



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.

September is dedicated to Mary.

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - Curious and Grateful



6th September 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to all of our children and a particular welcome to our new Reception children and their families, who have joined our St. Mary's family. I hope that you all had a wonderful Summer break and have settled in to routines again, as we begin the new school year. For our new (and returning families), I would like to highlight the importance of checking our school website for important information that you may require such as: term dates, policies, previous newsletters, school menus, uniform, admissions and curriculum. We attempt to keep the website up to date so that you have this information to hand, so please do check the website as your first point of call. Also, please follow our X account <https://x.com/StMaryB17> as we regularly update this with evidence of our curriculum, and key information that you may need to know.

Over the holidays, our e-schools platform has stopped working. It is my intention not to renew e-schools having taken on board feedback from parents about reducing our communication channels, so that we instead use one platform efficiently for communication. This will take a little time to sort out, so please bare with us. Without e-schools, it does mean that parents will not be able to directly message the teacher. Please pass on any information to the SLT member on the gate each morning, or you can make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher. Alternatively, any messages should come through our school office on 0121 464 2141 or email enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk.

With regards to homework, we are going to trial a half-termly Year group newsletter at the start of every half-term which will provide key information for your child's year group such as spellings for the half-term, key dates, curriculum and learning support. This will be emailed to you on the first Monday of the half-term.

Any other updates I will inform you of in the Friday newsletter, which will be emailed out to you and can also be found on our X page and on the website. Please ensure that we have your most up to date phone numbers and email addresses so that you do not miss out on any important communication from school.

Within this newsletter, I include all the dates that are in the diary for the first half of the Autumn term - please note that sometimes dates do change, but we will give advanced notice if this happens. Dates can always be found on the penultimate page of the newsletter. I have also confirmed PE days. On PE days, children can come in to school wearing PE uniform - please note that we have a uniform for PE, which children must wear. Please also note that we do have daily uniform checks in school and parents are contacted if uniform is not correct - this does include hairstyles and the wearing of jewellery. If you need support with uniform, please speak to a member of SLT. We need help with fundraising this year - every penny counts towards providing the best enrichment for your children. Please support us by signing up to school fund, joining the Asda cashpot for schools and supporting our PTA in the events they hold. More information about fundraising can be found in this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to say what a joy it has been returning to school. Well done children for an excellent first week of learning and for such beautiful learning and behaviour. We look forward to seeing what this year brings.

God bless,

Mrs Yorke

Our Year 1 children have drawn beautiful images of Our Lady this week





Catholic Life



This week's Gospel and Prayer

Mark 7:15

"Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean."

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

- rules are important, but doing what is right and following God's way is most important
- Jesus teaches us that the greatest rule is love
- True holiness comes from the love that we share with others



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



Whole School Mass - 6.9.24 - Nativity of Our Lady
 Today, the whole school came together for our first Mass of the school year. A special Mass dedicated to celebrating the birthday of St Mary. The children sang beautiful hymns to our Heavenly Mother. A lovely start to our new school year.

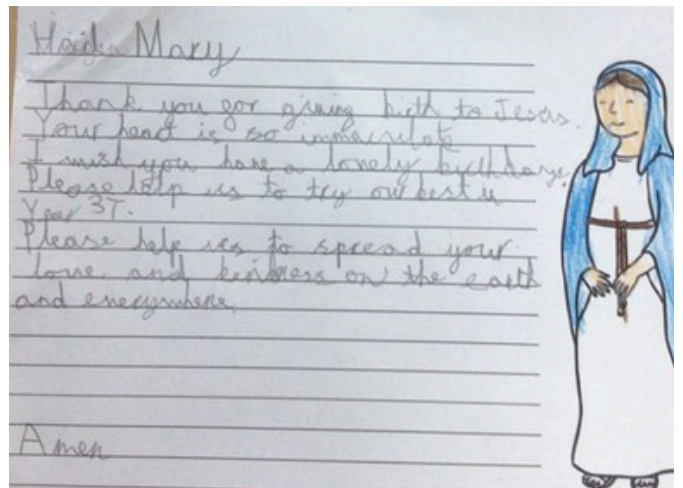


Next week's Mass: - Y6 Mass - Holy Name of Mary

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 11th September 2024**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 children will be leading our Mass and Year 5 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



In their work about Mary this week - the children have been thinking about who Mary is to them. This included drawing images of how they see their Heavenly mother.



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

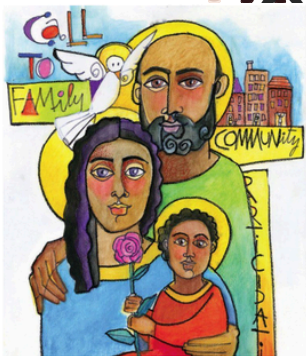
- *My family is at home
- *My school family
- * We are all different and we love and care for each other
- *We love and look after each other because we are all brothers and sisters in God's family

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 1 is to be curious and active - what does this mean?



