



Archdiocese of Birmingham  
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
 SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price 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.

## December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'The Dignity of the Human Person'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Learned and Wise'



Dear parents and carers,

17th December 2021

*As we break up today for Christmas, we reflect on everything that has been achieved this term and give thanks for all the opportunities we have shared in and the learning that has taken place. We continue to live in difficult times and I would like to take this time to thank the staff for their dedication to the school and children as we have endeavoured to provide a version of school life that is as close to 'normal' as possible. This weekend, we enter in to the fourth week of Advent. Our fourth candle symbolises 'Peace' and we reflect on the message of the Angels 'Peace on Earth, good will to all'. I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. I pray that you all get to safely spend time with your families and I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. Happy Christmas.*

Miss Louise Price

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

*Luke 1: 26-38*

*'I baptise you with water but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of His sandals; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'*

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

- we are called to welcome Jesus through our words and actions, at Christmas and beyond
- Jesus changes those who invite Him into their lives

Dear Jesus,

*We are getting ready to welcome you. Help us to be more like you in our words and actions this Christmas. Thank you for helping us to know you more and more.*

*Amen*

### Catholic Life in School

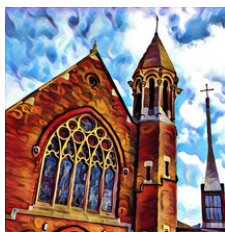
#### Whole school Mass for Christmas - 17.12.21

*Today the whole school came together to celebrate the Christmas Mass. Our Year 6 pupils, Bobbie and Tom, played the piano for us and the choir sang the final hymn. It was the perfect end to our Autumn term.*



#### Whole School Mass in Church - 6.1.22 at 9:30am - Epiphany

Our next Mass in Church will be for **pupils only** on Wednesday 6th January at 9:30am. All pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and **parents will be able to watch via the livestream.**



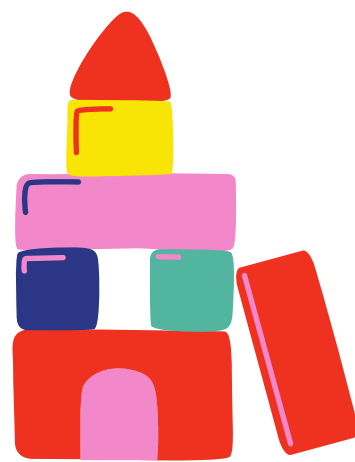


Advent  
prayer...  
at home

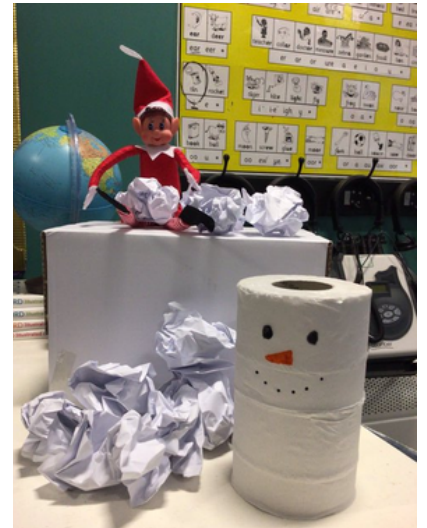


## Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas

Thank you for your donations. The toys will make a real difference to children who have very little this Christmas.



# Final week of mischievous elves



The elves have been incredibly naughty this week - they even broke in to Miss Price's office and made a terrible mess - oooops!



## Time to pack them back off to the North Pole



In Collective Worship this week YRL made handprints as a promise to open our hearts to Jesus this Christmas. They used them to make a birthday card for Jesus!

# Nativities

The children have enjoyed performing the nativities this week to their parents. So much fun was had by everybody and lovely messages were given about preparing our hearts and minds for Jesus.

## WRIGGLY NATIVITY

Being so excited for Jesus' birthday that we just can't keep still.



## BETHLEHEM'S BUZZIN'

Join our Holy Family as they look for room at the Inn so that Mary can have her child.



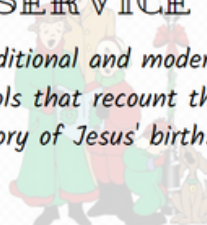
## BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem the Musical: a story of how opening our hearts to others is the true gift of Christmas.



