



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.

May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Compassionate and Loving'



Dear parents and carers,

23rd May 2025

We have enjoyed such a fantastic end to a short but very productive half-term. We held off on our VE celebrations at the beginning of May whilst all the children were finishing their tests; and then today we had a day of celebrations, that were completed with a good old-fashioned 'street-party'. We sat together on picnic blankets, ate food and listened to music from WWII. We felt a wonderful sense of family and community. Thank you to Mrs Downing for organising our event and the support of the PTA.

Please take note of an additional date for the diary – school will be **closed on Monday 23rd June 2025** for children; and this will be an INSET day for all staff to undertake essential training for the benefit of the children. Kidz.comm will be open on this day for any working parents who need childcare on this day.

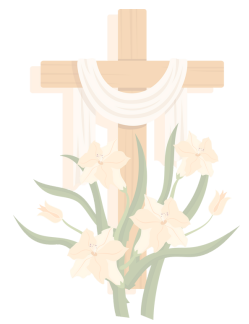
At the end of this newsletter, I include dates for Summer 2 and the term dates for next Academic Year. Please note that Governors and leaders in school decide to stay open for Holy Week as this is such an important week for our faith. This means that our Easter dates are always different from Birmingham, so please check our term dates carefully before booking any holidays.

I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to our Year 2 children who have been taking their tests this week. These results are no longer statutory and school use them mainly to help baseline before the children go in to the juniors. We no longer share test results with parents for Year 2. School reports will go out towards the end of the school year, which will inform all parents about how their children are doing across the range of subjects.

I do hope that you all enjoy next week off; and get plenty of rest. See you soon.

Mrs Yorke

CATHOLIC LIFE



This week's Gospel

John 13: 34-35

'Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another."'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel, we learn: -

- We should love others the way Jesus loves us.
- Jesus showed His great love for us through His death on the cross.
- Through Jesus' sacrificial love, we can know the hope of God and share this with others.

Dear Jesus,

Fill us with the love that you have for us so that we might express it to others. Help us to love others with a willingness to sacrifice ourselves for their benefit, even as you gave yourself for us. Amen



Year 6 Mass - 21.5.25 - 5th week of Easter

Year 6 led our Mass this week and Fr. Hilary's homily taught us what it means to be attached to Jesus like branches to a tree. After Mass, we processed with Our Lady and crowned her in our prayer garden.



Our next Mass - Y6 Mass - 5th Week of Easter

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 21st May 2025, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 children will be leading our Mass and Year 5 children will be attending. All parents are welcome to attend.

OUR DEVOTION TO ST. MARY



Throughout May, we have been praying to our patron St. Mary. After crowning Our Lady this week, Fr. Hilary led us in a decade of the Rosary.

Children in Year 4 prepared and led beautiful prayer focusing on Mary. They studied the image of Our Lady of Good Counsel, patron of Pope Leo XIV and our Augustinian parish and school. The children then asked for the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron of our class 4M, to 'pray for us'.



Our children are continuing to use their prayer bag to pray the rosary with their families at home.

Thank you for all those who brought in potted plants for our planters in the prayer garden. A beautiful homage for our patron.

