



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: 'Stewardship'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Eloquent and Truthful'



Dear parents and carers,

31st May 2024

In the final week of the half term, we thought about Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Our preparations were particularly special for Year 6 as they made their Confirmation on the Tuesday evening. It was lovely to welcome Bishop David Evans in to school and he was very impressed with the knowledge of the children. Thank you to all those involved in preparing our Year 6 children for their Confirmation - may they always be guided to make the right choices by the Holy Spirit and watched over by their chosen Saint.

The final week of the half-term was also special for Year 2 children as they completed their assessments. Well done Y2! When we return on Monday, please ensure that children are wearing correct school uniform. We have lots of opportunities for the children to represent the school in Summer term and we will not send children who are not following the Uniform policy. If you have any issues with uniform, please speak to a member of SLT.

Also, as the warmer weather is now hopefully here, please make sure that children have a water bottle and if needed, send your children in to school wearing sun screen and with a hat. Please make sure that the hat does not have any logos on it. I would like to thank you all for your support this half term and hope that you are having a wonderful break. We will see you on Monday 3rd June for our final half-term of the school year.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

John 20:22

'After saying this, He breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit".'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Pentecost was when God sent His Holy Spirit to the Disciples
- The Holy Spirit comes to us too, as our helper
- The Holy Spirit helps us to bring peace and forgiveness to the world



Come Holy Spirit

*Fill the hearts of your faithful,
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the Earth.*

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Reception Mass - 22.5.24 - Pentecost

Reception class showed so much of their understanding in their Mass to parents - all about Pentecost and the birthday of the Church.



Year 1 Mass for Sacred Heart of Jesus - 3.6.24

Year 1 will be leading Mass on Wednesday 5th June at 9.15am in the School Hall. Parents of Year 1 children are invited to attend.



Year 6 Confirmation

Thank you to all those involved in preparing our Year 6 children for their Confirmation. We will continue to pray for all the children as they continue on their journey with Christ.



WB 20.5.24

Reception news: -

Mathematicians in Reception class have been exploring rekenreks this week!



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 had a lovely morning at the library.



Year 2 news: -

This week, Year 2 did their assessments in the morning and their Stewardship work on the afternoon.



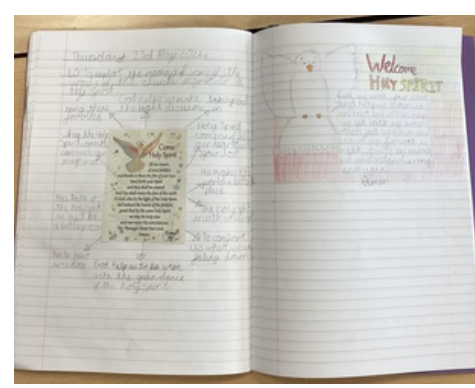
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 led a beautiful collect worship all about Pentecost.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 listened to songs about the Holy Spirit in different languages. They celebrated the birthday of the Church and wrote their own 'Come Holy Spirit' prayer.



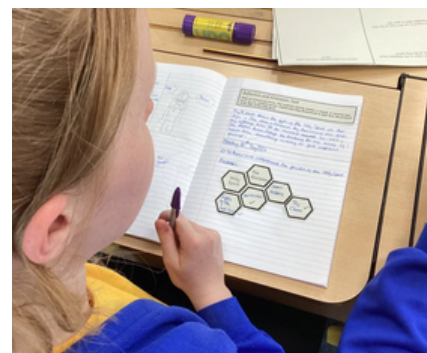
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 enjoyed their dodgeball lessons with Bishop Challoner and improving their ball skills. They used these skills in team games, competing against each other and had so much fun. They have also made amazing progress in their ukulele lessons.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 checked each other's understanding of the Pentecost story by using five hexagons to create connections and explain their choices.

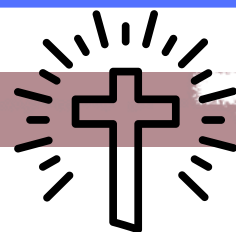


Extra-Curricular

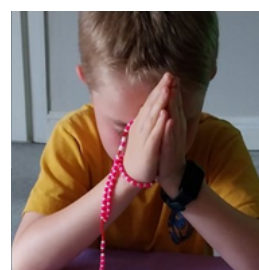


Year 5 had an amazing experience with a visit from the Mobile Planetarium. They had the chance to fly across space, learning about the differences in our planets in the Solar System and had wonderful questions to ask.

