



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

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

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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.

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Dignity of the human person'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Eloquent and Truthful



Dear parents and carers,

3rd October 2025

Celebrating our Class Saints

This week has been a truly special one in our school community as we celebrated the feast days of two of our Class Saints. On Tuesday, 3T led a beautiful Mass in honour of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, reminding us of her powerful message: that small acts of love and kindness can bring us closer to God.

Today, Year 1 led their parents in a heartfelt prayer service dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi. On his feast day, we were reminded of his deep love for creation and the teachings of Pope Francis to care for our common home. Thank you to all the parents who joined us—your presence made the celebration even more meaningful.

House Retreat: Little Acts, Big Impact

Today also marked a very special moment for our House Captains, who planned and led a retreat focused on St. Thérèse's example of doing "little things with great love." This retreat beautifully tied into our overarching theme of Dignity of the Human Person. I was incredibly proud to see how confidently and thoughtfully our children led their peers in reflection and prayer. Their leadership was inspiring.

October – Month of the Rosary

As we enter the month of October, we turn our hearts to the Holy Rosary. Our Spiritual Council are in the process of preparing prayer bags to support family prayer time at home. When your child brings one home, please ensure it is returned the following day so others may benefit. If you're able, we'd love to see photos of your family prayer moments—please share them on our X page or send them via the school enquiry email.

Parking and Safety: A Shared Responsibility

We continue to address unsafe parking and stopping on Vivian Road. Safeguarding is a top priority, and I am working closely with the Council and Police to ensure our children and families are safe. If you receive a friendly reminder from myself or a member of staff to move your vehicle, please respond respectfully. These reminders come from a place of care and responsibility. Aggression or refusal to comply will not be tolerated and may result in further action.

RHE Curriculum: Parent Workshops

Every two years, we consult parents on our RHE curriculum Life to the Full, which is fully endorsed by the Diocese. Next week, we invite you to attend our information workshops at 2:30pm before pick-up:

- Tuesday – EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2 parents
- Wednesday – KS2 parents

These sessions are a great opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and share your thoughts.

Mrs Yorke,
Headteacher



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer



Luke 16:25

"... remember that you in your lifetime received your good things"



Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- the true meaning of wealth
- that living life to the full means putting God first and sharing what we have with others
- our God-given gifts are to be treasured and shared



Year 3 Mass - 1.10.25
- St. Therese of Lisieux

Year 3 led our Mass this week dedicated to St. Therese of Lisieux. Thank you to so many of our parents, grandparents and carers who joined us for this special celebration.



Next week's Mass: - **Y5 Mass - St. Faustina**

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 8th October 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 4 children will be leading our Mass and Year 6 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



Prayer Life: Year 1 Prayer Service

Year 1 led a beautiful prayer service for parents today ahead of their class feast day.
St. Francis (4th October)



Feast of St Francis of Assisi

St Francis loved nature and believed God wanted people to care for creation. He called all animals his 'brothers' and 'sisters', and is said to have been able to calm wild beasts. He wrote a famous prayer giving thanks to God for the sun, the moon, the water and the earth.

We can all learn from St Francis to love and look after our world, and care for creation.

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

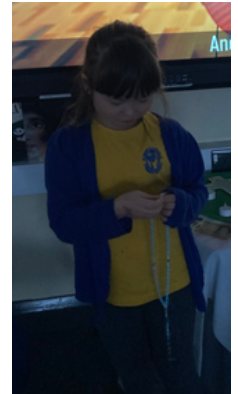
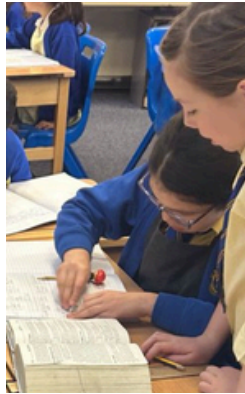


4 REASONS TO PRAY THE ROSARY

IT'S BIBLICAL

The Rosary contemplates the great mysteries of the Christian Faith; each mystery has its source in the Holy Scriptures.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen



IT HELPS US BE HOLIER

This prayer has been a great help to many in their path to holiness when prayed with devotion.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death
Amen



THE VIRGIN HAS ASKED US TO

In several Marian apparitions (as Fatima), our Mother has asked us to pray the Rosary for the world's salvation.

