



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.

April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Solidarity and the Common Good'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Curious and Active'



Dear parents and carers,

27th April 2023

What a fabulous start to the Summer term. We are all filled with the joy of the Resurrection and pleased to be back. I do hope that you all had a wonderful Easter break and managed to catch up with friends and family. The children have been really enthusiastic in their learning and some fantastic lessons are taking place:- Our stunning starts to our new topics have meant that Year 1 went to the zoo and Year 4 enjoyed re-enacting the Battle of Hastings; Year 5 particularly enjoyed their robotics with Mr McInerney and the netball team were fabulous in their competition.

Today, is Mrs Miller's last day in school. Mrs Miller has been at St. Mary's for over 20 years, as a parent, Governor and our admissions officer. She will be very missed and on behalf of the Governors and staff, we wish her every happiness in her future endeavours.

Mrs Yorke

Good Bye! & Thank You



Mrs Miller

This week's Gospel and Prayer
Luke 24:27

"Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, He explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures about Himself."

Christ is Risen!

Alleluia! Alleluia! May we all rejoice.

Singing of His glory with such joyful hearts and voices. May we find peace, faith and hope anew.

Amen

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus gave us His grace and the Holy Spirit, enabling us to see Him in a new way, with eyes of faith.
- When we see and hear Jesus in a new way, we come to know the His joy, hope, peace and love.

Catholic Life in School

Year 3 Mass - 26.4.23 - Votive St. Mark

On Wednesday, Year 3 led a beautiful

Mass for the Votive of St. Mark.

Thank you to all who joined us for this special service.



Y4 Mass - St. Philip and St. James

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 3rd May 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 4 children will be leading our Mass and Year 3 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



Reception news: -

Reception class have been learning about how important it is to be kind to each other today and how to work together in a team. They worked very collaboratively with a parachute too.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 had a marvellous school visit to Dudley Zoo.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 are historians, who have been learning about pioneers in their history lessons this week.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have enjoyed starting their tennis lessons this week.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 historians re-enacted the Battle of Hastings



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been learning a Mayan myth in English.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have learnt how to put somebody in to the recovery position, in their RSE lessons.



School of
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

Year 4 took their donations collected during Lent to St Chad's Sanctuary and were met by Abi, who was very grateful.





Birmingham Catholic School Sports Tournament

Well done to our Year 6 netballers for coming 3rd in the BCSSA2 tournament this week! They played so well! Congratulations - we are so incredibly proud of you.



London Marathon - 2023

Congratulations Miss Horton on such a fabulous time in the London Marathon - accomplishing the 26.2 miles in 3 hours and 39 minutes!

It was very rainy too! We're all incredibly proud of you!



Birmingham Children's Hospital Great Birmingham Run

Joseph and Florence are raising money for the Birmingham Children's Hospital again this year. On Sunday 7th May, they will do the Birmingham mini run. We're incredibly proud of you both...

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joseph-floencerun>

Other News



King Charles Portrait Competition

We've had some fabulous entries for the Harborne art competition and we look forward to seeing Harborne high street full of the drawings of children from the local primary schools. Well done to everybody who has entered. We will soon announce the winners.

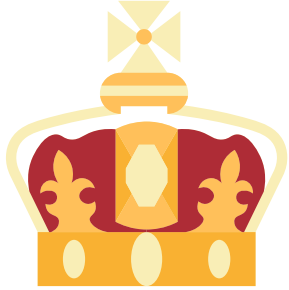


**School closed – May Day
– 1st May 2023**

We are closed for the bank holiday on Monday 1st May.

Strike Action – Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Strikes will go ahead on Tuesday 2nd May 2023. School is open for Reception class and Year 6 class only.



King's Coronation Celebrations – WB 2.5.23

We will be learning about King Charles and the Royal family ahead of the King's Coronation. The children will also be learning about their own families so please bring in those family trees.



Dance Workshops – 3.5.23 and 4.5.23

All classes will have the opportunity to take part in a Coronation dance workshop over two days – Wednesday 3rd May and Thursday 4th May. The cost will be subsidised by our school fund.



PTA meeting – Thursday 4th May 2023 – 3:45pm

Our next PTA meeting will be on Thursday 4th May at 3:45pm. We encourage as many parents to attend to support the wonderful work of the PTA in school. Children can be monitored in school during the meeting.



Own clothes day and Bake Off – Friday 5th May 2023

On Friday 5th May, children will be able to wear their own clothes in the colours of red, white and blue. We are asking for £1.50 donation for dress up day to support the cost of the workshops taking place in school. Please bring in your cakes for the bake-off competition on the morning. The competition will be judged in the morning and cakes shared in our celebration in the afternoon. Please ensure that a list of ingredients are submitted with the cakes and no nuts are used in the baking.



Fire Service workshop with Year 4 – Friday 5th May 2023

Firefighters will be visiting Year 4 on Friday to deliver the SPARKS fire safety programme. Each child will receive a bookmark as a reminder of their visit.

