



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.



November is dedicated to the Holy Souls.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Families and Community'

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

Updated Headteacher message to parents sent out on 12th November

8th November 2024

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to thank you for your patience with us at this time when our server has failed in school. Our main curriculum server went down on Thursday evening and our ICT technicians have been working really hard to restore our server and recover any lost work. This has been difficult for staff as our access to the Internet has been affected, and they have lost some of their hard work completed over the half-term break. Needless to say, the staff have worked exceptionally hard to ensure teaching and learning hasn't been impacted and as of last night, our communication systems are now working again.

The server going down has meant that class newsletters have not gone out yet - they were due on Friday. Some of our curriculum maps, that are sent home each half-term, were lost and we have needed to redo them. Again, I apologise that you have not receive the information required about spellings and dates - and thank you for being patient with us. I am in the process of reading class newsletters now and these will be sent out as soon as possible.

I hope that everybody had a lovely half-term. We have now entered the month of November and we pray for all those who have died. The children have been thinking about who they would like to pray for - family members, the Holy Souls, or soldiers who died in the war. They have written the names of those we are praying for on a candle and these candles are displayed throughout the school.

We had a really successful open day for respective Reception parents - September 2025. The prefects did an incredible job at showing people around and answering questions. I was incredibly proud of them and all the great things they had to say about the school. They were an absolute asset to the school.



I have included in today's newsletter all the key dates for your diary for this half term. Please find the list of dates towards the end. Class newsletters to follow now that systems are running.

Mrs Yorke

We pray for those who have died in November





Catholic Life



This week's Gospel and Prayer

Mark 12:33

"Love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

- Jesus wants us to love God with all our heart, understanding and strength
- Loving God first is the most important thing we can do
- When we love God well, He helps us to love others well too

Prayer suggestions and activities: -

During November, the Month of the Holy Souls, we pray for all those who have died and for the holy souls in purgatory that they will enter the kingdom of Heaven. We give thanks for their example and witness of being intentional and prophetic throughout their lives to their vocational calling. We join our prayers with the Communion of Saints.



Remembrance and Holy Souls



We will remember them...

John 15 : 13

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

We remember before God, and commend to Him, those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew; and whose memory we treasure; and all those names of people who we do not know; who lived and died in service and faith of the Lord.

We pray for peace in our World. Amen.



*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

Year 1 - Year 6 Mass - 6.11.24 - Remembrance

We joined together as a whole school community to celebrate our Remembrance Mass. Staff led us in scripture and prayer and Father Hilary encouraged us all to pray for peace.



There is no Mass next week



On Friday, Year 4 celebrated their class Saint - St. Martin De Porres and they led parents in a beautiful prayer service.

Catholic Life

Our theme for Autumn term is Family and Community - what does this mean?

As a school, we follow a Catholic Curriculum known as Building the Kingdom. Each term we focus on a Catholic Social theme. This term's theme is: Family and Community.

Theme 2: Family and Community

EYFS

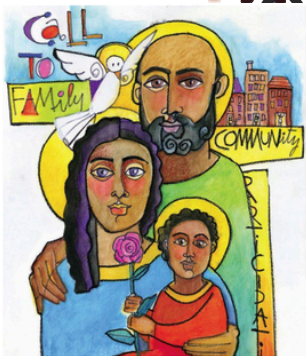
- *My family is at home
- *My school family
- * We are all different and we love and care for each other
- *We love and look after each other because we are all brothers and sisters in God's family

KS1

- *We are all part of a community
- *We look after and care for each other
- *I belong to my family and my community
- *My community needs me

KS2

- *What makes community?
- *Who is in my community?
- *Building up the community
- *Building up the kingdom of God



The human person is not only sacred, but social. How society is organised, be it socially, economically, legally or politically has a direct impact on the dignity and growth of every human person and community. Marriage and family should be supported and strengthened. Every person has a right to work to support themselves and their families as well as the building up of the common good for all.

Our Catholic Curriculum teaches the children about the importance of tolerance and respect for all family make-ups, communities and cultures - as we are all loved unconditionally by God. Within our families and communities, we will face crises and this is when we are called to act (Social Action), to defend what is right and to look after one another.

*"The life of every family is marked by all kinds of crises, yet these are also part of its dramatic beauty."
Amoris Laetitia 19 March 2016.*



Our virtues for Autumn 2 is to be 'intentional and prophetic' - what does this mean?

Intentional and Prophetic

Intentional in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

What does this mean?

Catholic schools help their pupils grow by being a school community which is intentional in its way of proceeding to build-up quality of life; and which is prophetic in the way it offers an alternative vision of education and the human person rooted in the gospel.



Linking Intentional & Prophetic to the way we can choose to live our lives to serve God and to serve others.