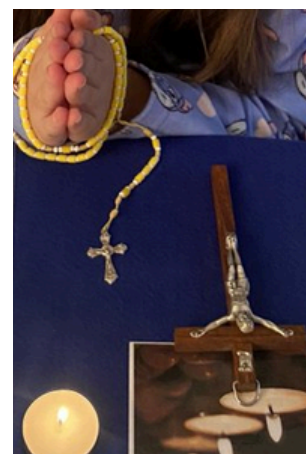
Glory Be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end.
Amen



IT WEAKENS THE DEVIL

The Rosary has the effect of weakening the action of the devil in the world and in our lives.

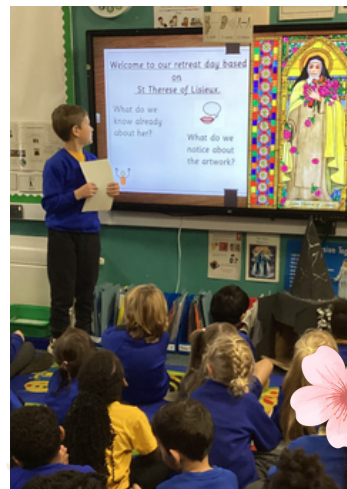
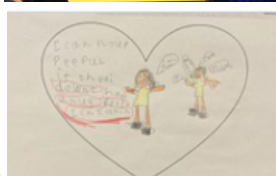
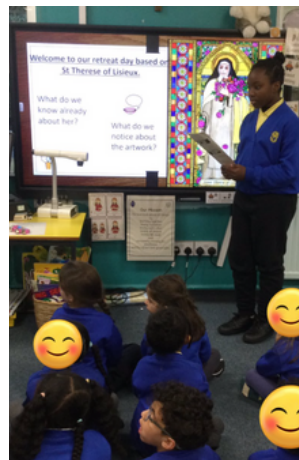
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done; on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
Amen



Whole School House Retreat – 'Little Way'

Our 'Little Way' House Retreat on Friday was inspired by St Thérèse of Lisieux.

As a child, St Thérèse dreamed of being a missionary. With age she understood that very few of us are called to make big and radical gestures, but that through small, loving actions we too can deliver God's love to the world. Our newly appointed House Captains led this Retreat beautifully!



October - Pray the Rosary

As we journey into the month of October, we will be praying the rosary in school. This is a good time to pray and meditate on our Lord's life, faithfully witnessed by Our Blessed Mother. The rosary is the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the 'Glory Be'.



Black History Month

In October, we learn about black role models and inspiring people. We celebrate all races and cultures and the children will have the opportunity to celebrate their own families, cultures, traditions and backgrounds – please send in anything your children could show and talk about to support our learning.



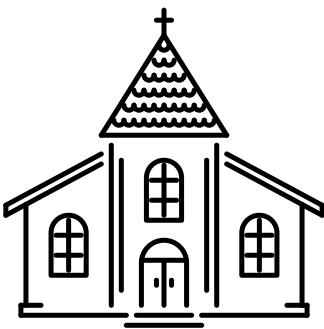
Year 6 Harborne Library Visit - 7.10.25

Year 6 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

6R will leave at 8:45am

6O 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 6 staff know.



As part of Year 5F's feast day celebration...

Year 5 Mass for parents - 8.10.25 9:15am

Year 5 are inviting parents, grandparents, family members to join them in a special Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Faustina – 5F's class Saint.



