



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

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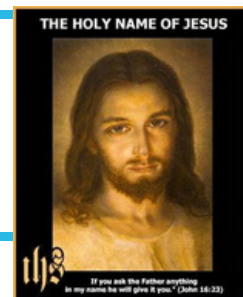
Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price M.Ed.



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.

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the poor and vulnerable'
Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Curious and Active'



Dear parents and carers,

7th January 2022

Happy New Year! I do hope that you all had the opportunity over the Christmas break to spend time with your families and loved ones. As we enter this new term, we will continue to operate as a school as 'normally' as we possibly can, following our Covid Outbreak plan and the most recent government guidance. Please see the Covid section of this newsletter for more information about how to report Covid symptoms and illnesses to the school and next steps. A term in, I am beginning to get to know many more of you and who your children are. I stand most days at the school barrier or with the children at the end of the day, so do not hesitate to come over and say hello or voice any concerns you may have. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Miss Louise Price

This week's Gospel and prayer

Luke 1: 1-18

"In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

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

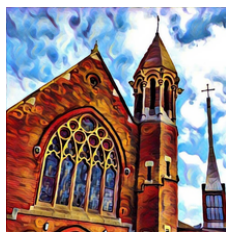
- We come to know God through Jesus, the Word of God.
- We can only change ourselves through Jesus.
- Trusting, listening to and following Jesus renews us.

Dear Jesus, the Word of God,
Thank you that you care about all my hopes and dreams for this year. Help me to pray and listen to you. Help me to trust you. Help me to follow you. Show me the way to God the Father and new life with you. Amen

Catholic Life in School

Whole school Mass for Epiphany - 5.1.22

We gathered as a whole school this week to celebrate the Epiphany. We found out more about the significance of the three kings and we offered gold, frankincense and Myrrh to the baby Jesus.



Y3 Mass in Church - 12.1.22 at 9:15am - Baptism of the Lord

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 12th January, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend. (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).

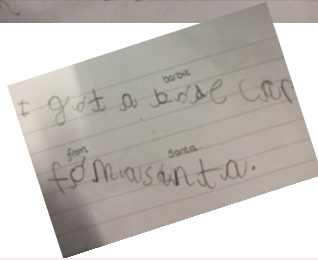
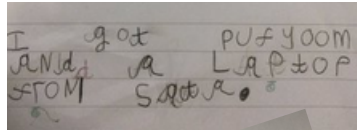
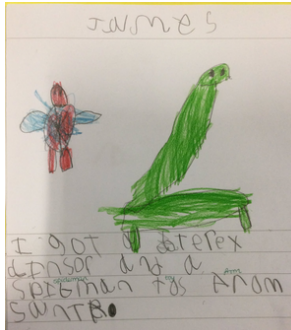
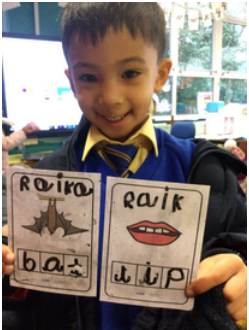
This week's news

Our first STEM afterschool club for KS1 began this week. We have so many children interested in attending this club that will have the opportunity to attend later on in the school year.



Reception news: -

Reception class have been super learners in their writing work and maths work this week.



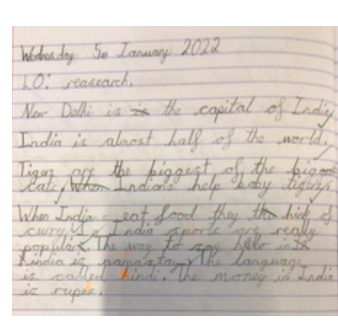
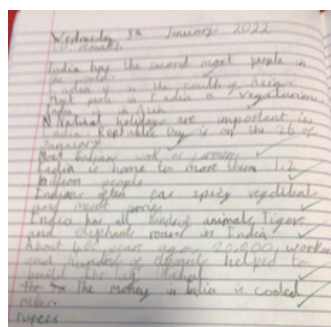
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 are already enjoying their gymnastics lessons with the Bishop Challoner Coach



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been learning all about India.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have completed their canopic jars in the style of famous designers: Clarice Cliff, Picasso and Joan Miro, in their DT lesson this morning.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been recounting the Christmas story in their RE lessons.



