



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.

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,

23rd October 2025

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding first half of the autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate some of the highlights we've shared as a school community. It has been a joy to see the children thriving in their learning, in their friendships, and in their faith; and I'm incredibly grateful for your continued support and partnership

Reception Welcome Mass

We were delighted to welcome our Reception children into the St. Mary's family during their very first school Mass. It was a beautiful and moving occasion, filled with reverence and joy. The whole school gathered to celebrate, and our guard of honour—a cherished tradition—made the moment even more special for our youngest pupils.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all families who attended our parent consultation evenings. It was a pleasure to share your child's progress and celebrate their achievements. We're also grateful for the thoughtful feedback many of you provided through our parent questionnaire. I'll be sharing key themes and next steps in future newsletters.

Book Fair Success

A huge thank you for supporting our recent book fair! Your generosity has helped raise valuable funds that will go directly towards purchasing new books for our classrooms and library. It's always a joy to see the children so enthusiastic about reading.

John Paul II Retreat

We ended the week with a reflective retreat dedicated to St. John Paul II, beautifully led by our house captains. Children in the John Paul II house explored his life and legacy through prayer, discussion, and creative activities, which was an inspiring way to close the half term.

Tolkien Cluster INSET Day

Today, our staff took part in a collaborative INSET day with colleagues from across the Tolkien cluster. This has been a fantastic opportunity to share best practice, deepen our curriculum thinking, and strengthen partnerships that benefit all our children.

As we head into the half term break, I hope you all find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy some special moments together. Please stay safe during the season, especially with Bonfire Night approaching, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November, at the usual school time..

Have a peaceful and joyful half-term break.

Mrs Yorke, **Headteacher**



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer



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

- Prayer deepens our friendship with God.
- God loves us, and wants to listen to us and answer our prayers.
- We can ask God to help us and be bold and persistent in our asking.

'Jesus told His disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.'



Reception Welcome Mass – 22.10.25 – Harvest

Reception were wonderful in their very first Mass at St. Mary's where we thanked God for the harvest. Thank you for your donations to SIFA Fireside.



Next Mass: – Whole School Mass – All Saints

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 5th November 2025**, starting promptly at 9:30am. This Mass is a whole school Mass from Year 1 – Year 6. All parents are welcome to attend.



St. John Paul II Feast Day

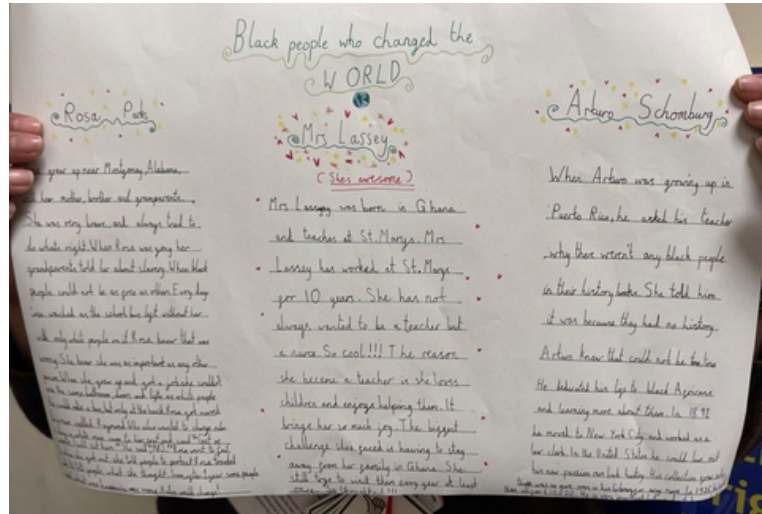
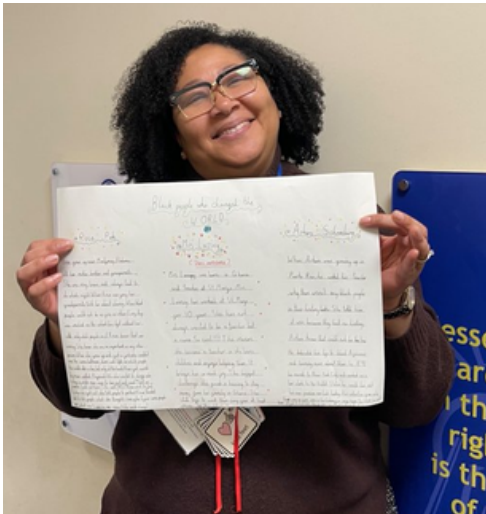
We ended the week with a reflective retreat dedicated to St. John Paul II, beautifully led by our House Captains. As part of the retreat, every child received a special bookmark to help them pray to their house saint throughout the year, deepening their connection to our school's faith values.



CURRICULUM

Black History Month Learning

Mrs Lassey is such an incredible role-model to our children that they are including her in their home learning about inspirational black people who changed the World!



And Year 5 have created incredible poetry celebrating diversity, inclusivity and differences, inspired by the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah.





ST MARY'S PARISH / PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR



Saturday 22 November
12.00-3.00pm



Parish Halls, Vivian Road, Harborne



- * Santa's Grotto *
- * Bottle Tombola *
- * Chocolate Tombola *
- * Christmas Stockings *
- * Mulled Wine & Mince Pies *
- * Festive Sandwiches & Drinks *
- * Stalls: Books, Jewellery, Toys, Fancy Goods,
Glass, China & Pottery, Cakes,
Jams & Chutneys *



Free
Admission
(£4 for
Santa's Grotto)

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:



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

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 a member of the SLT team.

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 20/10/25-23/10/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	90	93	97	96	95	95	96	94	99	95	98	95	95	97
Lates	1	3	3	1	0	2	5	6	1	1	0	0	0	7
Whole School Attendance so far this year						97.6%		School Target				97%		

Well done 4J! - Our attendance champions!

Dates for next half-term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 11 Virtues

3rd November 2025 - all day

3rd November 2025 - 10:30am

4th November 2025 - am

5th November 2025 - 9:30am

6th November 2025

7th November 2025 - 9:00am

WB 10th November 2025

WB 10th November 2025

10th November 2025 - 12:45pm

12th November 2025 - 9:15am

13th November 2025 - 12:45pm

17th November 2025 - all day

18th November 2025 - am

19th November 2025 - all day

19th November 2025 - 9:15am

21st November 2025 - 9:15am

22nd November 2025 - 12:00pm

25th November 2025 - am

26th November 2025 - 9:15am

27th November 2025 - 9:00am

28th November 2025 - all day

WB 1st December 2025

1st December 2025 - 9:30am

2nd December 2025 - am

2nd December 2025 - 3:15-4:15

3rd December 2025 - 9:15am

3rd December 2025 - 3:15-4:15

3rd December 2025 - 7:00pm

4th December 2025 - 3.30-4:30

Dignity of the Human Person

Learned and Wise

Children return to school at normal time

Y6 visit to the Mosque ahead of Other Faiths Week

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

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 4M Synagogue visit

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

Year 4J Synagogue visit

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

Year 5 library visit - 5M (8:45) and 5L (10:15)

Wear **red** for Red Wednesday

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

Year 5 Year group Assembly

Parish Fete

Year 4 library visit - 4J (8:45) and 4M (10:15)

Year 2 Mass in Church (and Year 1 classes attend) - parents welcome

Coffee morning for parents - come in to school and find out more about SEND

Reception bedtime story day

Corporal Acts of Mercy

Penitential Service for Years 4 - 6 (children and staff only)

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

PTA event - KS1 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

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

PTA event - Reception class Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

Annual Wreath making workshop in Parish Hall

PTA event - KS2 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

8th December 2025 - 9:30am

9th December 2025 - 9:15am

9th December 2025 - 10:45

11th December 2025 - all day

11th December 2025 - 9:30am

11th December 2025 - lunch

12th December 2025 - 9:00am

12th December 2025 - 6:45pm

12th December 2025 - 7:00pm

16th December 2025 - 2:00pm

17th December 2025 - 2:15pm

18th December 2025 - 2pm

19th December 2025 - 9:30am

19th December 2025 -

Whole School Mass - Feast of Immaculate Conception

PANTO for EYFS/KS1 in school

PANTO for KS2 in school

Christmas jumper day in school

Reception Nativity in Church (for parents)

Christmas dinner day in school

Year 3 Prayer Service for all Year 3 parents

Choir sing for Carols by Candlelight - meet at school 6:30pm

Carols by Candlelight in St. Mary's Church (all welcome)

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity in Church (for parents)

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Assembly in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service in Church (for parents)

Whole school Christmas Mass for all children, staff and parents

Break up for Summer holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Gabby	For doing a wonderful job with the offertory at Mass!
Year RT	Arlo	For behaving so respectfully in Celebration of the Word and Mass this week!
Year IF	Chloe	For her lovely writing and effort on a biography all about the life of Mo Farah.
Year IL	Beatrice	Wonderful writing in her English book!
Year 2E	Emily	For her beautiful manners and thoughtful contributions to class discussions
Year 2G	Mia	For being such a helpful, kind and caring member of the class!
Year 3L	Tobenna	For always being a fantastic role model and striving for excellence in everything he does!
Year 3T	Bronty	For having a great week and working really hard in all her lessons
Year 4J	Cillian	For his effort and perseverance in all his lessons.
Year 4M	Grace	For fantastic speech about Ava's Granny and helping others
Year 5F	Phoebe	For sharing her fantastic home learning this half term
Year 5M	Marta	For consistently having a positive attitude towards all of her learning
Year 6O	Devaansh	True resilience and determination in everything he does. This is especially seen each week at swimming
Year 6R	Abigail	For having a fantastic first half term in Year 6! A true role model for behaviour, resilience and reverence. Well done!