Activities and challenges: -

- Explore the challenges faced by migrants and refugees.
- Pope Francis said 'We are called to be saints.' Explore what you think this means and how you can live this out in your school and parish community? How are we called to serve God and others in our actions and words?
- How do you live your life for the betterment of this world?
- How can you be prophetic in the example you set to others?
- Take part in your school and churches charity campaigns and teach others the importance of living out the true mission of Catholic Social Teachings.
- Which charities are intentional in their support of the homeless/refuges in the Archdiocese of Birmingham?
- Being stewards of the earth during Advent, re-use or recycle wrapping paper. Save the front of Christmas cards so you can use them to make cards next year.
- Before the Christmas holidays, donate toys/games that you no longer play with to charity.

Other faiths week

Next week, we celebrate Other Faiths at St Mary's.

We have planned in to our RE lessons, links to other religions that will support our Building the Kingdom theme of Families and Communities and the importance of understanding and tolerating other faiths and beliefs.

The faiths that children will be studying are: -



Reception - Sikhism

Year 1 and Year 2 - Hinduism

Year 3 and Year 4 - Judaism

Year 5 and Year 6 - Islam



Please feel free to send in with your children any artefacts, food, clothing that can be explored as part of our faith week and support the learning in school, if you are able.



Anti-bullying week

On Tuesday 12th November 2024, children can come in to school wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique and special.



Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 12.11.24

Year 3 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

3T will leave at 9:00am

3L 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 3 staff know.



Monday 18th November - Non School Uniform Day

On Monday 18th November, St Mary's School and PTA are asking for donations for the Christmas Fayre. The children can come to school wearing non-uniform and bring in the following items...

Reception



Chocolate or sweets for the tombola.

Years 1, 2, 3



Christmas Stockings - filled with sweets / little treats. Take a new pair of socks, roll one sock up and put into the other, fill the sock with treats, sweets, hair accessories etc... Secure with an elastic, tie or ribbon.

Years 4, 5, 6



A bottled drink - alcoholic or non-alcoholic for the Tombola (Unopened and in date please).

Finally, if you are doing a clear out before Christmas and have any pre-loved items that you would like to donate, they would be greatly received (toys, books, gift sets, jewellery, crockery etc) You can deliver any of your donations into school or the Priory between 8-4 Mon-Fri over the next 2 weeks.

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER

**12.00
to
3.00pm**

ST MARY'S PARISH / PTA

CHRISTMAS FAIR

**PARISH HALLS
VIVIAN ROAD, HARBORNE**

- * Santa's Grotto *
- * Bottle Tombola *
- * Chocolate Tombola *
- * Christmas Stockings *
- * Mulled Wine & Mince Pies *
- * Festive Sandwiches & Drinks *
- * Stalls: Books, Jewellery, Toys, Fancy Goods,
Glass, China & Pottery, Cakes,
Jams & Chutneys *

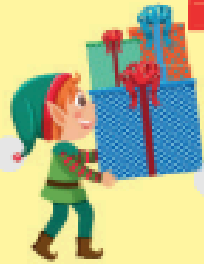
Free Admission (£4 for Santa's Grotto)

We have been asked to support the Birmingham Irish Association Initiative again this year, to provide toys for children who in Birmingham who may not receive a Christmas present this year. Our families and staff have always been so generous at supporting this initiative.

Details can be found below: -

Toy Appeal

Christmas 2024



Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years



COLLECTION DATES:

Monday 4th November - Thursday 12th December

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL





CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Come and join us on Wednesday

December 4th 7-9pm

in St. Mary's Parish Hall.

Make your own Christmas wreath

Everything included plus a glass of
mulled wine & a mince pie

£25 per person

All proceeds go to St. Mary's RC primary
school



School Fund

Our School Fund is a vital source of income for our school.

It pays for the 'extras' such as Inspire workshops, curriculum resources, Christmas activities, theatre or performances as well as subsidising school trips.

These 'extras' are enjoyed by all year groups at St Mary's throughout the year.

Contribution to this fund is entirely voluntary and we are very grateful to those parents who regularly support the school in this way. However, in the last few years the amount of school fund received has dropped quite significantly. There are probably many reasons for this, but perhaps the most obvious is remembering to send in a donation every year, half term or term.

We understand that some families may find donating to us difficult, especially with the current cost of living crisis. With that in mind we have decided to alter the way our donations are done and hopefully make it easier to maintain.

Several parents make their contribution by standing order and we are very grateful to them all.

As we have been accepted as a charity for tax purposes, we can claim the tax on donations to school fund by parents who are taxpayers if those parents sign a Gift Aid Declaration.

This means that for every pound you give we get an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation to go further.

Consequently, by setting up a standing order for say, £2 per month per child or £5 per month per family for parents with multiple siblings who attend St Mary's, you will guarantee the school a monthly income on which we can reclaim tax.

Please consider this option seriously. If you feel unable to sign up to a monthly payment, why not pay a one-off payment of £20 per child per year or £50 per family per year, again with a Gift Aid declaration.