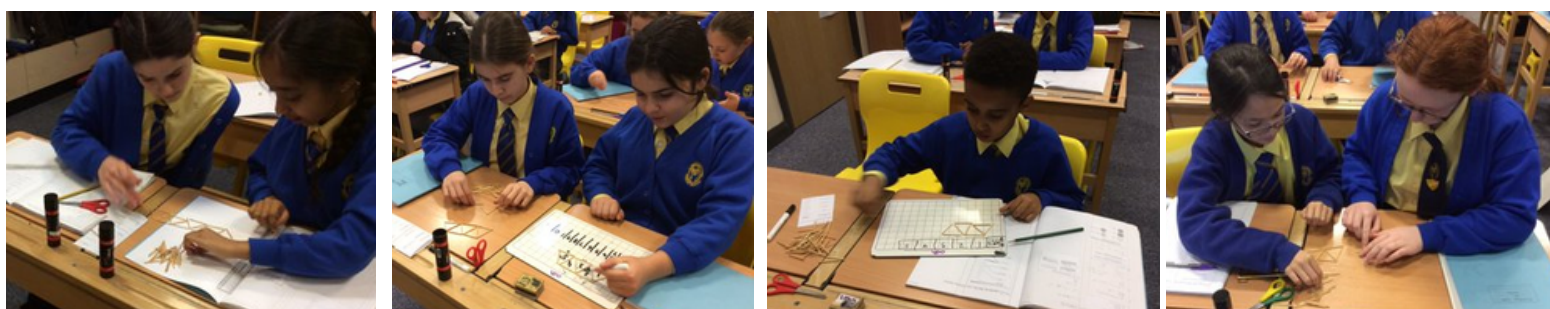
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 enjoyed a game of 'Hoop Hop Showdown' in their PE lesson.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been using matchsticks to support their algebra learning. They generated and described linear number sequences.



Stunning start

Year 2 enjoyed their 'stunning start' to their Science topic on 'living things and their habitats'. Miss Price spoke about reptiles and brought in two of her pets - Cleo the Snake and Dave the tortoise. The children were very excited to see them and to have the chance to share their own knowledge about reptiles and ask questions.



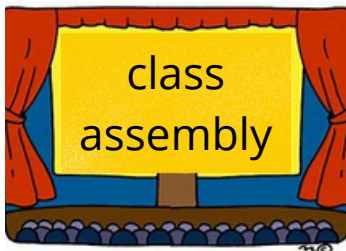
Curriculum Maps

Our updated curriculum maps are now on our website for you to look at and see what your child will be learning this half-term.

Welcome to Miss. Hunt and Miss. Leacey

A very warm welcome to our new TAs - Miss Hunt (Y2) and Miss Leacey (Y5). We hope that you will be very happy at St. Mary's and would like to officially welcome you to the St. Mary's family.

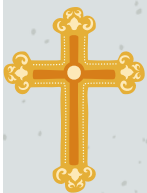
Next Week



On Friday 14th January, 4F parents are invited to attend school to watch their children in their class assembly about the baptism of our Lord. Please take a lateral flow test before attending school, and sanitise hands, wear masks inside the school building. Thank you.



Parish News



St Mary's Family Mass 9:30am - Sunday 9th January (and 22nd):

For pre-school, Reception and Years 1 and 2 children, please go straight to the Parish Centre - and join the Mass after 15 minutes (approximately). Children of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, should remain in Church for the whole of the Mass. This is especially important for Years 3 and 6, as the part of their Sacramental preparation.

Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation programme



If your child is preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, classes will run on Saturdays, beginning on the **8th January 2022**.

9:30 - 11:00 For Holy Communion (Parish centre)

11:30 - 12:45 for Confirmation (Parish Centre)



Help! A friendly local Care Home has real need of part- and full-time Carers, - and a cook! For details, see Fr John

No dogs / smoking in the school grounds

No dogs allowed
in the school
grounds

Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed in the school grounds under any circumstances; whether on a lead or carried. This is due to health and safety reasons, and that some children are scared by dogs no matter the size. Thank you for your understanding with this.