## CAROL SERVICE

Traditional and modern carols that recount the story of Jesus' birth.



Also this week, children who are learning to play an instrument have had the opportunity to play for an audience. Clara in Year 2F played her violin for her classmates and the children learning to play the guitar and piano put on a mini-concert for their parents.



Year RF have been creating their own Nativity scenes at home. They are beautiful!



Reception news: -

Reception class have been decorating Christmas trees in their art lessons.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been learning about programming. The children programmed the Beebots, giving specific instructions to travel from A to B.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been composing songs on the glockenspiels.



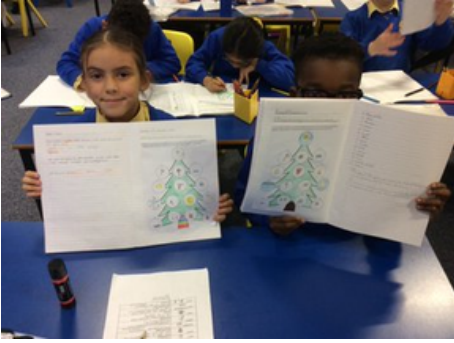
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 designed canopic jars in the style of famous designers: Clarice Cliff, Picasso and Joan Miro.



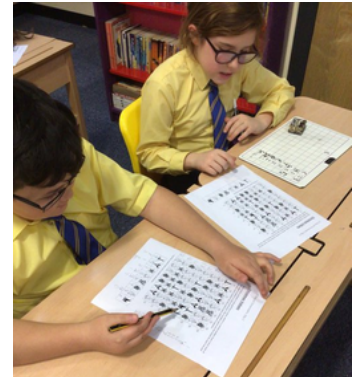
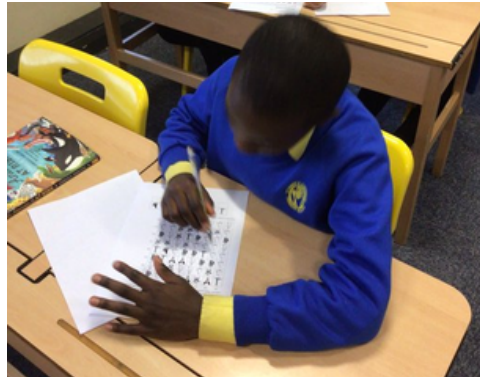
*Year 4 news: -*

Year 4 have been debating about the use of plastic and whether plastic bags should be used or not.



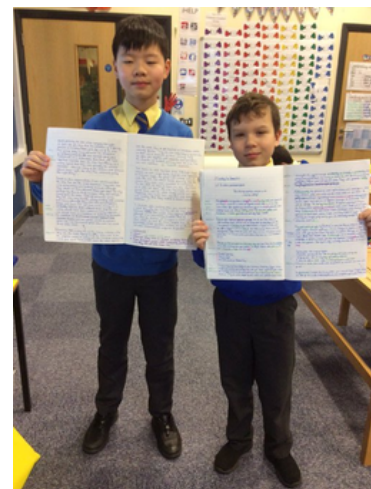
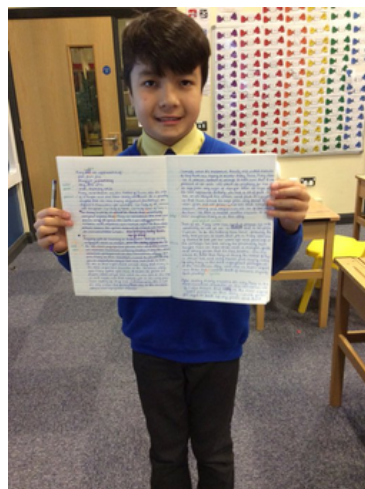
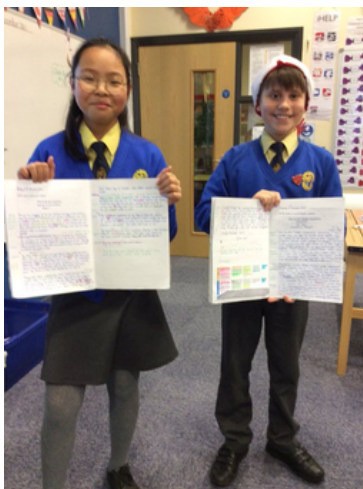
*Year 5 news: -*

Year 5 have been working very hard on their Christmaths problems.