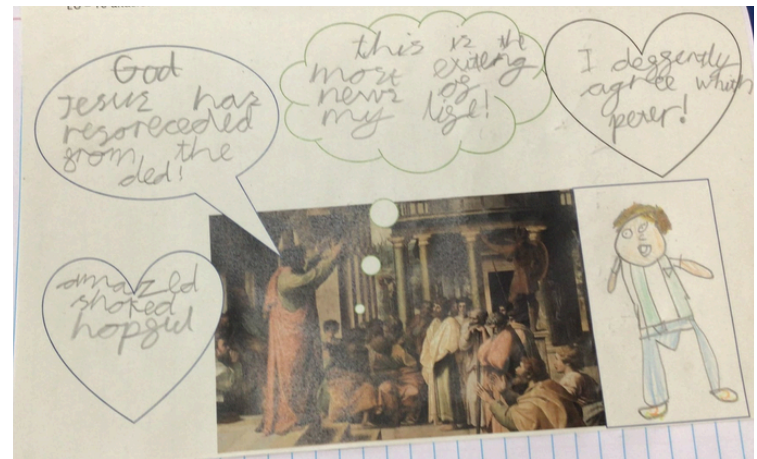
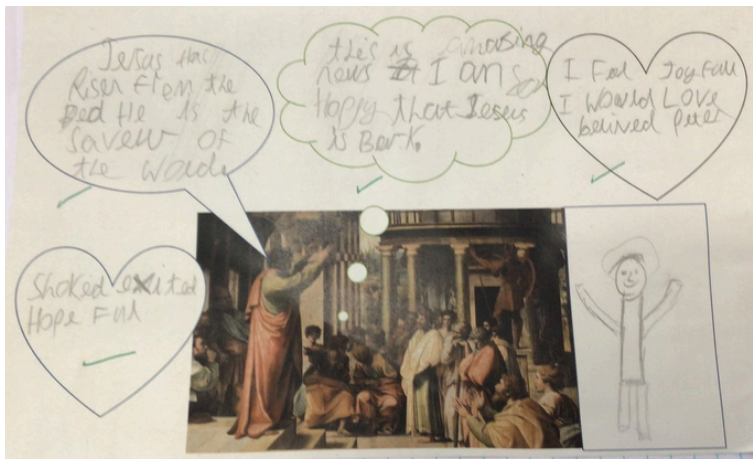


CELEBRATING OUR RE LEARNING



Miss Flynn led our KS2 prayer and liturgy for the 5th Week of Easter. Having heard the Gospel reading, the children reflected upon how to love one another through following the school mission and their actions towards others.

Our Year 1 learning and writing is Outstanding as they reflected on how people would have felt in hearing the Good news of Jesus' resurrection.



Year 5 have been exploring the issue of loneliness as part of our Building the Kingdom learning on the theme of Solidarity. Some of our pupils spent time helping at a coffee morning in the Church hall.





VE DAY

Enjoying our VE day picnic and celebrations.





CHARITY



We are taking part with bulls in the city this Summer in support of raising money for Birmingham Hospice – formerly St. Mary’s Hospice and John Taylor Hospice. We will be asking parents to donate and support by taking part in the art trail this Summer between Wednesday 16th July and Sunday 14th September 2025.

Birmingham Hospice is not fully funded by the NHS, instead relying on fundraising and donations to fund their services. Now, more than ever, our expert and compassionate care is needed to ensure people die in a place of their choice, with dignity and in comfort. But the cost of care is soaring, making it harder for our hospices to care for everyone who needs it. We want to help ensure they’re here for local communities now, and in the future. We’re doing this by taking part in Bulls in the City as a school, encouraging you to visit the trail with your family and by giving funds if you can.

MEET OUR BULL

Azrael has been named, designed and painted by the children of St. Mary’s. We’re very proud of him. We have included some things that matter to us as a school, such as our colours of blue and yellow; art work that depicts we’re a school; and nature that shows our love of God’s planet and ability to grow. Every year group has painted a section of our bull. We hope you like him as much as we do! Thank you to Madame Baille who has led this initiative with the children.





WB 2.6.25

Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

Please note the following:

- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **2nd June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 9th June**



Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates. Further details will be given out nearer the time.

World Ocean Day – wear blue on Monday 2nd June 2025

We are excited to announce that on Monday 2nd June, our school will be celebrating World Ocean Day. This year, we are supporting the Marine Conservation Society, a registered charity dedicated to protecting our seas, shores, and wildlife. To show our support, we invite all children to wear blue and, if possible, donate £1 to the Marine Conservation Society (Registered charity in England and Wales 1004005).

Additionally, we are pleased to welcome Severn Trent, who will be delivering assemblies to all children and conducting workshops for Year 4 students. This will be a fantastic opportunity for students to learn more about the importance of our local water systems and the steps we can take to preserve them.

We appreciate your support in encouraging your children to participate in this important event. By wearing blue and making a small donation, they will be part of a global movement to protect our precious marine environments.

Thank you for your cooperation and generosity.

Free upcoming event for the public



Join us for a vibrant Vaisakhi celebration at Tally Ho!
Enjoy traditional sports, Gatka demonstrations,
community activities, delicious food stalls, and fun-
filled entertainment for the family & children.