In addition, we do not allow smoking of any sort, including vapes or e-cigarettes on the school grounds.



NO SMOKING
NO VAPING

NO PARKING!

Thank you to our parents who are being considerate with their parking. Unfortunately, we do have some parents who continue to park illegally on double yellow lines and in no stopping zones. We are also having complaints that parents are blocking / parking in private roads.

Many of our residents are elderly and this is not acceptable.

Your information / car registration may be passed on to the police / city council, if you continue to park illegally. Please put the safety of our children and community first when parking.

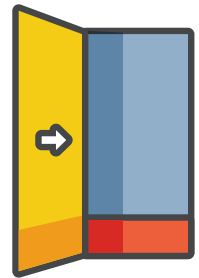
SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from **Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022**.

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

Open door policy

We have an open door policy at St. Mary's. A member of SLT (Miss. Price, Mrs. Davis or Mrs. Jones) is available at the start and end of every day for quick queries – or if a meeting is needed, please arrange through the enquiry email or the office. SLT do not use e-schools in the same way teachers do, so please do not contact us on there, as your query may be missed. Thank you.



Books that I have read and shared			
Date	Book	Page No.	Comments

Reading diaries

Please remember to sign the reading diary for your child when you have read with them at home. Children learn to read best when they read to an adult every day, who can support them with intonation, pronunciation, new words and meaning. Children have daily reading lessons in school, but make most progress when they read at home too.

PE times / Swimming

PE times for many of the classes have changed for this term. Please make sure that you send children in **correct** PE uniform on the days that they have their PE lesson. See timetable below.

Day of the Week	Class wearing PE uniform
Tuesday	Year 3F and Year 3L
Wednesday	Year 5F, Year 6F and Year 6L
Thursday	Year 5L, Year 1F and Year 2F
Friday	Year RF and Year RL
On a Friday, Year 4F and Year 4L to come in to school wearing normal school uniform, but to remember their swimming kits.	

**Correct Uniform**

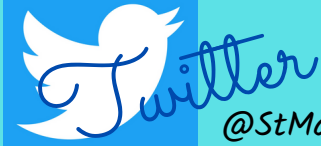
The children should now be wearing their winter uniform i.e. shirts/blouses and **ties**.

We also ask that children come to school in their winter PE kit on the days that they have PE. Again children should be in uniform for PE which is black/blue plain jogging bottoms (not patterned / not another colour), yellow t-shirt, school jumper and **black trainers**.

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.

Online Safety



@StMaryB17

Stay up to date with everything that is happening at St. Mary's by following us on our Twitter Page and giving us more likes!!!

Monitor how much time your child spends online and on devices

We live in a very digital world. "Children aged 5-15 now spend over 14 hours a week online, just over two hours a day" (Ofcom 2019).

As a parent, it will be up to you to decide how much time online is too much time. Use this website to help guide you.

https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/internet-safety.htm?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=ad&utm_campaign=pp-online-safety

Covid Update

In accordance with our Covid risk assessment and current government guidance, please do not send your child in to school if they have symptoms of Covid. The three key symptoms of Covid are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to taste or smell

Any body who shows 1 of the above symptoms needs to isolate immediately and follow government advice regarding taking a PCR test.

The omicron variant has been noted to present sometimes as more like a cold, therefore if your child feels unwell with cold-like symptoms, a lateral flow test is recommended before sending your child in to school.

If your child tests positive for Covid, please let school know as soon as possible and we will provide work on e-schools (if your child feels well enough to complete it).

If your child is a close contact of somebody with Covid or living in a household with somebody who has Covid, please get your child tested to ensure that they are negative, before sending them in to school.

As a school, we are having isolated cases of Covid at the moment. Miss Price will not write to parents following every instance of Covid. However, the school risk assessment and Covid Outbreak plan (which is on the school website) is to be followed and Miss Price will write to parents should there be more than one case in a class to notify that there are cases in the class. This will not necessarily mean that your child has been a close contact, but on receiving the letter, you may wish to give your child a lateral flow test.