*Year 6 news: -*

Year 6 have completed Persuasive Speeches on 'Who is the most important character in the Christmas story?' They were very persuasive!

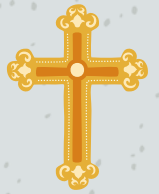




*St Mary's Parish Christmas Mass times:*

*Christmas Eve Friday 24th: 6.00pm (families, folk music);  
8.30pm (organ, choir) - both these are 'Midnight' Masses;*

*Christmas Day 25th: 8.00am; 9.30am (families, folk music), 11.30am (organ).*



*Entry is by ticket only, (250 maximum at each Mass), tickets now only available for 8am and 11.30am on Christmas Day and can be obtained only after each of the Saturday/Sunday Masses this weekend, not from the Parish Office.*

*Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation programme*



If your child is preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, classes will run on Saturdays, beginning on the **8th January 2022**.

9:30 - 11:00 For Holy Communion

11:30 - 12:45 for Confirmation

Please collect a registration form from the priory office, if you are not yet registered.



*Help! A friendly local Care Home has real need of part- and full-time Carers, - and a cook! For details, see Fr John*

Reminders

*No dogs / smoking in the school grounds*

*Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed in the school grounds under any circumstances; whether on a lead or carried. This is due to health and safety reasons, and that some children are scared by dogs no matter the size. Thank you for your understanding with this.*

*In addition, we do not allow smoking of any sort, including vapes or e-cigarettes on the school grounds.*



No dogs allowed  
in the school  
grounds



NO SMOKING  
NO VAPING

**NO PARKING!**



Thank you to our parents who are being considerate with their parking. Unfortunately, we do have some parents who continue to park illegally on double yellow lines and in no stopping zones. We are also having complaints that parents are blocking / parking in private roads.

Many of our residents are elderly and this is not acceptable. Your information / car registration may be passed on to the police / city council, if you continue to park illegally. Please put the safety of our children and community first when parking.

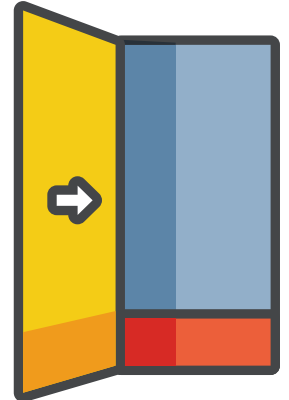


## SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022.  
All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

### Open door policy

We have an open door policy at St. Mary's. A member of SLT (Miss. Price, Mrs. Davis or Mrs. Jones) is available at the start and end of every day for quick queries - or if a meeting is needed, please arrange through the enquiry email or the office. SLT do not use e-schools in the same way teachers do, so please do not contact us on there, as your query may be missed. Thank you.



### Staffing news



*Mr. Wilson will be leaving us at the end of the term as he has a new job to be a teacher in another school, closer to home. I am sure that you will join us in wishing him all the best in his future career. Good luck Mr. Wilson and thank you for all that you have done here.*



*Miss Mott will be leaving her role as Class teacher to begin in a new role as an Academic Mentor. We wish Miss. Mott every bit of success in her new role and thank her for everything she has done for the children.*

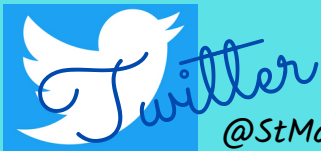


# KEEPING SAFE

## This is an Operation Encompass School

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.

### Online Safety



@StMaryB17

Stay up to date with everything that is happening at St. Mary's by following us on our Twitter Page and giving us more likes!!!

*Monitor how much time your child spends online and on devices*

*We live in a very digital world. "Children aged 5-15 now spend over 14 hours a week online, just over two hours a day" (Ofcom 2019).*

*As a parent, it will be up to you to decide how much time online is too much time. Use this website to help guide you.*

[https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/internet-safety.htm?](https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/internet-safety.htm?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=ad&utm_campaign=pp-online-safety)

[utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=ad&utm\\_campaign=pp-online-safety](https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/internet-safety.htm?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=ad&utm_campaign=pp-online-safety)

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?