Breakfast Club for Y6 SATs week

We will be running a Breakfast Club for Year 6 during their SATs week (Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May 2023) in the school hall - this is free and for Year 6 only!

Research has shown that children can concentrate and perform better in tests and exams if they are relaxed and have eaten beforehand. By attending, we can ensure that all children are in school on time, have had time to relax with their friends and feel settled.

All Year 6 pupils are to attend breakfast club between 8:00am – 8:30am during this week. Thank you :)



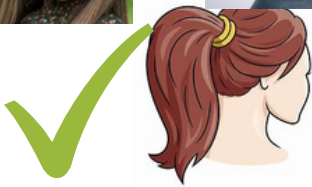
Hair styles

Pupils are **NOT ALLOWED** two-toned hair colours in school. We will be speaking to any parents in violation of our uniform policy.

Large bows, hair accessories and dyed hair is also **not allowed**.

Extreme hair styles and shaved lines are also **not allowed**.

All hair styles must be plain and sensible and not a distraction to others. All long hair needs to be tied back.



Summer uniform

Children are now able to wear their Summer Uniform, which consists of a yellow Summer dress and black shoes for the girls and grey shorts, yellow polo shirt and black shoes for the boys.

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



Jewellery

To ensure the safety of all children, we will only allow children to wear small stud earrings (not dangly earrings) and a watch, on the days that they are not doing PE. On PE days we are asking that children do not wear any jewellery, so that it is not lost if they are asked to remove it for physical lessons. Thank you for supporting us with this, your child's safety is at the forefront of our uniform decisions.



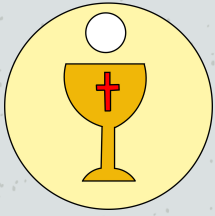
Lego donation for school

The children have requested for more lego to be purchased for them to play with at break times in school.

We would gratefully receive any donations of lego as we look to increase the amount we keep in school for wet breaks.

Thank you





**First Holy Communion and Confirmation session –
Saturday 29th April in parish centre**
9:30 – 11:00 for those making their Holy Communion
11:30 – 12:50 for those making their Confirmation



Violin Concert – Saturday 6th May at 4pm – St. Mary's Church
One of our former pupils, Bobby Chen will lead a violin concert in the Church for 45 minutes. This is free entry with donations for the paramedics of Ukraine possible at the end.



Help with addictions?
*For help with addictions in St. Mary's Parish Centre...
AA meetings – Monday evenings at 7:30pm
CA meetings – Thursday evenings at 8:00pm*



This is an Operation Encompass School

KEEPING SAFE

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



Being unkind online

Talk to your child about how they speak to other online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness...

Here are some examples of what being unkind online looks like to talk to children about:-

- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies

COMMUNITY NEWS

Teacher Training

Train to Teach with us!



Thinking about a career
in Primary or Secondary
Teaching?
Join our School Direct
Programme



**Bursaries available in
many secondary
subjects**



Apply now
for
**SEPTEMBER
2023**



Join us online, at our face to
face Information Events or
School Experience Days
To book a place visit :

www.bctsa.org
Bishop Challoner
Training School Alliance

Are you worried about the rising cost of food and how to eat healthily on a tight budget?

Then join one of our free, fun cooking courses. Learn how to make delicious, healthy meals from all over the world whilst saving money.

All you need is a kitchen and a phone!



About the course

- *FREE*
- Cook tasty, healthy meals, cheaply
- Get tips on how to budget and save money when you're shopping
- Learn how to waste less

How does it work?

- We deliver 3 step-by-step recipes and all the ingredients you need, straight to your door
- Your personal mentor will support you by phone or WhatsApp with lots of tips and advice along the way
- At the end, you'll get a free gift of wallet-friendly recipes

What do I need to do?

All we ask is that you cook the three recipes and send us photos of your lovely food!

How long does it take?

About two weeks, but you can work at your own pace

How do I join?

- Text/Whatsapp **07708 146849**
- Email **cooking@loveworks.org.uk**

Once we've confirmed your registration, we'll contact you to arrange your delivery

* Free course for qualifying participants only



Thrive 365
Dragonfly: Impact Education



Did you know?

What used to be known as 'school refusal' refers to when a child's anxiety reaches a level where they can't go to school.

It's now called Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) because 'school refusal' makes it sound like the child's choice not to attend. This is 'within child deficit' - which means assuming it is the child/young person who needs to change or be 'fixed' rather than their environment.

<https://www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/Page/20029>

1 Exploring reasons

There are lots of possible reasons for a child's level of anxiety to build to the point that they don't feel able to go to school. These might be to do with the school environment - perhaps it's related to SEND, or social problems in school. Or, it might be because of family breakdown, or bereavement.

