as Pilgrims of Hope, in this important Jubilee Year.



Charity

We are walking 200km for CAFOD this Lent - please sponsor us!

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-catholic-primary-school-fundraising-page>



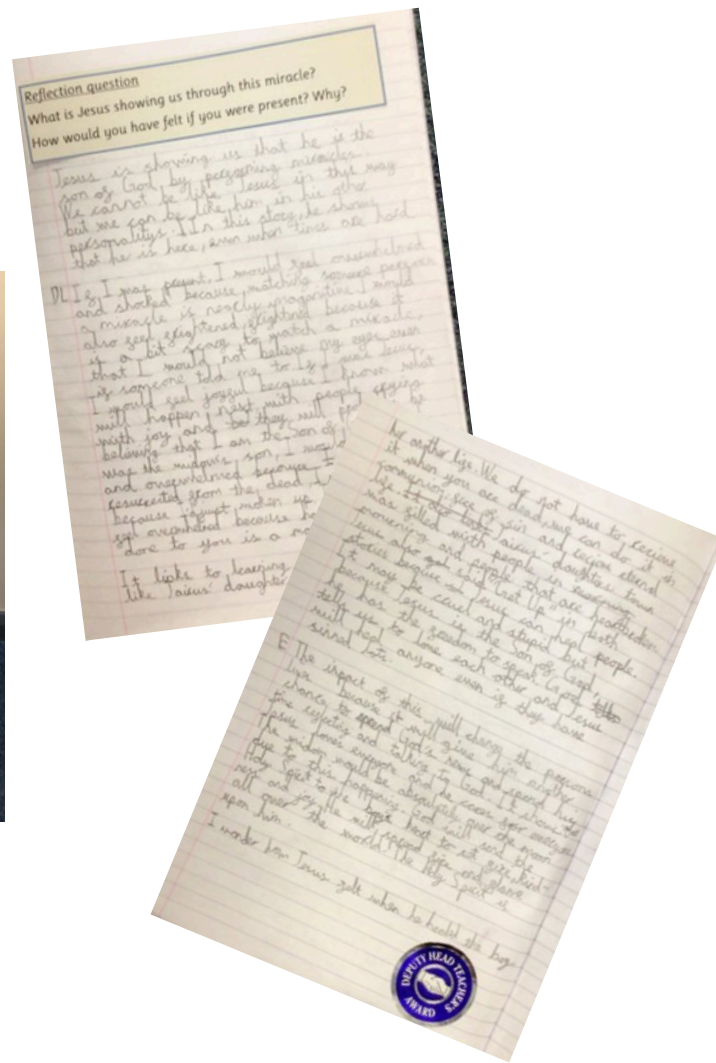
Prayer

The Spiritual Council have created a prayer area in school for children to offer their prayers for health and healing for Pope Francis. Children and staff are using this area to add their prayers.