A Gift Aid declaration and standing order form has been emailed out to our families. If you wish to gift aid your donations then please complete and return these to school at your earliest convenience.

*For those families who **do** wish to gift aid, we have set up the account listed below for donations.*

Account Name: St Marys School Fund – Gift Aid Account

*Sort Code: **30 - 19 - 14***

*Account Number: **03595246***

As always, we are extremely grateful for the support that we receive from the parents at St Mary's and appreciate you helping us be able to put on these events and treats for the children, which hopefully make their time at St Mary's more fun and memorable. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school. We ask you to be assured of the confidential manner in which the school will treat your details.

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	Louise Yorke	Rachel Jones	Rachel Richards	Sharon Tame	Laura Noone	Jade Preedy
Deputy Headteacher	Headteacher	Senior Teacher	EYFS Lead	School Counsellor	AHT	AHT
Lead DSL	Deputy DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL

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 04/11-08/11

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	95	94.3	92.6	99.6	99.3	95.3	95.5	99.6	90	100	98.3	99	98.6	92
Lates	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	0	0	1	0	2	1	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%		School Target				97%		

Well done 4M: - Our attendance champions!

Autumn theme -

Autumn 11 Virtues

WB 11th November 2024

WB 11th November 2024

12th November 2024 - all day

12th November 2024 - am

13th November 2024 - all day

18th November 2024 - all day

19th November 2024 - 10:00am

19th November 2024 - am

20th November 2024 - 9:15am

21st November 2024 - 10:30am

22nd November 2024 - 9:00am

23rd November 2024 - 12:00pm

25th November 2024 - 10:00am

26th November 2024 - am

27th November 2024 - 9:15am

3rd December 2024 - am

3rd December 2024 - 3:30-4:30

4th December 2024 - 3:30-4:30

4th December 2024 - 7:00pm

5th December 2024 - 3:45-4:45

6th December 2024 - 9:30am

9th December 2024 - 1:30pm

10th December 2024 - am

11th December 2024 - lunch

12th December 2024 - 9:30am

12th December 2024 - all day

13th December 2024 - all day

13th December 2024 - 9:00am

13th December 2024 - 6:45pm

13th December 2024 - 7:00pm

17th December 2024 - 10:15am

17th December 2024 - 2:15pm

18th December 2024 - 2:15pm

19th December 2024 - 2pm

20th December 2024 - 9:30am

20th December -

Families and Communities

Intentional and Prophetic

Other faiths Week

Anti-bullying week

Odd Socks Day

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3T and 11:00 3L)

Social Media Kindness day

PTA non-uniform day in support of Parish Fete - bring sweets/bottles

Year 4M Synagogue visit

Year 6 visit to Harborne library (9:15 6O and 11:00 6R)

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

KSI Theatre trip to the MAC - 'Finding Santa'

Year 5 Year group Assembly

Parish Fete

Year 4J Synagogue visit

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 5F and 11:00 5M)

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

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

PTA event - KSI Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

PTA event - Reception class Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

Annual Wreath making workshop in Parish Hall - £25

PTA event - KS2 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

Whole School Mass - Feast of Immaculate Conception in Church (Parents welcome)

Penitential Service for Years 4 - 6 (children and staff only)

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3L and 11:00 3T)

Christmas dinner day in school

Reception Nativity in Church (for parents)

Christmas jumper day in school

Year 3L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Lucy

Year 3 Prayer Service for all Year 3 parents

Choir sing for Carols by Candlelight - meet at school 6:45pm

Carols by Candlelight in St. Mary's Church (all welcome)

KS2 Theatre Visit at Malvern Theatre 'Sleeping Beauty'

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Assembly in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service in Church (for parents)

Whole school Christmas Mass for all children, staff and parents

Break up for Summer holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KSI classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Dates for next term

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Zikora	For her brilliant discussion on how to stay safe on bonfire night.
Year RT	Noah	For his fantastic independent writing about his speedboat!
Year 1F	Lucas	For his wonderful enthusiasm during poetry week!
Year 1L	Sophia	For showing great perseverance in Maths!
Year 2E	Nalan	For amazing writing in English this week
Year 2G	Joshua	For her super attitude to learning and good behaviour in class!
Year 3L	Raina	For her supper attitude to learning and good behaviour in class!
Year 3T	Alex	For always being engaged in learning this week and being a wonderful role models to others.
Year 4J	Miguel	For being focused and on task with his learning this week
Year 4M	Bobby	For always trying his hardest and being an excellent role model in behaviour
Year 5F	Marquis	For showing determination and commitment to his best learning attitude
Year 5M	Abi	For amazing effort in all her work, both inside and outside of school
Year 6O	Prince	For his wonderful attitude and dedication to his learning
Year 6R	Niamh	For her thoughtful and detailed answers when reading our new class text this week