Catholic Life



Thomas made flowers for Our Lady during his prayer time at home.



Stewardship



This week was 'Walk to School' week and gave us the perfect opportunity to showcase our stewardship work to one another and to explain the differences we are making to look after our 'common home'. Year 6 launched our week in our Prayer and Liturgy assembly. Then, throughout the week they



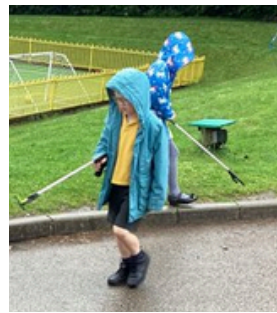
kept a tally of how the whole school gets to school - children were encouraged to try and reduce their carbon footprint by walking, scooting or riding a bike to school this week.

Reception

Reception invited our special guest and site manager, Mr Reid, to the Grand Bug Ball on Friday afternoon. We want to look after the insects! They had a great time dancing together and then they officially opened the Reception Grand Bug Hotel! We now have a safe place for insect and bugs to live in our outdoor area.



Year 1



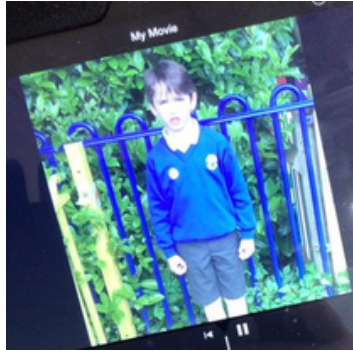
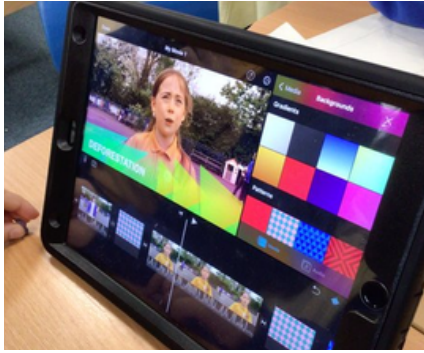
Year 1 have been out learning how they can be stewards and protect the environment. They didn't let the rain stop them from making a difference.

Year 2



Year 2 spent their afternoons collecting plastic litter around the school grounds and local area and used this to create a piece of artwork. They wanted to make sure that the waste plastic did not end up in landfill or our beautiful oceans.

Year 3



Year 3 filmed and edited videos all about deforestation. They thought about whether we are developing or damaging the Earth. As stewards of the Earth, we must act now to save our trees.

Year 4



Children in Year 4 did an amazing job of collecting change for their charity, Water Aid! They collected loose change in their water bottles and completed a 'Water Cycle' during our Walk to School Week.



Mathew and Matthias took their fundraising for Water Aid out in to the community.



Year 5

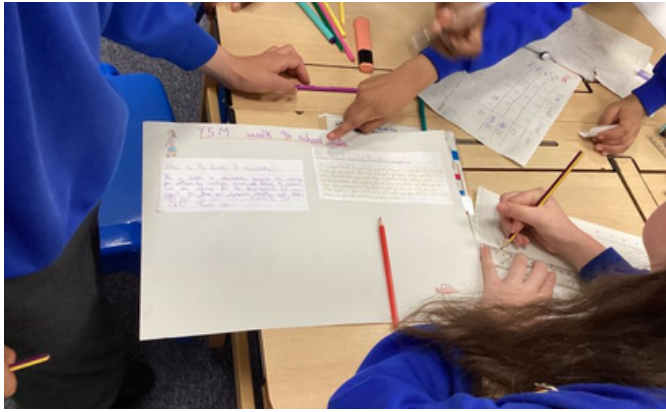
Year 5 presented their pop-up books about river pollution to Reception children to inspire them to be caretakers of our rivers. Reception children had a go at testing the sliders and levers in the books.