Sometimes the child can't express why they are anxious. Rather than ask 'what's wrong?', Young Minds recommend drawing an 'anxiety iceberg' with them. Here's a video explaining how: <https://youtu.be/s51-qvDmJ9l>

2 Tailored plan

A meeting between a member of staff from the school, the child and a parent can help to begin form a plan of what can be adapted to reduce some of the anxiety.

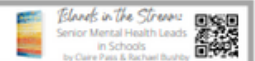
The stress hormone cortisol is often higher in the morning (to help get us out of bed!), however this can make feelings of anxiety worse in the mornings. It can therefore be helpful to focus on morning routines to start with - maybe arriving 10 minutes early to do a 'job' or chat with a mentor. This also provides them with a 'safe space' in the school.

3 Build on strengths

It can be helpful to normalise anxiety and let children (and parents) know that school is a demanding place, so lots of people feel anxious from time to time.

Work with the young person's strengths and areas of interest and resilience - point out past successes and positive relationships. Then build these things into a support plan. For example, if a young person has had past success in Maths, [art of the plan might be the initially coming in for these lessons and building from there.

[@dragonflyimpact](http://www.dragonflyimpact.co.uk) [f](https://www.facebook.com/dragonflyimpact) [i](https://www.instagram.com/dragonflyimpact)
www.dragonflyimpact.com/how-we-can-help
Email: info@dragonflyimpact.co.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.

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 3rd April – 6th April

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	93.8%	90.4%	95.8%	90.8%	94.2%	99.6%	94.2%	95%	83.8%	86.3%	86.7%	89.2%	96.7%	97.5%
Lates	8	4	2	6	5	1	4	2	5	3	2	3	2	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.5%	School Target					97%		

Well done Y2G: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for next term

Summer theme -

Summer 1 Virtues

1st May 2023 - all day

2nd May 2023 - all day

WB 2.5.2023 - all week

3rd May 2023 - 9:15am

4th May 2023 - 3:45pm

5th May 2023 - all day

5th May 2023 - am

5th May 2023 - am

8th May 2023 - all day

WB 9.5.2023 - all week

10th May 2023 - 9:15am

WB 15.5.2023 - all week

15th May - 17th May - 3 days

16th May 2023 - am

17th May 2023 - 9:15am

19th May 2023 - all day

19th May 2023 - am

19th May 2023 - 9:15am

WB 22.5.2023 - all week

22nd May 2023 - 1:45pm

24th May 2023 - pm

24th May 2023 - 7pm

25th May 2023 - all day

26th May 2023 - all day

26th May 2023 - am

26th May 2023

Solidarity and the Common Good

Curious and Active

School Closed - May day bank holiday

Strike day - school open for Reception class and Year 6 only

Coronation celebrations in school (including competitions)

Y4 Mass in Church (and Y3 attend) - parents welcome

PTA meeting after school. A chance for parents and teachers to work together.

Own clothes day for Coronation Party in school - remember cakes for bake off.

2E visit to library

Fire Service visit in school for Year 4

School Closed - Coronation bank holiday

Year 6 SATs week - Year 6 children must be in school every day

Breakfast club for Year 6 only held in school hall - 8:00am-8:30am - free!

Y5 Mass in Church (and Reception classes attend) - parents welcome

Mental Health Week and Walk to School Week

Year 6 residential to Alton Castle

RT visit to library

Whole School Mass for Ascension and May Procession / crowning of Our Lady

Mental health 'feel happy' dress up day

RB visit to library

Year 1 Year group assembly for parents

Year 2 SATs week - Year 2 children must be in school every day

Year 6 children/parent Confirmation workshop in school

Bishop David to visit school ahead of the Confirmation

Confirmation Mass for Year 6 children

Class SM visit to Sarehole Mill

Class SF visit to Sarehole Mill

IF visit to library

Finish for May half-term (normal time)

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Alex	<i>trying really hard in his Guided Reading sessions this week</i>
Year RT	Reino	<i>teaching Mrs Richards how to answer the register using makaton</i>
Year IF	Harley	<i>super effort in his learning and for always being so kind and polite to others</i>
Year IL	Liam	<i>great enthusiasm in his learning</i>
Year 2E	Abby	<i>presenting all of her work beautifully</i>
Year 2G	Lucia	<i>super writing with question marks and exclamation marks!</i>
Year 3L	Eliza-Rose	<i>beautiful behaviour and kind gestures all week</i>
Year 3T	Jennifer	<i>fantastic contributions to all lessons and being a super role model</i>
Year 4J	Prince	<i>working hard and showing determination & enthusiasm when completing work</i>
Year 4M	Marley-Marie	<i>for her determination and effort in all areas of school life</i>
Year 5F	Lilly	<i>demonstrating our virtues of curious and active in class and in school</i>
Year 5M	Mykey	<i>super enthusiasm and effort with learning. Keep up the hard work</i>
Year 6O	Aiden	<i>consistently working hard and having a positive attitude</i>
Year 6R	Remi Mae	<i>working so hard to improve her reading and SPAG skills</i>