Linking Curious and Active to the way we can choose to live our lives to serve God and to serve others.

Activities and challenges:

- Be activists for social justice by writing letters or creating posters around a particular local community issue. This could be linked to issues of climate justice.
- Invite a friend to come to Mass with you.
- Spend time outside with nature being curious about the world that God has created.
- Care for your school, parish, home or local area by participating in a litter pick or tending to a garden. This could form part of your school's Live Simply action plan.
- [Use the Little Way Week Planner](#) to be inspired by the words of St. Therese and live out a daily act of kindness.
- Explore the [Mission Together Rosary](#) resources and start a Rosary group in school to encourage others to learn about and use this prayer.

This week's news

A massive welcome to our new Reception children.

We know that you'll have a great year. You will learn so much and make good friends.





Congratulations!



We are so proud that Megan Richter, a former St. Mary's pupil, has won a Paralympics gold medal in the triathlon this week.

Since she was a little girl, Megan had always dreamed about competing at the Olympics and looked up to people in sport with disabilities like Ellie Simmonds. Despite missing the 2023 season due to injury, Megan worked hard to regain her fitness and won the race 40 seconds ahead of her closest rival! Her success is a reminder to us all to work hard, dream big and never give up.

Summer Reading

Summer



Reading



We are extremely proud of all the children who took part in the Summer reading challenge over the holidays. It was fantastic to see your posts and how much you love reading!

Challenge





This Sunday, 8th September, is Education Sunday. Education Sunday is always celebrated on the second Sunday in September. This year's theme is 'Learning Together: Education in our community'

"The mission of schools and teachers is to develop an understanding of all that is true, good and beautiful."

Pope Francis

**2024
LEARNING
TOGETHER:
EDUCATION IN
OUR COMMUNITY**

Thank you for our pupils. May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them. We pray that through their time at school they will flourish and grow to discover who you have called them to be.

We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord,



Year 6 prefects applications

Applications for Year 6 Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl are due in to school next week

Good luck!

General school consent

As part of our continuing efforts to enrich the curriculum and serve our community, we arrange trips and activities off the school site. We have therefore prepared a General School Consent for this purpose i.e.: so you do not have to complete multiple consent forms throughout the year. This is not intended to replace consent forms for class trips or residentials but rather trips and activities in our local area e.g.: Harborne Library, a local care home or park. A link will be sent to you by email and we would be grateful if a form could be completed for each child.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School General School Consent 2024

From time to time, the school organises additional trips and activities to enrich your child's learning or to fulfil our responsibilities to our community in carrying out our Mission, and to ensure the safety and security of your child, we require your consent for your child to participate.

This form represents a General School Consent (GSC) which will endure for the duration of their time at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, unless withdrawn in writing.

The trips and activities covered by this GSC include any visit within the UK that is not residential and that does not require transport e.g.: trips to Harborne Library, a local park or care home for carol singing etc.

The school will still send you information about each trip and activity before it takes place. Please note, this information may be communicated verbally or electronically by email.

The trips and activities covered by this GSC will only take place with express permission from the Head Teacher (or whomever deputises).

All trips and activities covered by this GSC will adhere to statutory or recommended requirements for supervision.

If your child is involved in any other trips or activities not covered by this GSC e.g.: a residential trip or a trip that requires transport, you will receive further information and additional consent will be required.

You must complete a separate GSC for each of your children at the school.

Staff news



Congratulations to Miss Thompson (SENDCo), who got married over the Summer and is now known as Mrs. Birchenall. We wish you and your husband a lifetime of love and happiness.

**May you always put each other first
and seek your love's greatest good
May your lives be filled with joy and
hope that can't be understood**



As you will be aware, there is currently a consultation underway on the future of Birmingham libraries which includes Harborne Library. As a school, we visit weekly and many of our families visit the Library on weekends. There is a public consultation at Harborne Library scheduled on 24.09.24 ahead of the end of the final consultation period on 27.09.24.

As it stands, the preferred option for Birmingham City Council is the closure of the existing Harborne Library building, with the Library being relocated to another (unspecified) building open for only 2 or 3 days a week. This would be devastating to St Mary's and the wider community.

We will be voicing our concerns to the Council and would welcome your support as the parent body also. More information will follow next week.

Please see the information below regarding the days each class will have their PE lesson.






On PE days - the children come in wearing their PE uniform.

Please ensure that any jewellery is taken off for PE days for your child's (and others) safety.