Year 6

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

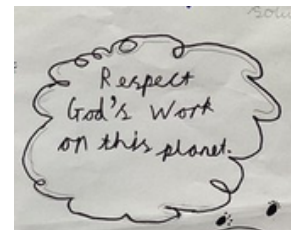
20-25 MAY 2024 WEEK



Year 6 visited every class in school to present the findings of our Walk to School Week data and to highlight the importance of reducing our carbon footprint.



They then created bright and captivating presentation posters to present their Walk to School findings to the rest of the school.



Well done to all the children who made an effort to walk to school, or scoot, or ride a cycle... even in the rain. So many children made an enormous effort.





Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 4.6.24

Year 3 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

3T will leave at 8:50am

3L will leave at 10:20 am

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

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers

RSE talks for parents

Tuesday 6th June 2:30pm for Reception and KS1 parents

Wednesday 7th June 2:30pm for KS2 parents

Next week, Miss Heath will deliver RSE (Relationships, Sex Education) and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Economics) workshops for parents.

Letters have been emailed out for further information.



DDay 80th Anniversary

Thursday 6th June 2024

We will be remembering the Normandy landings on Thursday 6th June and praying for those who lost their lives.

Children may wear an item of remembrance on DDay with their uniform.

World Ocean Day - Friday 7th June 2024

On Friday 7th June, we will be joining other supporters of Ocean Action across the World in campaigning for protection for our blue planet. Our work links directly with our over-arching Stewardship theme and Pope Francis' Laudate Si' encyclical. Children are allowed to wear their own 'blue' clothes on Friday and we welcome a £1 donation to go towards the Ocean Foundation.



Staff news

Congratulations



Massive congratulations to Mrs Detheridge-Whitehouse and her new husband.

The sun was shining on them during their wedding over half-term break.

We wish them every happiness in their marriage.

FUNDRAISER For Lucy Currier's Wheelchair

Coffee Morning & Book Exchange

Sunday 26 May, 10.30am-12.30pm
St Mary's Parish Hall
Vivian Road, Harborne



Fundraiser

26th May 10:30am-12:30pm

Lucy's story: Lucy has cerebral Palsy - she cannot move without assistance as her hands, arms, legs and feet are affected. She cannot walk as she doesn't have the muscle tone or coordination which leads to stiffness and pain. If Lucy isn't in her wheelchair, she's in bed.

Lucy has recently trialled the Q700UP standing powered wheelchair, which will significantly improve life for her - we want to help Lucy raise money to get this life-changing wheelchair.

Your help would be gratefully appreciated.

To donate to Lucy's Go-Fund-Me page: [gofund.me/d15bb25f](https://www.gofundme.com/d15bb25f)

A colorful poster for 'ST MARY'S PARISH SUMMER FETE' with a 'CARNIVAL THEME'. The event is on 'SUNDAY 7TH JULY 12-3PM' at 'VIVIAN ROAD, HARBORNE'. Activities listed include 'ANIMAL MAN', 'STEEL BAND', 'STILT WALKER', 'GAMES', 'DELICIOUS FOOD', 'RAFFLE', 'STALLS: BOOKS, TOYS, GOOD AS NEW, JEWELLERY', and 'AND LOTS MORE.'. It encourages people to 'COME IN CARNIVAL FANCY DRESS' and features illustrations of various carnival games and people in costumes. A 'GAMES' logo is at the bottom right, and it says 'Fundraiser for St Mary's Parish' at the very bottom.

St. Mary's Parish Fete - 7th July 2024
Please take note of the date for our Parish Fete. Complete with fancy dress, entertainment, food, drinks, stalls and a raffle. We look forward to seeing many of our families and children.

Carnival theme



Water bottles

Please make sure that your child brings their water bottle in to school every day. This is particularly important as the weather is getting warmer. Water bottles should not be glass or heavy metal for health and safety reasons.

Registration for Grammar Schools open – Year 5 pupils

Registration is now open for parents of current Year 5 pupils who would like their child to sit the entrance test for The Grammar Schools in Birmingham, for entry to Year 7 in September 2025. Registration can be made online by visiting the website below.