Contact us: sikh_association@westmidlands.police.uk

Tally Ho Training Centre Pershore Road, Birmingham
B5 7RN (Limited parking available)

10 am till 5:30pm

Sat 24th May 2025

WHITSUN HALF TERM CAMP



PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

HARBORNE ACADEMY, HARBORNE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B15 3JL
TUESDAY 27TH - FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025

STANDARD DAY 9AM-4PM - £20
EXTENDED DAY 8.15AM - 5PM - £25
HALF DAY (4 YEAR OLDS) 9AM-1PM - £12.50

OFSTED REGISTERED, TAX FREE CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

MULTI
ACTIVITY
CAMP

OR

FOOTBALL
CAMP



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MORE INFORMATION

or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps



May Half Term Magic in Harborne: Music & Adventure for Ages 4–11

🎵 **The Strings Club Holiday Camps** return to **Harborne Academy, B15 3JL** this May Half Term for children aged 4–11 – and they're *not just childcare!* (Dad, Harborne, 2024).

🏆 Recently awarded "Platinum" for outstanding service, The Strings Club offers unforgettable days packed with:

🎸 **Morning Magic:**

- Guitar, violin and ukulele sessions led by expert teachers
- Free instrument hire to take home

🧐 **Afternoon Adventures:**

• **Ages 4–7:**

- Design Paddington-themed postcards
- Go on a "Bear Hunt" storytelling adventure
- Make dreamcatchers inspired by *The BFG*

• **Ages 8–11:**

- Build a playlist for favourite characters
- Take on Percy Jackson demigod trials
- Create maps of magical worlds

Why Choose The Strings Club:

- ✓ Tailored activities for 4–7 & 8–11s
- ✓ One-day to full-week flexible booking
- ✓ Ofsted-registered & accepts childcare vouchers
- ✓ 200+ 5★ parent reviews

📄 **Get an exclusive all year round 10% off 1**
code: **STMARYS2024**

THE STRINGS CLUB

HARBORNE ACADEMY, B15 3JL

ENTER STMARYS2024 FOR 10% OFF

feefo Independent Customer Feedback **★★★★★** 4.8/5 from parents

Make the school holidays unforgettable

- ✓ Tax Free & Childcare Vouchers
- ✓ 550+ 5* Reviews
- ✓ Free Instrument Hire
- ✓ Flexible Days & Hours to Suit
- ✓ 1 Adult to 8 Children Ratio

www.thestringclub.org | 0121 296 9204

Instagram YouTube Facebook Spotify

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:



Louise Yorke
Headteacher

Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher

Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead

Sharon Tame
School Counsellor

Laura Noone
AHT

Jade Preedy
AHT

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.

Celebrating our fantastic attendance:-

Our attendance for last week was -

Week 19/05/25-23/05/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	98	96.3	98	98.3	94.6	99.6	93.6	99.3	98	96	98	98	98.2	100
Lates	2	2	1	2	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	5	2	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.2%			School Target				97%	

Well done 6O: - Our attendance champions!



School Dates - 2025-2026

Autumn Term	Tuesday 2nd September - Thursday 23rd October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th December
Spring Term	Monday 5th January - Friday 13th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 23rd February - Thursday 2nd April
Summer Term	Monday 20th April - Friday 22nd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

School Closed:

- Monday 4th May 2026 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Friday 24th October 2025
- Monday 20th July 2026

2 more INSET days to be confirmed

Star of the week

- Year RB Bella For trying really hard with her handwriting!
- Year RT Jonah For fantastic improvement in his independent writing – well done Jonah!
- Year 1F Willow For her excellent practical work and understanding of capacity and volume in Maths.
- Year 1L Oliver For continuing to be an excellent role model in class
- Year 2E Kenneth For being a hardworking and helpful member of our class.
- Year 2G Guadalupe For being a wonderful member of the class.
- Year 3L Aaron For having a positive attitude to learning this week and trying his best to complete his work to the best of his ability
- Year 3T Liam For writing a wonderful innovated narrative based on ‘The Tin Forest’.
- Year 4J Michael For being a super role model and living out our school mission in class every day
- Year 4M Alex Great role model in class and always doing the right thing.
- Year 5F Rohan Fantastic information report about the weather
- Year 5M Pariza For always doing the right thing and putting 100% effort into everything she does
- Year 6O Olivia For always being do helpful in the classroom
- Year 6R Alex For his engagement with our class text, ‘Floodland.’