RE

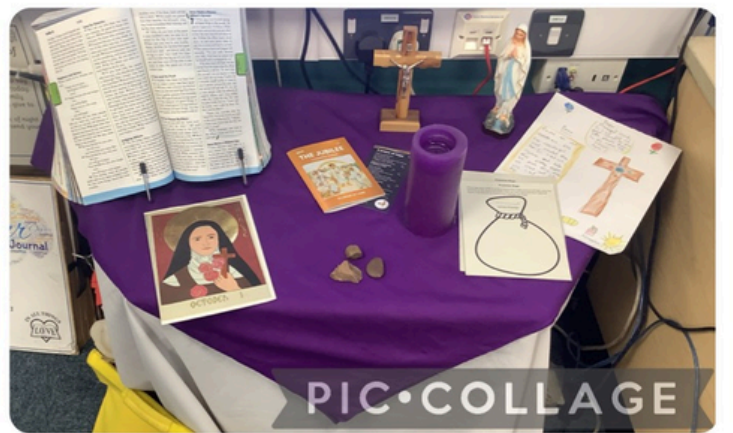
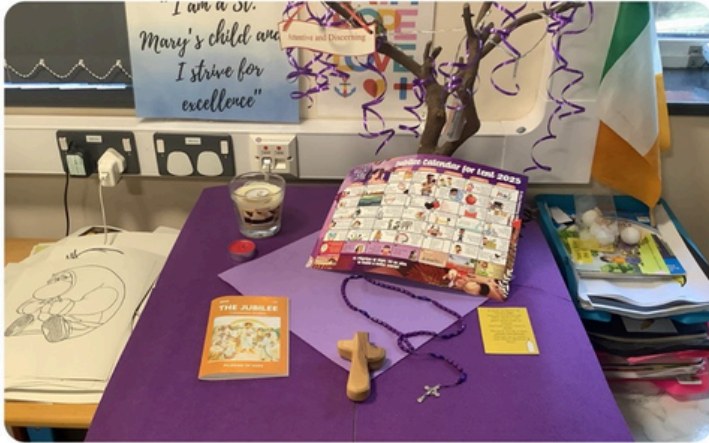
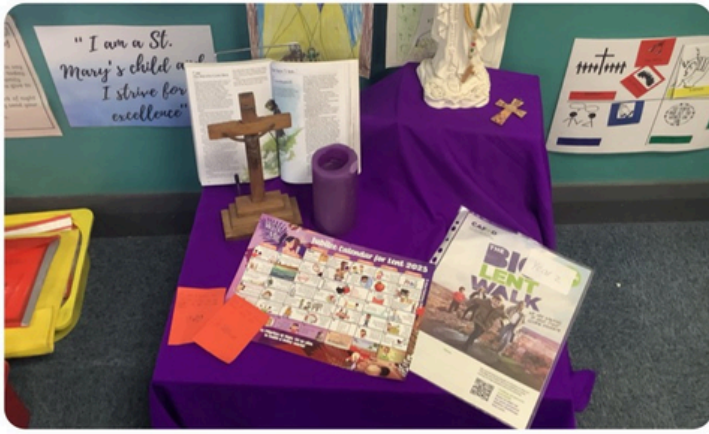
Look at our wonderful RE learning from a child in Year 3



Prayer Areas

Our classroom prayer areas help the children to reflect and pray more fully each day during Lent.





PIC • COLLAGE



World Down Syndrome Day - 21st March 2025



#LotsOfSocks

World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The date, 21st March (i.e. the 3rd month of the year), was chosen to reflect the fact that people with Down Syndrome have 3 copies of chromosome number 21.

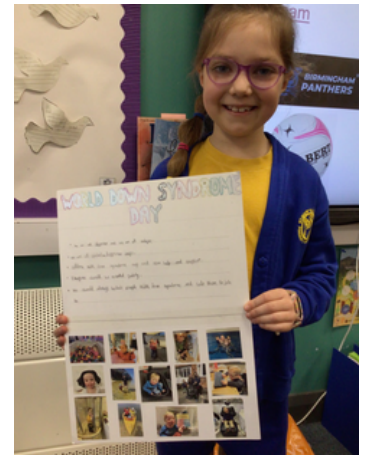
Lots of socks! To observe the Down Syndrome campaign, the children wore bright, bold, and even mismatched socks. The brighter and crazier - the better! Socks were chosen as the basis of this international campaign because chromosomes are thought to look a little bit like pairs of socks.

Why are you wearing those socks???

"I'm wearing them to raise awareness of Down syndrome".



In celebration of World Down Syndrome day, Cara and Josie both shared their knowledge of Down Syndrome and told their classes all about their wonderful little brother.





Year 6 Confirmation workshop Parent Inspire - 24.3.25 - 1:30pm

Year 6 Inspire workshop is on Monday 24th March at 1:30pm. Children will be design a cross to represent their chosen Confirmation Saint and will paint this to join our display of crosses in the school corridor.



Harborne Library - 25.03.25

Year 4 are visiting Harborne Library on Tuesday 25th March. 4J are leaving school at 8.45am and 4M are leaving school at 10.15am. If any parents would like to accompany these visits, please email the School Office.

INSPIRE Workshop (Mothers' Day) - 27th March 2025

Ahead of Mothers' Day, we will be hosting a special INSPIRE workshop for one parent to attend in school.

On Thursday 27th March, mums (or any family member over the age of 18) have the opportunity to come in to school and to work with their child on an area of the school curriculum.

Please find the timings for your workshop below...

NB - Please note that Year 6 will have already held their INSPIRE workshop before this date on Monday 24th March - Confirmation Workshop.