Year 6 will need their swimming kit on a Thursday ready for their swimming lessons.

PE days – Autumn 1	
Reception	Tuesday – Jumping skills Friday – Locomotion (walking)
Year 1	Thursday – Dance Friday – Locomotion (running)
Year 2	Monday – Dance Friday – Locomotion (dodging)
Year 3	Tuesday – Gymnastics Thursday – Cricket
Year 4	Monday – Games – striking and fielding (rounders) Friday – Dance
Year 5	Tuesday – Health related exercise Wednesday – Dance
Year 6	Tuesday – Orienteering Thursday – Swimming (swimming kit needed)

CLUBS Before School

	Mini Athletics	Mondays 8:00 - 8:45am	Years 1-2
	Gymnastics	Tuesdays 8:00-8:45am	KS1 + KS2
	Karate	Wednesdays 7:45-8:30am	KS1 + KS2
	Karate	Thursdays 7:45-8:30am	KS1 + KS2
	Karate	Fridays 7:45-8:30am	KS1 + KS2

CLUBS After School

	Boys Football	Mondays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Years 5-6
	Chess	Mondays 3:30 - 4:45pm	Year 3
	Girls Multi-sports	Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	KS2
	Create Club	Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	KS1
	Boys Football	Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Years 3-4
	Chess	Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:45pm	Years 4-6
	Boys Football	Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Years 1-2
	Create Club	Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	KS2
	Chess	Thursdays 3:30 - 4:45pm	Years 4-6



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.

INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards
and we will donate **££s** to schools.

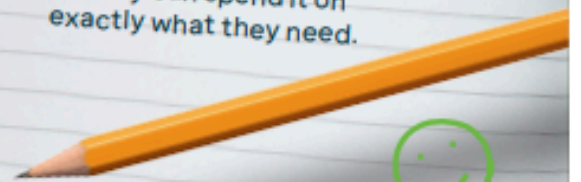
**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**



With
Parentkind

HERE'S HOW:

- 1** Download the Asda Rewards app and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools.
- 2** Choose your primary school
- 3** Shop in-store across Asda & George, and scan your Asda Rewards app at the checkout.
- 4** Shopping online? Simply log in to Asda.com using the same details as your Asda Rewards account.
- 5** We'll do the rest!
We donate ££s to your chosen school every time you shop, so they can spend it on exactly what they need.



Selected stores. Minimum spend £2+. Exclusions apply including Asda Express & George.com. Subject to availability. UK 18+. App & Opt in required.
0.5% of the value of a customer's eligible shop is donated. Publicly funded primary schools, must register with Parentkind charity 1072833.
Full T&Cs at asda.com/cashpotforschools. Rewards T&Cs at asda.com/rewards/terms. Ends 30.11.24

End of day

Please take note of the end of day timings and where you need to stand to collect your children.

At 3:10pm, Reception parents (once children are in full time) are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:15pm, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:20pm, siblings will be released to parents, who will walk down on the **right** hand side (as shown by the blue arrows). Siblings is for when **your children are in different key stages** i.e. one child in KS1 and one child in KS2. If your child is in the same key stage, they will come out with their class. Siblings will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 3 and Year 4 parents are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 5 and Year 6 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

END OF DAY COLLECTION POINTS AND TIMES –

Please note: –

The school has a walking home policy that states that children should be picked up by the parents. We encourage children to only walk home by themselves in the Summer term of Year 6.

**Labelling of clothing with child's name and class name**

Please label all belongings for your child (including lunch boxes / water bottles / school bags / clothing...) Items that are labelled are returned to your child's classroom when they are left somewhere else in school. Items that are not labelled are placed in the parent shelter. To ensure that no items are lost, label everything.

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. .

Healthy Snacks

Please may we remind all parents that only healthy snacks are permitted in school – your child may have a piece of fruit at break time. Do not send your child in with crisps, sweets or chocolate as they will not be able to consume this on site. Please also be aware that we do not allow nuts, in order to reduce the chance of children with allergies from having a reaction.



Dates for next term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

2nd September 2024 - all day

3rd September 2024

WB 3rd September 2024

6th September 2024 - 9:30am

8th September 2024

9th September 2024

11th September 2024 - 9:15am

13th September 2024

WB 16th September 2024

17th September 2024 - am

18th September 2024 - 9:15am

19th September 2024 - 3:15pm

20th September 2024 - 9:00am

20th September 2024 - 10:30am

24th September 2024 - am

24th September 2024 - 3:45pm

25th September 2024 - 9:15am

26th September 2024 - 3:30pm

27th September 2024 - all day

30th September 2024

October 2024 - all month

October 2024 - all month

October 2024 - all month

1st October 2024 - all day

1st October 2024 - am

2nd October 2024 - 9:15am

3rd October 2024 - all day

3rd October 2024 - lunch time

3rd October 2024 - 3:30pm

4th October 2024 - all day

4th October 2024 - all day

4th October 2024 - 9:00am

Families and Communities

Curious and Active

NSET day - school closed to children

Children return to school at normal time 8:30-8:45am

Nativity of Our Lady - we would like art work depicting Mary from all cultures

Whole School Mass for the Birthday of Mary - parents welcome in old church

Education Sunday

Applications for Year 6 prefects / Head Boy / Head Girl due

Year 6 Mass in Church (and Y5 attend) - Parents welcome

Class Leader elections for all year groups (incl School Council / Spiritual Council...)

Super Science Week in School

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 SF and 11:00 SM)

Year 2 Mass in Church (Y1 to attend) - Parents Welcome

PTA welcome meeting for new Reception parents

Macmillan Coffee Morning run by School Council in the canteen

Cake sale for children - £1

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

PTA event - Film Club for Years 4, 5 and 6

Y3 Mass in Church (Y4 to attend) - Parents welcome

PTA event - Film Club for Years 1, 2 and 3

Children in **St. Vincent de Paul House** - wear **white** non-school uniform

x-table Rockstar launch day - dress as a rockstar!

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

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

Y3T Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Therese of Lisieux

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

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

National Poetry Day Competition

Themed Lunch in the canteen

PTA AGM meeting

YSF Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Faustina

Y1F Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Francis

Year 1 Prayer Service for parents

WB 7.10.24

8th October 2024 - am

9th October 2024 - all day

9th October 2024 - 9:15am

10th October 2024 - all day

11th October 2024 - 9:15am

15th October 2024 - all day

15th October 2024 - am

15th October 2024 - am

16th October 2024 - am

16th October 2024 - 9:15am

18th October 2024 - all day

18th October 2024 - 6pm

WB 21.10.24

21.10.24 and 22.10.24

21st October 2024 - all day

22nd October 2024 - am

22nd October 2024 - all day

22nd October 2024 - 3:30-6:00

23rd October 2024 - 9:15am

24th October 2024 - 3:30-6:00

24th October 2024 - normal time

25th October 2024 - all day

Dyslexia Awareness Week

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

School Photo Day

Year 4 Mass in Church (Y3 to attend) - Parents welcome

Hello Yellow World Mental Health Day - wear yellow

Year 6 Year Group Assembly

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

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

Y3L - Lapworth museum visit

Y3T - Lapworth museum visit

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

Y1L Non-school uniform day for St. Luke feast day

PTA Fundraising in Parish Centre - Food Culture evening

School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair

PTA enrichment event in school for all children

Year 6 flu vaccination in school

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

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

Parent Consultation Evening

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

Parent Consultation Evening

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

INSET day - School closed to children

PTA date for our new Reception parents



Reception parents - come and join us on **Thursday 19th September at 3:15pm-3:45pm** in the school hall. This is an informal catch-up for you to meet other Reception parents and to get to know the PTA representatives and some of the teachers. Over tea and biscuits, you will get the opportunity to find out more about what the PTA and school does over the year. Such as events, fun days and fundraising. You can bring your child(ren) and they will be supervised in a classroom with a film or colouring.

The more the merrier for 30 minutes of your time - all our fundraising goes directly back to the children!



School Dates - 2024-2025

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3 rd September - Thursday 24 th October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 4 th November - Friday 20 th December
Spring Term	Monday 6 th January - Friday 14 th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 24 th February - Thursday 17 th April
Summer Term	Tuesday 6 th May - Friday 23 rd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 2 nd June - Friday 18 th July

School Closed:

- Monday 5th May 2024 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Monday 2nd September 2024
 - Friday 25th October 2024
 - Monday 21st July 2024 and Tuesday 22nd July 2024
- 1 more INSET day to be confirmed

Star of the week

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

Year 1F	Jessica	For being incredibly kind and looking out for her classmates!
Year 1L	Asher	For being an excellent role model during his first week in school
Year 2E	Michelle	For a wonderful start to Year 2
Year 2G	Robyn	For having a fabulous first week in school!
Year 3L	Willow	For being a happy and enthusiastic presence in the room and trying her best!
Year 3T	Janelle	For being a fantastic role model to others!
Year 4J	Adel	For showing real resilience in settling into her new class!
Year 4M	Daniel	For an excellent start of the year and completing his work promptly
Year 5F	Isabella	For working so diligently this week and demonstrating a mature attitude
Year 5M	Anaya	For being an excellent role model during her first week in school!
Year 6O	Leo	For settling into Y6 wonderfully!
Year 6R	Kai	For carrying out his new class monitor of service role so responsibly and reliably