Parents are invited to attend our upcoming Relationships and Health Education (RHE) parent talks. These sessions will provide an overview of the year group curriculum and module content, as well as an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. The talks will take place as follows:

EYFS and Key Stage 1 (KS1): Tuesday, 7th October 2025 – 2:30pm

Key Stage 2 (KS2): Wednesday, 8th October 2025 – 2:30pm



Year 6 Assembly - 10th October 2025

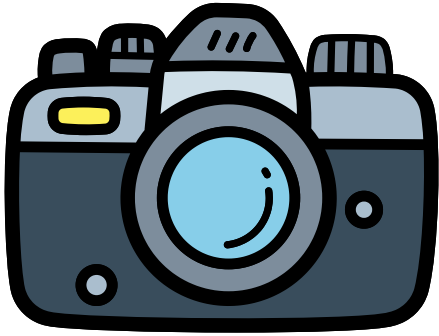
We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 6 children into school next Friday 10th October for their year group assembly based on the dignity of the human person.



Full school uniform for photo day

Thursday 16th October 2025

Photo Day!



Thursday 16th October will be school photo day in school. Children will be having their individual photos and photos with siblings (who attend St. Mary's). It is important that children come to school on this day in full winter school uniform. If it is normally a PE day for your child, they just need pumps / trainers to change in to.

PLEASE CONSENT TO SIBLING PHOTOS ON GATEWAY NO LATER THAN THE 10/10/25 - WITHOUT CONSENT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE SIBLING PHOTO WILL TAKE PLACE.

Remarkable RE



October collection for harvest - SIFA Fireside

Throughout October, we will be collecting for our harvest festival and supporting SIFA fireside. Here are the items to donate to school if you are able to support our charity work.



Feminine Hygiene Products

Socks and other Foot-care Items

Person Hygiene Items such as:

Shower gel, soap, deodorant, combs, hairbrushes, baby wipes, hand cream, chap sticks, tooth brushes, tooth paste

New and unopened long life items such as:

Granola bars/snack bars, easy open cans (with pull tabs), bottles of water, ready to eat meals, biscuits, crackers

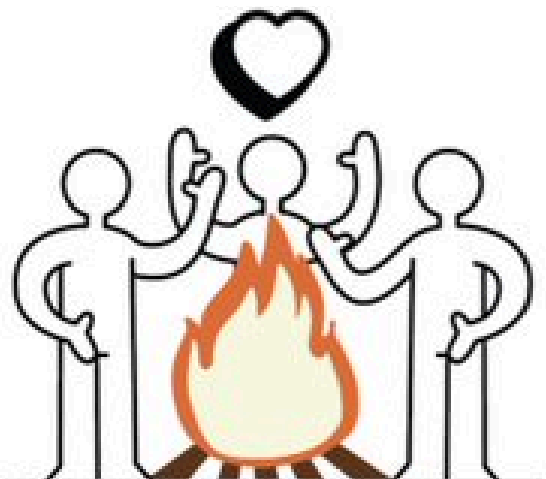
Good quality used clothing such as:

Gloves, scarves, blankets, hats, sleeping bags, warm clothing (jumpers, trousers, vests, coats etc)



Birmingham, you're not alone

SIFA Fireside, 48-52 Allcock Street, Birmingham B9 4DY
Registered charity number: 1049728





**MULTI
ACTIVITY,
DANCE
OR
FOOTBALL**

3 X CAMPS AT HARBORNE ACADEMY

HARBORNE ACADEMY, EDGBASTON, B15 3JL
9AM-4PM
£24.00

MULTI ACTIVITY (5 DAYS) MON 27TH - FRI 31ST OCTOBER
FOOTBALL (3 DAYS) MON 27TH - WED 29TH OCTOBER
DANCE (2 DAYS) THUR 30TH - FRI 31ST OCTOBER

**WE ARE OFSTED REGISTERED SO WE CAN ACCEPT
TAX-FREE PAYMENTS AND CHILDCARE VOUCHERS**



**SCAN HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION**

or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps



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

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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:



Laura Noone
Lead DSL
DHT



Louise Yorke
Headteacher



Jade Preedy
AHT



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Shania Birchenall
SENDCo

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 29/09/25-03/10/25

| Class | YRB | YRT | Y1L | Y1F | Y2E | Y2G | Y3L | Y3T | Y4J | Y4M | Y5M | Y5F | Y6R | Y6O |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| % | 94 | 98 | 99 | 98 | 97 | 95 | 97 | 100 | 98 | 94 | 98 | 97 | 98 | 97 |
| Lates | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Whole School Attendance so far this year | | | | | | 97.8% | | School Target | | | | | 97% | |

Well done 3T: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

29th September 2025 - 8am

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

7th October 2025 (am)

7th October 2025 - 2:30pm

8th October 2025 - 9:15am

8th October 2025 - 2:30pm

10th October 2025 - 9:15am

14th October 2025 (am)

15th October 2025 - 9:15am

16th October 2025 - all day

17th October 2025 - all day

17th October 2025 - 6pm

WB 20.10.25

21st October 2025 - all day

21st October 2025 - 3:30-6:00

22nd October 2025 - 9:15am

23rd October 2025 - all day

23rd October 2025 - 3:30-6:00

23rd October 2025 -normal time

24th October 2025 - all day

3rd November 2025 - all day

3rd November 2025 - 9:30am

6th November 2025

7th November 2025 - 9:00am

WB 10th November 2025

WB 10th November 2025

12th November 2025 - 9:15am

17th November 2025 - all day

19th November 2025 - 9:15am

21st November 2025 - 9:15am

22nd November 2025 - 12:00pm

Dignity of the Human Person

Eloquent and truthful

PTA Annual General Meeting in school hall

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

Collection for Harvest - please send food and self-care items in for our harvest

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

RHE talk for parents - KS1

Year 5 Mass in Church (Y6 to attend) - Parents welcome

RHE talk for parents - KS2

Year 6 Year Group Assembly

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

Year 1 Mass in Church (Y2 to attend) - parents welcome

Photo Day - Children in full winter uniform please

Children in **St. Teresa of Avila** House - wear blue non-school uniform

PTA Fundraising - Children's disco in Parish Centre

School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair

Flu vaccinations in school

Parent Consultation Evening

Reception Welcome Mass (with Year 6 buddies) - Parents welcome

Children in **St. John Paul II House** - wear red non-school uniform

Parent Consultation Evening

Children finish today for October half-term (normal finish time)

INSET day - School closed to children

Children return to school at normal time

Whole School All Saints and Holy Souls Mass in Church (Parents welcome)

St. Mary's Open Day for Reception class 2024 (10:30) or (1:45)

Year 4 Prayer Service for all Year 4 parents

Other faiths Week

Remembrance Week

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

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

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

Year 5 Year group Assembly

Parish Fete

Star of the week

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

| | | |
|---------|-----------|--|
| Year RB | Lucian | For being a good role model in RB and always showing good listening! |
| Year RT | Anna | For super writing in our literacy lesson this week! |
| Year IF | Rosabella | For consistently displaying excellent behaviour and following instructions |
| Year IL | Nardos | For always being an amazing role model to others. |
| Year 2E | Natan | For writing a beautiful psalm and sharing it with the class. |
| Year 2G | Oliver | For being a fantastic, thoughtful and caring member of 2G! |
| Year 3L | Freya | For always being a fantastic and positive member of the class and always using super manners! |
| Year 3T | Alex | For having a really positive week and working really hard with his writing, especially in Science. |
| Year 4J | Alex | For always having a great attitude to learning and helping others in lesson. |
| Year 4M | Ada | For striving for excellence in her learning and behaviour |
| Year 5F | Krishan | For showing great improvement with focus on his learning this week |
| Year 5M | Clara | For consistently adhering to the school mission, especially striving for excellence. |
| Year 6O | Mariam | Showing resilience in tough circumstances |
| Year 6R | Michael | For working incredibly hard across all subjects this week, especially his RE! |