YES

- If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PRC test), NOT a Lateral Flow test.
- If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PRC test.
- **If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.**



NO

- All children **MUST** attend school unless they are ill.
- From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid.
- Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.

# Term Dates

| Spring 1   | Spring 2  | Summer 1  | Summer 2  |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Bank Holiday</b></p> <p>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school</p> <p><b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February - INSET - Children NOT in School</b></p> <p>Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February</p> | <p>Starts: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February</p> <p><b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March - INSET - Children NOT in School</b></p> <p>Ends: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p> | <p><b>May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b></p> <p>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Children return to school</p> <p><b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Closed for Local Election Day</b></p> <p>Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May</p> | <p>Starts: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p><b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July - INSET - Children NOT in School</b></p> <p>Ends: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</p> <p><b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee</b></p> |
| <p><b>Half-Term:</b><br/>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022</p>   | <p><b>Easter Holiday:</b><br/>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p>   | <p><b>Half-Term:</b><br/>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022</p>  | <p><b>Summer Holidays:</b><br/>Start Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p>   |

## Dates for next half term

4th January 2022 - all day -  
 5th January 2022 - 9:30am -  
 12th January 2022 - 9:15am -  
 14th January 2022 - 9:15am -  
 19th January 2022 - 9:15am -  
 19th January 2022 - 9:15am -  
 26th January 2022 - 9:15am -  
 26th January 2022 - 9:15am -  
 28th January 2022 - 9:15am -  
 28th January 2022 - all day -  
 1st February 2022 - all day -  
 2nd February 2022 - 9:15am -  
 9th February 2022 - 9:15am -  
 11th February 2022 - 9:15am -  
 16th February 2022 - 9:15am -  
 18th February 2022

Children return to school  
 Whole School Epiphany Mass - children only - live-stream  
 Y3 Mass in Church (Y3 parents welcome)  
 Year 4F Class Assembly in school (4F parents welcome)  
 Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome)  
 Maths and Phonics workshop in school for Y1 parents  
 Y1 Mass in Church (Y1 parents welcome)  
 Maths and Phonics workshop in school for Y2 parents  
 Year 4L Class Assembly in school (4L parents welcome)  
 World Geography Day in school  
 INSET day - school closed for all pupils  
 YR Mass in Church (YR parents welcome)  
 Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome)  
 Year 3L Class Assembly in school (3L parents welcome)  
 Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome)  
 Last day in school - finish at normal time

# Star of the week

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

|         |         |  |
|---------|---------|--|
| Year RL | George  | always being a fantastic role model to the other children in his class       |
| Year RF | Horatiu | bringing joy and happiness to the classroom with his contagious smile        |
| Year 1L | Danny   | always trying his best and always being a fantastic role model               |
| Year 1F | Reese   | showing kindness to everyone and always trying her best                      |
| Year 2L | Emily   | being considerate and helpful  |
| Year 2F | Peter   | always trying his hardest when he reads with Mrs. Woulfe                     |
| Year 3L | Abigail | displaying the virtues all term and being enthusiastic in all that she does  |
| Year 3F | Violet  | making others smile all the time   |
| Year 4L | Jacob   | continuing to apply himself fully so that he continues to make good progress |
| Year 4F | Jay     | having beautiful manners   |
| Year 5L | Grace   | being a wonderful role model for others and showing kindness                 |
| Year 5F | Holly   | always giving 100% effort in all that she does                               |
| Year 6L | Bori    | persevering through challenges   |
| Year 6F | Alfie   | making excellent progress in reading   |



## Other awards

Well done to all the karate children who passed their gradings last week.



If your child is interested in starting karate after Christmas,  
please see the school office for a letter.

# Celebration Assembly

To conclude our term, we held two celebration assemblies in school today, where some children were selected to receive certificates from their teachers and others had the opportunity to show off awards they have received from extra-curricular activities. It is amazing to see how children are using their God-given gifts.



School is out – the elves  
have spoken!

**HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS**