



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

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121 464 2141

Email: [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

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

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,

3rd December 2021

As we enter the second week of Advent, we light our 'Bethlehem' candle representing faith. Next week, the children will be reminded of Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem. It is an exciting time in school, with school discos and nativity rehearsals, but also deep prayer and preparation. Our advent prayer bags have been going home and it wonderful to see photos of children praying with their families at home. This week, we continue our daily meditation and 'Walk with Me' journey as we continue to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Miss Louise Price

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

Luke 21: 25 - 28, 34 - 36

*“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.”*

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

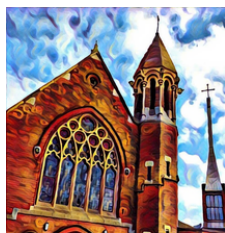
- Jesus is coming back again.
- The importance of standing tall for Jesus.

Dear Jesus,  
 thank you that you are coming back again. We don't know when you will come back, so please help us to stand tall and be ready for you.  
 Amen

### Catholic Life in School

#### Year 4 Mass - Advent Week 1 - Hope

Year 4 led us in a wonderful Mass for our first week of Advent. The first week of Advent symbolises hope and we are reminded that Jesus is coming.



*Whole School Mass in Church - 8.12.21 at 9:30am - Immaculate Conception*

Our next Mass in Church will be for **pupils only** on Wednesday 8th December, at 9:30am. All pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and **parents will be able to watch via the livestream.**



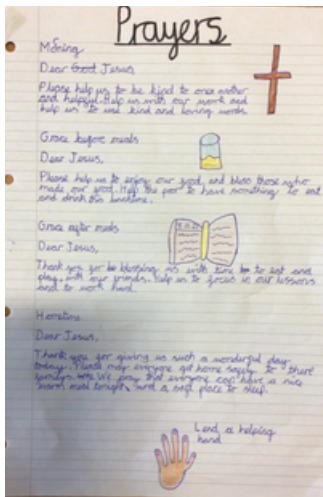
## Year 5L Class Assembly

In 5L's Class Assembly this morning, the children spoke about the importance of light during the season of Advent. They reminded us how Jesus, the light of the world, can inspire us to be the light for others.

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle." – St. Francis of Assisi.



## Advent prayer... at home



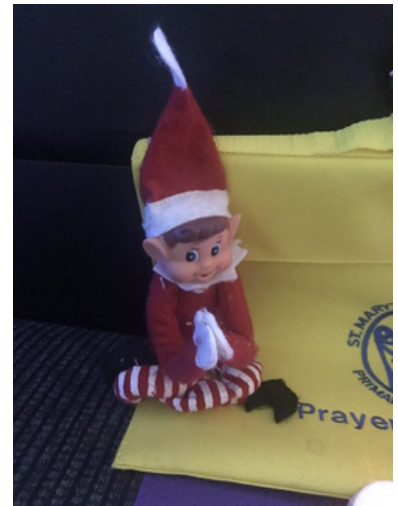
## and in school...







# The elves are here



*This week's news*

## WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP



**Thank you PTA**

The PTA put on a wonderful evening and everybody had a marvellous time making wreaths. With a festive mince pie and mulled wine too!





# Pantomime

**Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum!**

The children had a marvellous time at our Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime yesterday.



## Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas



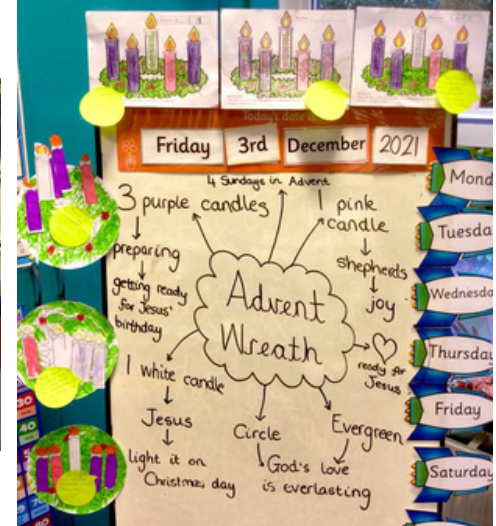
We need more toys to support families in Birmingham this Christmas.

We are accepting toys - new and unwrapped - and our final collection time is Wednesday 15th December.

Thank you for those who have donated so far.

### Reception news: -

Reception class have been learning about St Andrew's Day and about how we can be a disciple of Jesus through our words and actions. They have also been learning all about the advent wreath.



### Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been identifying the different features of a non-fiction text.





### Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have scripted, rehearsed, and performed the Annunciation for their class.