The closing date for registering is **4pm on Friday 28th June 2024**.
The test will take place on Saturday 14th September 2024.

westmidlandsgrammarschools.co.uk

Packed Lunches

Please make sure that packed lunches are suitable for school: –

- They should be healthy – a small sugary snack is allowed, alongside fruit and yoghurts.
- Cutlery – children must not bring in items that can be deemed dangerous, such as knives. Please pre-prepare anything that may need chopping.
- Containers – children (and staff) are struggling to open the thermos containers that some children are using for their lunch. Please ensure that containers can easily be opened (ideally by your child).



Non-School Uniform Dress Code

Please ensure that your children are still dressed appropriately on non-school uniform days. This includes: –

- No very short skirts or shorts
- No bare mid-ribs or crop tops
- No Flip-flops or backless footwear (due to health and safety issues)
- No excessive make up or jewellery
- No clothing which reveals underwear
- No clothing with offensive logos



Well-being

Chizi in Year 6 has been working really hard at break times to complete this 1000-piece Pokémon jigsaw puzzle over the past term and he has completed it this morning! What a star!



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



Minimum age is 13 years old for a reason

The minimum age to create a WhatsApp account is 13 years old! It is important to note that WhatsApp relies on the honesty of the children and family to adhere to the age restrictions. Other social media services like Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Musical.ly, and Skype also require users to be at least 13 years old to access and use their services. These age restrictions are to ensure the safety for your children. Please ensure that children are not exposed to any conversations that are being had on WhatsApp groups about school too. Thank you.



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.

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 20/05/24-24/05/24

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96.3	86.3	95.6	99.3	92	97.3	99.3	94	97.3	97.3	99	94	96.4	94.4
Lates	11	14	5	3	0	1	2	0	0	3	5	1	1	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%			School Target			97%		

Well done 3L and 1E: - Our Joint attendance champions!

Dates for next term

Summer theme -

Summer 2

3rd June 2024 - all day

WB 3.6.24

4th June 2024 - am

4th June 2024 - 2:30pm

5th June 2024 - 9:15am

5th June 2024 - 2:30pm

6th June 2024 - all day

7th June 2024 - all day

WB 10.6.24

WB 10.6.24

11th June 2024 - am

12th June 2024 - all day

12th June 2024 - 9:15am

13th June 2024 - all day

14th June 2024 - pm

17th June - 19th June

19th June 2024 - 9:15am

25th June 2024 - am

2nd July 2024 - am

Stewardship

Learned and Wise

Children return to school at normal time

Year 4 Multiplication check window - 3 weeks

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (8:50 3T and 10:20 3L)

RSE talk for parents - KS1

Year 1 Mass ONLY for Year 1 parents in school hall

RSE talk for parents - KS2

DDay 80th Anniversary - children can wear an item of remembrance with uniform

World Ocean Day

Phonics check for Year 1 this week

Money Week

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (8:50 2E and 10:20 2G)

Sarehole Mill Trip - Y5F

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

Sarehole Mill Trip - Y5M

Year 6 Fathers' Day Inspire

Year 6 residential

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

Reception class visit to Harborne library (8:50 RB and 10:20 RT)

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:50 1L and 10:20 1F)

Star of the week

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

- Year RB Nathan *Excellent reading and writing this week*
- Year RT Chiamaka *Starting St. Mary's so confidently and sharing her ideas with others*
- Year IF Kenneth *Being a fantastic role model and trying hard with all his work*
- Year IL Chloe *Trying her best in everything*
- Year 2E Eliana *Excellent maths, reading and spelling this week*
- Year 2G Maya *Always having an 'I can' attitude to her learning*
- Year 3L Sienna *Follows the school rules, has excellent behaviour and always tries her best*
- Year 3T Daniel, Amelia, Yadiel *Superb organisation of the class reading corner*
- Year 4J Matthew, Matthias *Going above and beyond for our theme of Stewardship and collecting for Water Aid*
- Year 4M Rudi *Super English writing*
- Year 5F Prince *Using his Science knowledge during our Planetarium session*
- Year 5M Ethan *Amazing knowledge during our Planetarium visit*
- Year 6O Jotham *Listening carefully to his feedback in English, leading to an improvement in writing*
- Year 6R Yisen *For a positive transition back to school after some time away*

