



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.

March is dedicated to St. Joseph

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Dignity of Work'
Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Attentive and Discerning'



Dear parents and carers,

7th March 2025

A massive thank you to all of our parents and visitors for giving up their time to talk to the children this week about the range of careers available to them. The children really enjoyed the talks and had lots of questions and opportunities to explore with our leaders, what they would like to do when they are all grown up. Our visitors gave wonderful feedback and thank you to Miss Busby for organising our careers week in school.

The children also really enjoyed our World Book Day event - they spent the day 'comfy' in their lounge wear and pyjamas and we posted lots of photos on our social media as we celebrated the enjoyment of reading. Thank you again to all parents who donated cakes. Our cake sale went exceptionally well and we raised £385 in one afternoon. The funds raised will go to Book Aid.

Spiritually, we have entered the season of Lent this week. The entire school gathered for our Ash Wednesday Mass and received the ashes as a sign that we repent for the times that we get things wrong and want to try harder during this season to grow closer to Jesus. Each class have been set a home learning project for Lent. Details are in the class newsletters - link sent by email on Wednesday or can be found on our school website under the 'news' tab - 'March'.

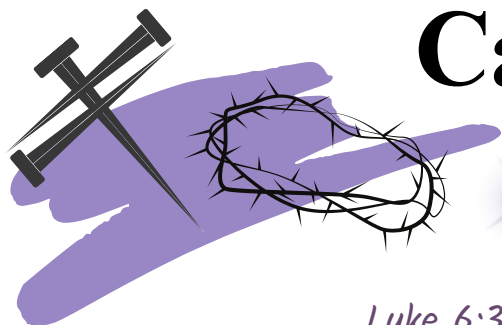
Throughout Lent, we are also participating with the CAFOD lent walk for our social action and charity work. Over the next 5 weeks, the children will walk 200km - they will post their miles and we hope to meet our target in sponsorship money - please sponsor us: -

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-catholic-primary-school-fundraising-page>

We are also sending home Lent prayer bags that have been made up by the Spiritual Council. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray as a family and we would love to see your photos. Please email them in to enquiry or post on X using our @StMaryB17.

*Have a lovely weekend,
God bless, Mrs Yorke*

Catholic Life



Luke 6:39

"Jesus told his disciples a parable..."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus used parables to help explain holy things,
- Jesus' parables show us how to live and love others the way God wants us to,
- In Jesus' parables we look beyond the surface, to see the special meaning.



Reception Mass - 12.2.25
- Our Lady of Lourdes

With their buddies, Reception class led us in a beautiful Mass dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes.



Our next Mass: - Year 4 Mass - 1st week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 12th March 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 4 will be leading this Mass and Year 3 will also be in attendance. All parents are welcome to attend.



Lenten Prayer bags



As we have now entered the liturgical season of Lent, our wonderful Spiritual Council have prepared our Lent prayer bags. We hope that you enjoy using them with your children to support your reflection time and prayer at home. Please tweet any pictures of them being used and tag us in [@StMaryB17](https://twitter.com/StMaryB17)



Catholic Life

Our teachers led prayer and liturgy assemblies to teach us more about how to prepare for Lent. We reflected on how we can be more like Jesus at this special time of prayer and shared what we are going to give up and what we are going to try to do more of.



Following pancake fun on Shrove Tuesday, we began our Lent journey by receiving the ashes on our foreheads.

Our St. Mary's Spiritual Council attended a 'World Day of Prayer' service at St Mary's Church today, led by Christian women from the Cook Islands. They learnt Māori words during the service. Kia orana! †



*Catholic Social Teaching
Building the Kingdom
The Dignity of Work*

Year 6 took to the high street this week for their Marvellous Middle for Catholic Social Teaching - they thanked all those who work for our community.



Remarkable RE award

We are celebrating these children, who received the Remarkable RE award this week!

We are very proud of the children's work and thoughtful responses in RE lessons.