If we believe your child has been a close contact of a positive case, school will contact you directly.

Guidance continuously changes, so please phone the office to ask if you are unsure. Thank you.

Dates for next term

12th January 2022 - 9:15am -

14th January 2022 - 9:15am -

19th January 2022 - 9:15am -

19th January 2022 - 9:15am -

26th January 2022 - 9:15am -

26th January 2022 - 9:15am -

28th January 2022 - 9:15am -

28th January 2022 - all day -

1st February 2022 - all day -

2nd February 2022 - 9:15am -

4th February 2022 - all day -

7th February 2022 - 9:00am -

9th February 2022 - 9:15am -

11th February 2022 - 9:15am -

16th February 2022 - 9:15am -

18th February 2022

28th February 2022 - all day -

2nd March 2022 - 9:30am -

4th March 2022 - all day -

9th March 2022 - 9:15am -

11th March 2022 - 9:15am -

15th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

15th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

16th March 2022 - 9:15am -

16th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

16th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

17th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

17th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

18th March 2022 - 9:15am -

21st March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

21st March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

22nd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

22nd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

23rd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

23rd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

25th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

25th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

Y3 Mass in Church (Y3 parents welcome)

Year 4F Class Assembly in school (4F parents welcome)

Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome)

Maths and Phonics workshop in school for Y1 parents

Y1 Mass in Church (Y1 parents welcome)

Maths and Phonics workshop in school for Y2 parents

Year 4L Class Assembly in school (4L parents welcome)

World Geography Day in school

INSET day - school closed for all pupils

YR Mass in Church (YR parents welcome)

World Maths Day

Safer Internet and Online Safety coffee morning for parents

Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome)

Year 3L Class Assembly in school (3L parents welcome)

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome)

Break up for February half-term - finish at normal time

Children return to school

Whole school Mass for Ash Wednesday (children only)

World Book Day

Y2 Mass in Church

Year 3F Class Assembly in school (3F parents welcome)

YRF Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

YRL Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y5 Mass in Church

Y1F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y1L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y3F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y3L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2F Class Assembly in school (2F parents welcome)

Y5F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y5L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y4F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y4L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y6F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y6L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Term Dates

Spring 1

Monday 3rd January – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4th January – Children return to school

Tuesday 1st February - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Friday 18th February

Half-Term:

Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February 2022

Spring 2

Starts: Monday 28th February

Monday 28th March - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 14th April 2022

Easter Holiday:

Monday 18th April to Friday 29th April 2022

Summer 1

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May

Tuesday 3rd May – Children return to school

Thursday 5th May - Closed for Local Election Day

Ends: Friday 27th May

Half-Term:

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Summer 2

Starts: Monday 6th June

Tuesday 5th July - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 21st July 2022

Friday 22nd July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee

Summer Holidays:

Start Monday 25th July 2022



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

Year RL	William	<i>making brilliant progress in his phonics work</i>
Year RF	Ada	<i>fantastic independent writing and for being an excellent role model</i>
Year 1L	Hannah	<i>her fantastic English work and for always trying her best</i>
Year 1F	Miguel	<i>trying really hard in his work all week</i>
Year 2L	Bruce	<i>always being enthusiastic and having a positive attitude to learning</i>
Year 2F	Peter	<i>a fantastic gymnastics routine</i>
Year 3L	Kitty	<i>her fantastic contributions during science for living out the virtues</i>
Year 3F	Adam	<i>a brilliant character description</i>
Year 4L	Amelie	<i>her consistent hard work and always trying her best</i>
Year 4F	Ophelia	<i>her incredible sentences describing the workhouse in Oliver Twist</i>
Year 5L	Isobella	<i>showing great perseverance when solving negative number problems in maths</i>
Year 5F	Orla	<i>displaying excellent effort in her maths work this week</i>
Year 6L	Jasmine	<i>being a calm and helpful presence in the classroom</i>
Year 6F	Matteo	<i>great participation in class discussions</i>