Please sign up using the school gateway, so that registers can be created and we know who is coming in to the building on this day (this will be set up on Monday).

All children will take part in their lesson, even if a parent or family member is unable to attend.

Please note that we do not have the room for more than one parent per child to attend.

We look forward to showcasing our lovely learning to you.

Unfortunately due to the nature of the INSPIRE, with a parent joining in with a lesson, it is not appropriate to bring pre-school children and babies to this event - we would find it difficult to fit them in the classrooms with 30 children and potentially 30 adults.

Teas and coffees will be set up for adults to purchase throughout the school day and money made will go towards our PTA projects. Prior to the workshop (or afterwards if you are about to attend another workshop) - please make your way to the school hall and you will be guided to the next lesson.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your first workshop. Gifts for mums will also be sold by the PTA on this day.

start time	workshop	where
9:00-10:00	Year 2 Art lesson - creating art	hall
10:15-11:15	Year 3 DT sewing activity - Egyptian collars	Y3 classes
11:30-12:30	Year 4 Life drawing art	hall
12:45-1:45	Reception and Year 1 gardening session	outside
2:00-3:00	Year 5 Marbelling	hall





TREAT SOMEONE SPECIAL FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Wednesday 26th March children can purchase a gift, in school, for Mother's Day

£1 and £2 gifts

All monies raised goes towards School PTA.



Prayer Service

Year 6 prayer service for parents - 28.03.25 9:00am
Year 6 are inviting parents, grandparents, family members to join them in a special prayer service in school.
We hope that you can join us

Spring Hop Disco - 28.03.25

ST.MARYS SCHOOL PTA ARE HOSTING OUR
SPRING HOP DISCO

St.Mary's Parish Centre

FRIDAY 28TH MARCH 6.30-8.30PM

Tickets- Child £4 Adult £2

Come and have fun with lots of dancing, toys, crafts, sweets and food



**PTA event: -
Spring Hop Disco**

Tickets will be on sale from the PTA team next 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

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 –

Attendance
Week 17/03/25-21/03/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	92.5	97.5	97.2	95	94.5	94.1	93.3	97.5	98.3	95.8	94.8	95	97.4	92.5
Lates	0	3	0	4	1	4	0	2	0	0	4	2	0	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.5%		School Target				97%		

Well done 4J: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

24th March 2025 - 1:30pm

25th March 2025 - am

26th March 2025 - 9:15am

27th March 2025 - all day

28th March 2025 - 9:00am

1st April 2025 - am

1st April 2025 - pm

2nd April 2025 - 9:15am

3rd April 2025 - pm

8th April 2025 - all day

9th April 2025 - 9:30am

10th April 2025 - 9:00am

11th April 2025 - all day

WB 14.4.25

17th April 2025 - 11:00am

17th April 2025

Dignity of Work

Attentive and Discerning

Year 6 Confirmation Workshop with parents

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

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

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

Year 6 prayer service for parents

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

Parent Consultation Evening

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Year 2 school trip - Coal mining tour

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

Reception prayer service for parents

Year 3 school trip to Birmingham Art Gallery

Holy Week

Year 6 Stations of the Cross in Church for KS2 and parent

Break up for Easter Holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Joshua	For his dedication and hard work in improving his phonics and reading!
Year RT	Kian	For being an attentive and discerning member of the class who always tries to make the right choice.
Year 1F	Amanda	For working super hard on her blending skills in reading.
Year 1L	Ale	For working hard to make good choices and completing his learning carefully.
Year 2E	Reena	For excellent focus during precision teaching. Keep up the hard work Reena!
Year 2G	Evan	For being a kind and helpful member of class.
Year 3L	Scarlett-Rose	For always being a super role model and always listening attentively in class
Year 3T	Joseph	For having a fantastic attitude to learning and trying his hardest across all subjects!
Year 4J	Keira	For her excellent attitude to learning
Year 4M	Darren	For active participation in lessons, especially RE
Year 5F	Danny	For his fantastic attitude to learning and exemplary behaviour
Year 5M	Bruce	For his fantastic work during assessment week
Year 6O	Rhoda	For her great determination in her maths work
Year 6R	Helena	For working hard in maths