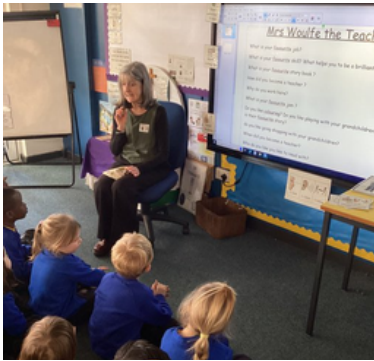


Careers Week

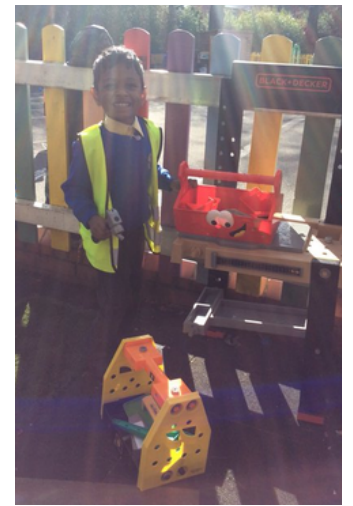
The staff and children would like to say a massive thank you to all our visitors, volunteers and parents who gave up their time to talk to us this careers week.

We have learnt so much in such a short amount of time.

Thank you Miss Busby for all of your hard work in organising our Careers Week.



Special visitors from our staff team! They have been asking lots of great questions to learn more about different jobs and how they help our school community



exploring different professions and discussing what they'd like to be when they grow up



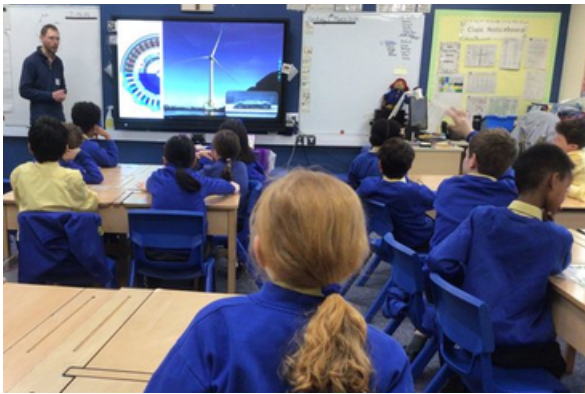
Dr Veronica came to visit and spoke to the children about what the job of a dentist involves. The children learnt all about how to look after their teeth as well as what foods to try to avoid!



Also this week, our children enjoyed a very relaxing afternoon learning about the benefits of holistic therapy.



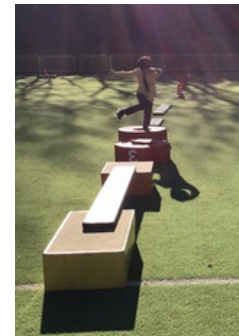
We have learnt all about taxation and what it is like to work for the HMRC.



We learnt from Mrs Galloway all about her career in the Bank of England. We were surprised to learn that although the bank stores lots of gold bars, they only own two.



Listened intently to Mr Packer as he told us all about his career as a mechanical engineer.



And we loved role-playing the role of a judge and client with a real barrister



We also enjoyed finding out about what life in the armed forces would be like and completing our drills and fitness tests.



And hearing about the rewarding work that Brendan and other volunteers do to help asylum-seekers. From teaching English to organising fund raising campaigns to making welcoming cups of tea.

World Book day

We had such an exciting World Book Day in school. Thank you to Mrs Noone for organising.



A relaxing day for the staff?

Our staff enjoyed wearing comfortable pyjamas and dressing gowns for World Book Day.



Reception listened to the illustrator Axel Scheffler read a story and joined in with him to draw characters from it! They also listened to Julia Donaldson read 'Tiddler' and retold the story to each other

Reading for pleasure

20 minutes a day

Research proves the benefits of listening to your child read for 20 minutes every day - this includes children who are in KS2. Reading with a parent has proven benefits for supporting well-being too.

Remember - your child is never too old to read with you
#StMarysReads

Reading for pleasure



20 is plenty!

Children who read for 20 minutes a day...

Will have a world of imagination & creativity opened to them

Will have better general knowledge

Will be exposed to 1.8 million words a year

Will improve critical thinking skills

Will improve their communication skills

Will have a broad vocabulary

Will have reduced stress levels

Will learn how to develop empathy

Will improve their test results



PIC-COLLAGES

Our girls have enjoyed their big football day with Coach Red and his team today. Thank you for volunteering your time to support a passion for girls' football.



Some of the girls from KS2 took part in the Girls Biggest Football Event yesterday at Newman University. Another fantastic day of girls' football!

ST.MARYS SCHOOL PTA ARE HOSTING OUR
SPRING HOP DISCO

St.Mary's Parish Centre

FRIDAY 28TH MARCH 6.30-8.30PM

Tickets- Child £4 Adult £2

Come and have fun with lots of dancing, toys, crafts, sweets and food



**PTA event: -
Spring Hop Disco**

Tickets will be on sale from the PTA team next week.

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:



Amy Davis	Louise Yorke	Rachel Jones	Rachel Richards	Sharon Tame	Laura Noone	Jade Preedy
Deputy Headteacher	Headteacher	Senior Teacher	EYFS Lead	School Counsellor	AHT	AHT
Lead DSL	Deputy DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL

Alternatively, email DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

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 03/03/25-07/03/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96.3	95.6	98.6	100	97	98.6	96	97	98	99.3	98.3	98.6	96.2	92.6
Lates	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.5%			School Target			97%		

Well done 1F: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

WB 10.3.25

11th March 2025 - am

12th March 2025 - all day

12th March 2025 - 9:15am

14th March 2025 - 9:15am

14th March 2025 - 2:30pm

17th March 2025 - all day

18th March 2025 - am

19th March 2025 - 9:15am

20th March 2025 - all day

21st March 2025 - all day

24th March 2025 - 1:30pm

25th March 2025 - am

26th March 2025 - 9:15am

27th March 2025 - all day

28th March 2025 - 9:00am

1st April 2025 - am

1st April 2025 - pm

2nd April 2025 - 9:15am

3rd April 2025 - pm

8th April 2025 - all day

9th April 2025 - 9:30am

10th April 2025 - 9:00am

11th April 2025 - all day

WB 14.4.25

17th April 2025 - 11:00am

17th April 2025

Dignity of Work

Attentive and Discerning

British Science Week

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (8:45 2G and 10:15 2E)

Reception class trip to Attwell farm

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

Y2 Year group assembly

X-table check workshop for Year 4 parents

INSET day - school closed for all pupils

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:45 1L and 10:15 1F)

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

One life Pilgrims of Hope Retreat for whole school

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

Year 6 Confirmation Workshop with parents

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

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

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

Year 6 prayer service for parents

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

Parent Consultation Evening

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Year 2 school trip - Coal mining tour

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

Reception prayer service for parents

Year 3 school trip to Birmingham Art Gallery

Holy Week

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

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

Star of the week

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

- Year RB Summie For helping to prepare our prayer table for Lent
- Year RT Kian For always being a kind and hardworking member of the class
- Year IF Natan For working hard in all areas, excelling with his reading and displaying excellent behaviour all week
- Year 1L Stefan For being attentive to both adults and children and sharing his excellent learning ideas with the class
- Year 2E Charlie For a great attitude to learning and trying hard in all lessons. Well done Charlie.
- Year 2G Shawn For being an amazing role model to the rest of the class
- Year 3L Fabio For trying really hard with his writing and handwriting!
- Year 3T Sophia For showing great behaviour this week both in the classroom and on the playground
- Year 4J Michael For being an excellent role model to the rest of his class
- Year 4M Isaac Great learning in Geography
- Year 5F Alicia Reading beautifully in the Ash Wednesday whole school Mass.
- Year 5M Aadya For a beautiful reading during Ash Wednesday whole school Mass.
- Year 6O Chisom For making great progress with his maths
- Year 6R Aoife For trying hard to overcome fears and attempt more challenging tasks

