



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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[www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

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: - Grateful and Generous



13th October 2023

Dear parents and carers,

We have been thinking about our mental health this week and we hosted our first 'tea and talk' with parents in the Canteen. Thank you to all those who came along. It was wonderful to speak directly with parents about their families and thoughts on school life and we got so much from the suggestions you gave us - the tea and cake was good too! One suggestion is for our next one to be before a Whole School Mass so that we can have a cuppa and a chat before going to Mass - so watch out for the date!

I do hope that all those children going to the KS2 Masquerade Disco this evening have a fun time and thank you again to the PTA for all that you do to fundraise for St. Mary's. We have sent out the School Fund information today and welcome any further support from parents too. Thank you.

Mrs Yorke

### *This week's Gospel and Prayer*

Matthew 21 : 42

*"Have you never read in the scriptures: 'It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?'"*

**HARVEST!**  
Please send any donations for our harvest in to school next week. Thank you so much!

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- what is meant by rejection and respect
- Jesus was rejected by some people during His life
- ways in which we can respect Jesus
- in respecting Jesus we hear His message of love for us and are able to share this.

God,  
You respect and love me as I am,  
even when I may reject you.  
Help me to show You the same love and respect  
in my prayers and in my actions.  
Open my ears to hear Your message  
and help me to share it with those around me.  
Amen

### Catholic Life in School

Year 4 Mass - 11.10.23 - St. John Henry Newman  
Year 4 led a beautiful Mass all about local Saint John Henry Newman. The children were inspired by his acts of kindness and care for those living in poverty right here in Birmingham



### Y1 Mass - St. Luke

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 18th October 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 children will be leading our Mass and Year 2 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



# 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 not 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.*

## *A letter from the children of St. Mary's*

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*We are writing to you on behalf of all the children at St. Mary's. We are worried about the parking around our school. We feel that the way you park and complete 3-point turns outside our school is dangerous. Also, as the days are getting darker, you might not see us - that puts us in danger.*

*Over the years, the School Council have tried lots of things to try and stop you parking outside of school. We raised money and worked with the PTA to buy bollards which were destroyed by cars running over them. We asked Mrs Yorke to write to you in her newsletters about your parking and feel ignored because you continue to park where you like. We are now writing to you directly.*

*There are lots of other places you can park around school. Such as, Waitrose, St. Mary's road and Ethel Road. There is also parking at Grove Park, which you could use.*

*The areas surrounding school- Vivian Close and Waterward Close are private. Therefore, you CANNOT park there either. Please respect our neighbours.*

*Vivian Road needs to be kept clear so that we are safe.*

*What if an ambulance needed to get past or in to school?*

*The barrier is even sometimes blocked and it wouldn't be able to get to us...*

*We need you to make a change.*

*Parking on double yellow lines outside a school is not permitted at any time, unless you have a Blue Badge and park for up to three hours.*

*If the school has yellow zig zag lines with signs, you must follow the hours of operation.*

*Our school has signs that say no parking between 8am-4pm.*

*Kind regards,*

*Maggie, Victor and Jayne*

*(on behalf of all the children at St. Mary's.)*



Some of our parents parking around school. You can clearly see the school sign and elderly people signs.



## Mental Health Week

This week, the children have been learning about the importance of mental health and we hosted our first 'tea and talk' with parents.



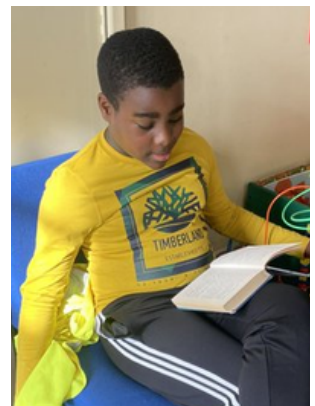
it's okay  
not to be  
okay

YOUNGmINDS



### Questions to ask your child

- What things are you looking forward to?
- Is there anything you want to talk about?
- When was the last time you were very happy?
- What makes you feel calm?
- How are you finding things at school at the moment?
- What difficulties are you facing now?
- What can I do to help?
- Where is a place you feel safe?
- What things would you like to do in the future?
- Would it be helpful if we planned each day together?
- Do you have any worries about the coronavirus?
- Where in our home do you feel like you can have your own space?
- What are you worried about when you lie in bed and can't sleep?
- Can you show me what you like about gaming?
- How do you feel about things changing?
- What do you think could help you to feel better?
- What have you enjoyed about today?



