



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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.

## Year 4 newsletter - Spring 2

This term, we're really focusing on times tables as the children will be doing their statutory Multiplication Check in June. We have a parent workshop booked in to talk to you about this on **14th March 2025 at 2:30pm**. In this workshop, you will find out more about supporting your child to practise by using Times Table Rockstars; what the test involves; and improving speed in Studio, which will really help!

Thank you to our parents who support dailt reading and recording in reading diaries. Daily reading to boosts both reading and writing skills, so keep up this great work.

A huge well done for the fantastic home learning last term, especially the projects inspired by DT and Science. Let's keep the momentum going after half term—why not focus on Electricity in Science or explore Brazil in Geography? We can't wait to see your brilliant work!

kind regards,

**Year 4 staff**

### PE

#### PE days - Spring 2

Year 4	Thursday - Gymnastics Thursday - Swimming CAFOD lent walk - every day Daily Mile
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*On PE days - the children come in wearing their PE uniform.*

*This is the gold t-shirt, royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and plain trainers. Please ensure that any jewellery is taken off for PE days for your child's (and others) safety. All long hair must be tied back in a ponytail.*



## Our RE learning for Spring 2 is: -

We will be studying the following units in our RE lessons: -

### Lent

In this unit the children will explore some of the customs and practices associated with the celebration of the Season of Lent. Through the life and teaching of Christ they will learn about prayer, fasting and almsgiving and the forgiveness that God offers to those who believe in him.

### Holy Week

This unit provides the children with an opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the story of Christ's passion and death. They will be given opportunities to reflect upon the circumstances and reasons for his death.

## Curriculum Map - Spring 2

These are the topics that your child will be studying in Spring 2 -

### **Marvelous middle:**

Visitor from St Basil's coming in to school to talk to the children about her role and what happens at a homeless shelter. Items collected in the trolley will then be taken back to St Basil's for distribution.

### **Science – Electricity Science Week**

Children will be learning about electricity and constructing their own simple series circuits and naming the constituent parts.

### **English**

#### **Terrific Text**

'The Night Bus Hero'  
by Onjali Q. Rauf

#### **Writing Opportunities**

- Non-chronological report on homelessness – Big Q and CST
- Playscript based on a chapter from the book – key scene
- Recount letter from Hector

#### **Spoken Language opportunities**

Playscript opportunities – for oracy  
Practising oracy actions and sentence stems e.g.: starting a discussion, building on a point of view and disagreeing with a perspective.

### **Maths**

Measurement – Length and Perimeter, measure in kilometres and equivalent lengths (kilometres and metres).  
Fractions- Compare and order mixed numbers, improper fractions, equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions  
Chanting – x tables and practice for x-table check

### **Music Adapting and transposing motifs (Theme: Romans) UNCRC Article 31**

Children will learn a new song, singing in time and tune, identify and play a repeated pattern on a tuned instrument, create and notate a musical motif, transpose it with changes in pitch and rhythm, and perform combined versions as a group.

### **MFL – UNCRC 27**

Directional Language TBC

**The Family and counting to 50** Children will explore French language and culture through our unit on 'la famille.' They'll learn possessives like 'mon,' 'ma,' and 'mes' (my) for family members, as well as counting to 50. Engaging questions like 'Comment s'appelle ton/ta...' (What is the name of your...) and 'Il/Elle s'appelle...' (He/She is called...) will encourage active participation.

#### **Other Reading Opportunities**

World book day – book review / live lessons  
Short playscript examples

## Year 4

### **R.E. UNCRC 14**

**R.E. Unit H: Lent**- Children will explore some of the customs and practices associated with the celebration of the Season of Lent. They will learn about prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

**Unit I: Holy Week**- Children will develop their knowledge and understanding of the story of Christ's passion and death. They will reflect upon the circumstances and reasons for his death.

### **PSHE: UNCRC 5, 18**

**Careers Week**  
My Happy Mind

**RSHE: Living in the Wider World**  
Session 1: How Do I Love Others?  
ONLY: Session 3: What Is Puberty?  
Session 4: Changing Bodies Session 5:  
Discussion Groups

## Dignity of Work

Work increases the common good.

### **Virtues:**

**Attentive and Discerning**

### **Scripture Focus:**

*"So that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands"* Deuteronomy 14:29

### **Prayer Focus:**

Nunc Dimittis  
Stations of the Cross at Church

### **Big Question –**

**How do we make work meaningful?**

### **Art – UNCRC Article 29**

Cezanne (photography craft/ observation/artist study)

The children will compose and photograph their own still life scenes before using their observation skills to paint them.

### **Geography – UNCRC Article 27 & 32**

**Fairtrade and South America**

**Substantive Knowledge:** Children will learn about the locations and geographical regions of Brazil and the UK. They will explore physical features like climate zones and biomes, human features like cities and landmarks, and understand the impact of human activities such as deforestation and urban development. They will also recognize cultural diversity and economic activities in different regions.

**Disciplinary Knowledge:** Children will develop skills in asking geographical questions and interpreting data. They will learn to read and use maps, atlases, and globes, and understand relationships and geographical concepts such as place, space, and scale. They will analyse and present geographical data on climate on climate, population and economic activities.

**Procedural Knowledge:** Children will practice using maps and atlases to locate places and identify features. They will engage in activities like drawing maps, labelling features, and using compasses. They will compare geographical features and cultural practices between Brazil and the UK.

### **Computing - UNCRC 17**

**Programming - Computational Thinking**

To know that combining computational thinking skills can help you to solve a problem.

To understand that pattern recognition means identifying patterns to help them work out how the code works.

To understand that algorithms can be used for a number of purposes e.g. animation, games design etc.

### **Other Opportunities**



British Science Week **UNCRC 29**  
World Book Day **UNCRC 17&31**  
One Life Retreat **UNCRC 14**  
Lent **UNCRC 14**  
Holy Week **UNCRC 14**

### **Fantastic finish:**

Asylum seekers share their experiences of homelessness, displacement, and the challenges of lacking rights, such as employment, and how these have impacted their lives. Children share a fair-trade meal /drink and contribute resources to the trolley, fostering empathy and understanding.

# Homework - spelling

Below are the spellings your child is expected to learn each week and the dates they will be tested on. Please encourage your child to practise these spellings, as well as the Year 3/4 Common Exception Words, as regularly as possible, so that they become embedded.  
Thank you for your continued support with spellings and homework.

To be tested on: 28.02.25	To be tested on: 07.03.25	To be tested on: 14.03.25	To be tested on: 21.03.25	To be tested on: 28.03.25
<b>Common Exception Words</b>	<b>Prefixes 'anti-' and 'inter-'</b>	<b>Common Exception Words</b>	<b>Endings that sound like /ʃən/ spelt '-cian', '-sion'</b>	<b>Endings that sound like /ʃən/ tion' and '-ssion'</b>
women various surprise suppose strength strange regular quarter purpose probably opposite notice	international intercept interrupt intervene interact antibiotic antihero antisocial antiseptic antidote 	ordinary occasion naughty natural minute mention medicine material length knowledge experience imagine	physician optician electrician magician extension collision confusion exclusion explosion corrosion 	profession session passion mission possession fiction fraction direction attention equation

## Year 3 and 4 Common Exception Words

<b>Aa</b>	breath	consider	enough	grammar	interest	<b>Nn</b>	perhaps	question	suppose
accident	breathe	continue	exercise	group	island	natural	popular	<b>Rr</b>	surprise
accidentally	build	<b>Dd</b>	experience	guard	<b>Kk</b>	naughty	position	recent	<b>Tt</b>
actual	busy	decide	experiment	guide	knowledge	notice	possess	regular	therefore
actually	business	describe	extreme	<b>Hh</b>	<b>Ll</b>	<b>Oo</b>	possession	reign	though
address	<b>Cc</b>	different	<b>Ff</b>	heard	learn	occasion	possible	remember	thought
although	calendar	difficult	famous	heart	length	occasionally	potatoes	<b>Ss</b>	through
answer	caught	disappear	favourite	height	library	often	pressure	sentence	<b>Vv</b>
appear	centre	<b>Ee</b>	February	history	<b>Mm</b>	opposite	probably	separate	various
arrive	century	early	forward	<b>Ii</b>	material	ordinary	promise	special	<b>Ww</b>
<b>Bb</b>	certain	earth	forwards	imagine	medicine	<b>Pp</b>	purpose	straight	weight
believe	circle	eight	fruit	increase	mention	particular	<b>Qq</b>	strange	woman
bicycle	complete	eighth	<b>Gg</b>	important	minute	peculiar	quarter	strength	women

# Homework - Power Project - RE - Y4

**Lent** - Our power projects this half term have an RE theme.

We would like children to embrace their Lent journey with learning and prayer time in school and within their homes too...

**Complete the task and bring your project in for our Lent displays and prayer areas**



## Alms

## Lent Reflection

*During Lent, we are called to give alms. Charity, or almsgiving, is an outward sign of Christian love for others. Generally, it involves some type of sacrifice on behalf of the giver in order to provide for the needs of the other. In doing this, bonds of community are formed. This donation of ourselves can be through money, but also through time, talent or service to others.*

## scripture

*"When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others." -*

*Matthew 6: 2-4*

## reflection

*Every one of us, in a small way, can make a difference in someone else's life. Lent is a wonderful time to think about how we can give alms. We are called to give alms as an act of solidarity with the poor - through charity work or by giving up our time - we too can help those less fortunate than ourselves.*

## open question

*How will you serve others this Lent?*

## Task

**A Creative Reflection** Think of a way to serve others this Lent. This may be through charity work, or giving up your time or helping others. Write about this act of service in a creative way: - through a poem; letter; or piece of art work. We look forward to seeing your creative reflections.



# Dates for this half term - Year 4

*Spring theme -*

*Spring 11 Virtues*

24th February 2025 - 8:45am

25th February 2025 - am

26th February 2025 - evening

28th February 2025 - all day

WB 3.3.25

5th March 2025 - 10:00am

6th March 2025 - all day

WB 10.3.25

12th March 2025 - 9:15am

14th March 2025 - 2:30pm

*17th March 2025 - all day*

20th March 2025 - all day

21st March 2025 - all day

25th March 2025 - am

27th March 2025 - all day

1st April 2025 - pm

3rd April 2025 - pm

9th April 2025 - 9:30am

WB 14.4.25

17th April 2025 - 11:00am

*17th April 2025*

*Dignity of Work*

*Attentive and Discerning*

Children return to school at normal time

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

Young Voices Concert - will leave school after lunch (separate letter)

Pet Day - animal theme dress up - see separate letter

Careers Week / Vocations week

Whole school Mass in Church for Ash Wednesday - parents welcome

World book day - wear pyjamas

British Science Week

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

X-table check workshop for Year 4 parents

*INSET day - school closed for all pupils*

One life Pilgrims of Hope Retreat for whole school

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

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

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

Parent Consultation Evening

Parent Consultation Evening

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

Holy Week

Year 6 Stations of the Cross in Church for KS2 and parents

*Break up for Easter 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*