**Optimistic October 2023**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month	2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)	3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you	4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list	5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good	6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better	7 Look for the good in people around you today
8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding	9 Share an important goal with someone you trust	10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently	11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward	12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing	14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation
15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted	16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting	17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society	18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead	19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future	20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time	21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you
22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague	23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise	24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently	25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?	26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face	27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time	28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?
29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to	30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future	31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month				

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** Happier · Kinder · Together



**Mental health matters**

*Reception news: -*

Reception have been busy collecting leaves and arranging number 4 in different ways. They had a go at recording our learning too. Reception love taking our maths learning outside!



*Year 1 news: -*

Year 1 have been on an autumnal walk, and enjoyed their poetry writing this week about leaves.



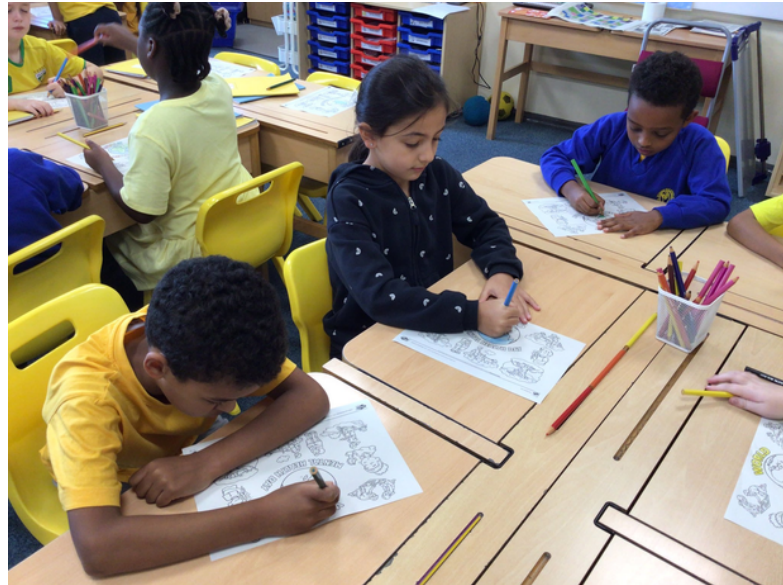
*Year 2 news: -*

Year 2 planned and led a beautiful collective worship and they prayed for the people upset by the felling of the tree at Sycamore Gap.



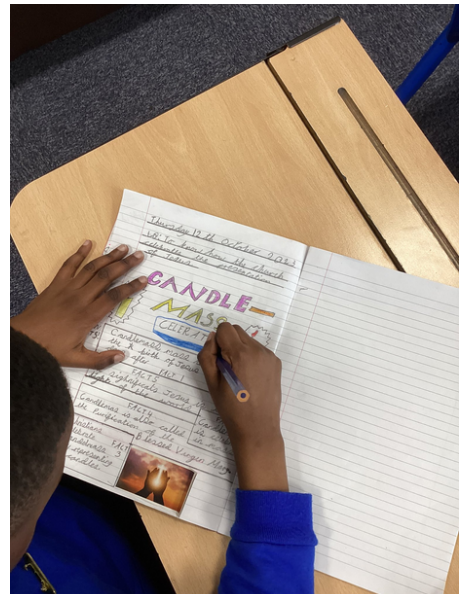
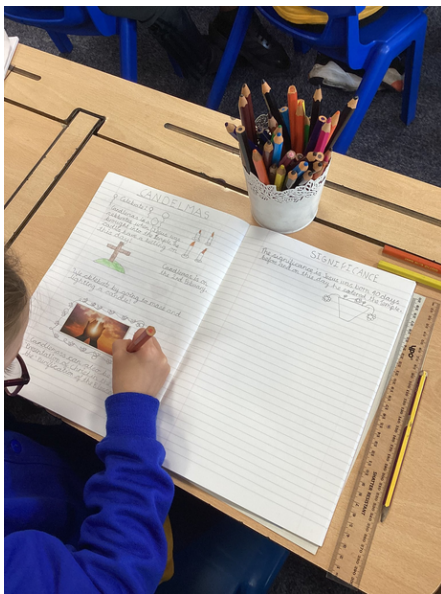
*Year 3 news: -*

Year 3 enjoyed mindfulness colouring for World Mental Health Day!



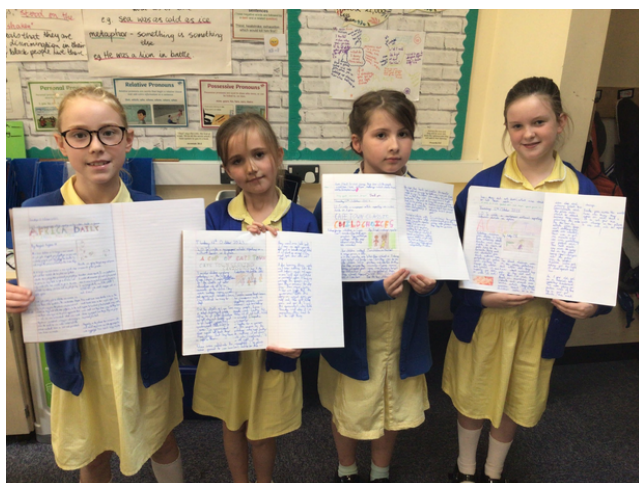
*Year 4 news: -*

Year 4 produced lovely work about how the Church celebrates the Presentation of Jesus.



*Year 5 news: -*

Year 5 wrote newspaper articles reporting on cultural divide in South Africa.



*Year 6 news: -*

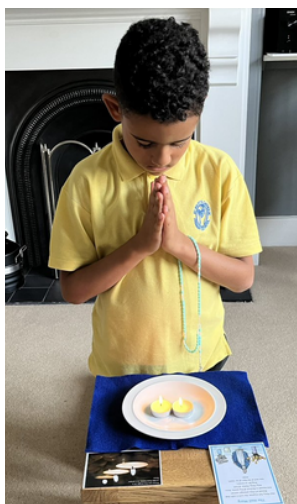
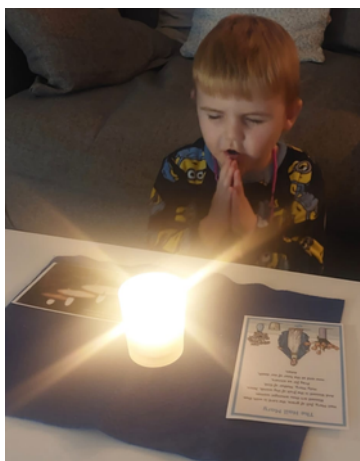
Year 6 led us in a beautiful prayer and liturgy with a very powerful message: treat all humans with dignity. Thank you to all of the parents who joined us and well done to the children: you are amazing!



**October - Pray the Rosary**

*It has been so wonderful to see how the prayer bags are being used at home throughout October. Thank you for uploading your photos.*

*Please continue to share these photos with school, as you continue to pray with the children at home.*



Joyful Mysteries	The Annunciation	The Visitation	The Nativity	The Presentation	The finding in the Temple
Luminous Mysteries	The Baptism	The wedding at Cana	Preaching of the Kingdom	The Transfiguration	The institution of the Eucharist
Sorrowful Mysteries	The agony in the garden	The scourging at the pillar	The crowning of thorns	Jesus carries the cross	The crucifixion
Glorious Mysteries	The Resurrection	The Ascension	The descent of the Spirit	The Assumption	The crowning of Mary



Mrs Noone took a group of Year 6 children to visit the new Waterstones bookshop that opened on Friday in Harborne. Michael, the Manager, made everyone very welcome and the children loved browsing the shelves for their next read! Year 6 have been given the job of writing book recommendations for the bookshop - look out for these coming soon!



If you are free this Saturday, why not drop into Northfield Story Festival? Northfield Story Festival is a free, family-friendly day festival, celebrating stories. There will be workshops with critically acclaimed writers, activities for children, a performance from Birmingham Poet Laureate and other magical surprises...

Book your free tickets on Eventbrite!



## The Book Fair is Coming!



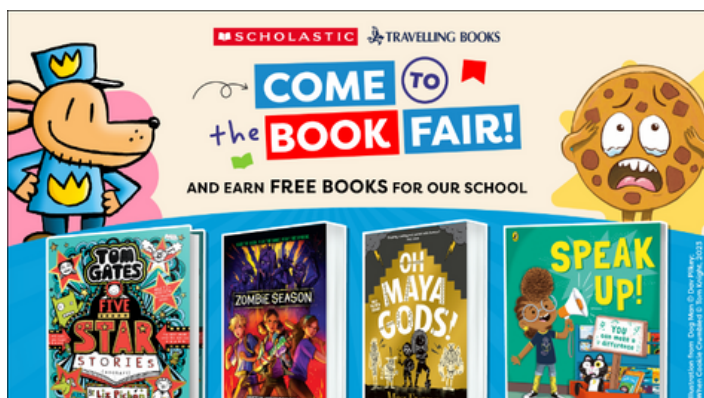
We're excited to announce that the Book Fair is coming to St Mary's! The Scholastic Book Fair is a fantastic opportunity for children to buy quality books while raising money for the school at the same time. We were able to buy >70 books for the school after the last Book Fair!



The Book Fair will be open on the following dates/times:  
**Friday 20th October - 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)**  
**Monday 23rd October - 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)**  
**Tuesday 24th October - At Parent Consultations**  
**Wednesday 25th October - At Parent Consultations**



Children will have the opportunity to browse the Book Fair during the school day but purchases will only be possible on the above dates/times. The Book Fair will be cashless, as before, but we will have a card reader on this occasion which will make payment much quicker.





Did you know that you can now apply for a Blue Peter Book badge?

A brand new Book badge has been introduced, designed by Sir Quentin Blake, which you can earn by sharing your love of reading. To apply, you must complete an online application form with an adult and share details of a book you have read which you enjoy, what authors you enjoy reading and you can even upload a picture of your favourite character from a book!

Wouldn't it be great to see these lovely badges appearing on our school jumpers and cardigans!

To apply, please visit:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>



## Writing competition

Calling all avid writers! The UK's most successful children's writing competition is back. Create a story in 500 words and enter by 10.11.23 to be in with a chance to visit Buckingham Palace and appear in a special TV programme! Details are available on the BBC website



## Extra-Curricular



Another Brilliant game from our U11's! They won their second league game of the season 5-1

Thank you to the parents who came to support!



They also put in a wonderful performance when they played against Quinton Primary. This time, they were beaten 3-1, but we are so proud of their positive team spirit and sportsmanship





On **Monday 16th October**, we will be celebrating Saint Teresa of Avila, the Spanish Carmelite nun - who is one of only four women to be named doctor of the Church because of her writings about how to live a Christian life. **Children who are in St. Teresa of Avila House Group - can come in to school wearing blue on this day!**



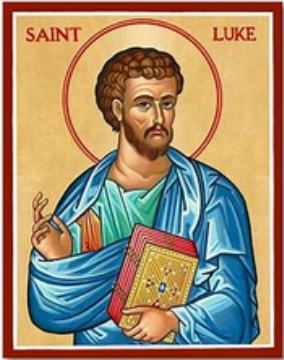
### **Year 5 Harborne Library Visit - 17.10.23**

Year 5 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

5F will leave at 9:00am

5M will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 5 staff know.



### **1L non-school uniform day - 18.10.23**

Class 1L will be celebrating the life of their class saint - St. Luke - with a non-school uniform day and a special day in school on Wednesday 18th October 2023.



### **PTA Event - 20.10.23 6:30-8:30pm**

KSI Masquerade ball will be held in the Parish Centre - tickets need to be purchased through the PTA.



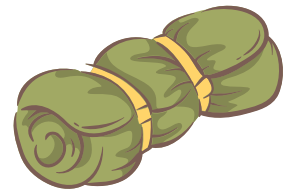
### **Parents Consultation Evening**

*Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days - Tuesday 24th October 2023 and Wednesday 25th October 2023.*

*All appointments take place in the school hall.*

## *October collection for harvest - SIFA Fireside*

Throughout October, we will be collecting for our harvest festival and supporting SIFA fireside. Here are the items to donate to school if you are able to support our charity work.



### *Feminine Hygiene Products*

### *Socks and other Foot-care Items*

### *Person Hygiene Items such as:*

*Shower gel, soap, deodorant, combs, hairbrushes, baby wipes, hand cream, chap sticks, tooth brushes, tooth paste*

### *New and unopened long life items such as:*

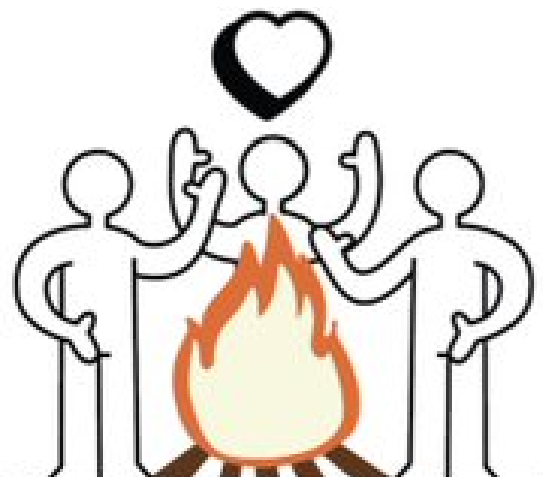
*Granola bars/snack bars, easy open cans (with pull tabs), bottles of water, ready to eat meals, biscuits, crackers*

### *Good quality used clothing such as:*

*Gloves, scarves, blankets, hats, sleeping bags, warm clothing (jumpers, trousers, vests, coats etc)*

**Birmingham, you're not alone**

SIFA Fireside, 48-52 Allcock Street, Birmingham B9 4DY  
Registered charity number: 1049728



### **Morning drop off**

Reminder that school opens at 8:30 for drop off.

Children should not be left before that time unsupervised. If you need to leave your child before 8:30am, they should be booked in to kidz.comm. The school is not responsible for any child before the time of 8:30am and they should not be left without an adult.

Registration takes place between 8:30am and 8:45am. At **8:45am**, the gate is closed and any children arriving after that time must be **signed in by an adult** and a reason given for why they are late.

## **Apply online for your child's Secondary school place – September 2024**



Year 6 are due to transfer from primary to secondary school in September 2024.

Local authorities co-ordinate secondary transfer admissions for all maintained (non-fee paying) schools.

This means parent/carers of Year 6 children should apply to the local authority in which they live (the council to which they pay council tax) for Secondary School.

If you live in Birmingham you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) between **1 September and 31 October 2023**. It is important that you submit your application by 31 October 2023. Applications received after the national closing date of 31 October 2023 will be treated as late applications. **Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools**, as these applications will be processed after 1 March 2024, in accordance with Birmingham's coordinated admissions scheme.

We know this is an important time for you our Year 6 children. and we encourage you to find out as much as you can about local schools and how the admissions process works before you make your application. Please do not hesitate to contact the office or a member of SLT if you need support with your application.

Information about the application process will be available on the council's website, [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) from **1 September 2023**.

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



## Online safety Tip

### Do Not Allow Kids to Browse Alone

*Set a rule that your child should use the electronic device for browsing in the living room or in the presence of an adult. This way, you can ensure that your child does not view unsuitable content online, and also supervise your child's online activities.*



### 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.*

### Attendance and Punctuality: -

Our attendance for last week was -

**Week 09<sup>th</sup> October – 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O	
%	94%	97.9%	97.3%	99.3%	94.3%	98.3%	99.3%	94.7%	96.7%	99%	97.7%	96.9%	94.5%	98.3%	
Lates	4	4	7	2	9	1	5	3	2	12	4	4	7	4	
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.44%		School Target				97%			

**Well done Y1F & Y3L: - our joint Attendance Champions**

WB 16th October - all week

16th October 2023 - all day

17th October 2023 - am

18th October 2023 - all day

18th October 2023 - 9:15am

20th October 2023 - 6:30pm

24th October 2023 - all day

24th October 2023 - am

24th October 2023 - 3:30-6:30

25th October 2023 - am

25th October 2023 - 9:15am

25th October 2023 - 3:30-6:30

26th October 2023

27th October 2023 - all day

Half Term holiday

Autumn 11 virtues

6th November 2023 - all day

WB 6th November 2023

6th November 2023 - all day

7th November 2023 - am

8th November 2023 - 9:30am

9th November 2023 - all day

9th November 2023 - 4:00pm

10th November 2023 - 9:00am

WB 13th November 2023

WB 13th November 2023

13th November 2023 - all day

14th November 2023 - am

14th November 2023 - 2:15pm

15th November 2023 - all day

15th November 2023 - 9:15am

16th November 2023

17th November 2023 - all day

21st November 2023 - am

22nd November 2023 - 9:15am

24th November 2023 - 9:00am

24th November 2023 - 10:00am

25th November 2023

28th November 2023

29th November 2023 - all day

Please send in donations for our Harvest Collection

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

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

Year 1L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Luke

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

KSI Autumn Masquerade Disco in Parish Centre

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

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Flu immunisations

Reception Welcome Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome

Parent Consultation Evening

PTA circus workshops in school

INSET Day - school closed to children

Half Term Holiday

Grateful and Generous

Children return to school at normal time

Poetry Week for Remembrance and Holy Souls

Year 4M non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Martin de Porres

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

Whole School Remembrance and Holy Souls Mass in Church (Parents welcome)

Social Media Kindness Day

U11s boys' football match

Year 4 Prayer Service for all Year 4 parents

Interfaith Week

Anti-bullying week

Odd Socks Day for Down Syndrome Awareness

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

Phonics Early Reading Workshop for parents

Year 6R non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Ruth

Year 6 Mass for Year 6 parents in school hall

St. Mary's Open Day for Reception class 2024 (10:30) or (1:45)

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

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

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

Year 5 Year group Assembly

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

Parish Fete

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

INSET Day - school closed to children

# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Daphne	For being a wonderful role model this week and being such a kind, patient friend
Year RT	Isabella	For being such a wonderful role model and friend to others!
Year IF	Josie	For always working hard!
Year IL	Joseph	For working hard and always trying his best!
Year 2E	Waran	For working hard and always trying his best!
Year 2G	George	For being a wonderful role model who always tries his best!
Year 3L	Adadike	For her super effort and writing in English!
Year 3T	Amelia	For always working hard and being a considerate friend!
Year 4J	Isla	For always being a super role model and behaving how a St Mary's pupil should.
Year 4M	Cara	For always being ready to learn and enthusiastic about her work.
Year 5F	Erina	For excellent writing and being very diligent in all of her subjects
Year 5M	Eyobel	For amazing writing across all subjects
Year 6O	Jahzi	For excellent focus and concentration
Year 6R	Audrey	for wonderful RE work about why Mass is so important to Catholics.



*Mrs Yorke loves looking at all the best pieces of work when children receive star of the week. Such wonderful writing going on. Well done children.*