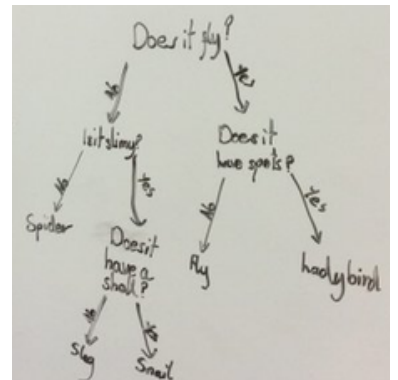
### Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have created their own Advent calendars based on the Walk with Me calendars from our prayer bags



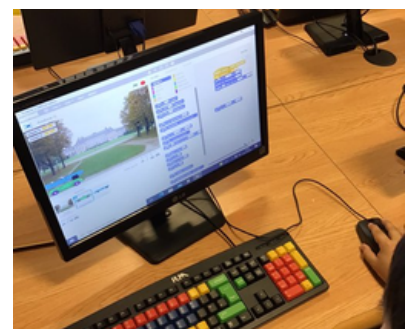
### Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have created classification keys in Science, identifying liquorice allsorts and then, creating a classification key of living things.



### Year 5 news: -

Year 5 are enjoying their computing lessons, designing games by writing code and debugging.





*Year 6 news: -*

Year 6 have been using their knowledge of ratio and proportion to measure out the ingredients for some tasty Maths Mocktails



The rain did not deter our Year 5 and Year 6 footballers and netballers this week. They played competitive games inside.

*Next Week*

*Discos...*

**We have our discos and non-school uniform days next week**

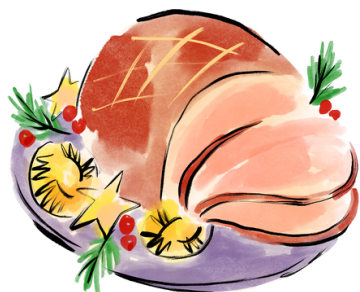
**Tuesday – Reception / Year 1 and Year 2**

**Wednesday – Year 3 and Year 4**

**Thursday – Year 5 and Year 6**

**Cost for disco and non-school uniform is £2.50**

**If you are just taking part in non-school uniform, the cost is £1.00**



*Christmas Dinner will be served on Thursday 9th December!*

*If your child normally brings in a packed lunch on a Thursday and would like to opt in for Christmas Dinner, please confirm that you would like your child to take part by filling in the reply slip on the letter sent home today. Any questions, please contact school office.*

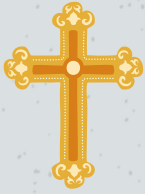
*Christmas Jumper Day*

*Next Friday 10th December children may come to school in festive clothing which may include a Christmas jumper/t-shirt or Christmas colours. Please ensure the children are dressed appropriately for the weather and wear shoes and a coat suitable for outdoor play. There is no charge.*





*9:30 family Mass*



St Mary's Sunday 9.30 Family Mass: Children of Reception Class age and pre-School children can go straight to the Parish Centre at 9.30am this Sunday for 15 minutes of the Children's Liturgy/Church before then going into the Church for rest of the Mass.

This is for the next few Sundays of Advent: 5, 12, 19 December.

*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.



*St. Mary's Piety Stall*

St Mary's Church Piety Stall, after 9.30am, 11am and 5pm Mass:  
Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Walk with Me booklets...and much more

*Reminders*

*Children photos for presents*



If you would like to order school photos of your children as Christmas presents, please make sure that you have placed your order in plenty of time to avoid disappointment.

Last order date to ensure delivery before Christmas is **5th December**.

*Correct Uniform*

The children should now be wearing their winter uniform i.e. shirts/blouses and ties.

We also ask that children come to school in their winter PE kit on the days that they have PE. Again children should be in uniform for PE which is black/blue plain jogging bottoms (not patterned / not another colour), yellow t-shirt, school jumper and **black trainers**.



*Jewellery*



To **ensure the safety of all children**, we will only allow children to wear small stud earrings (not dangly earrings) and a watch, on the days that they are not doing PE.

On PE days we are asking that children do not wear any jewellery, so that it is not lost if they are asked to remove it for physical lessons. Thank you for supporting us with this, your child's safety is at the forefront of our uniform decisions. .



## ***Additional school clubs***

We have several school clubs running in school now

### **Before school clubs**

Wednesdays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4

Thursdays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y4, Y5 and Y6

Fridays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2 and Y3 (*this club is full*).



### ***After school clubs***

*Mondays (3:20 – 4:20) – Rugby – For Y1 and Y2 (still spaces)*

*Wednesdays (3:30 – 4:30) – Netball – For Y5 and Y6*

*(3:30 – 4:30) – Football – For Y6*

*(3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y3*

*Thursdays (3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y4, Y5, Y6*



**Please be on time for karate as it disrupts the lesson when children are late**

## ***Milk***

If you would like to order milk for your child for the Spring term, you can do so next week on the school gateway.

The gateway will be open 6th – 10th December for orders.

Any questions, please contact the school office.



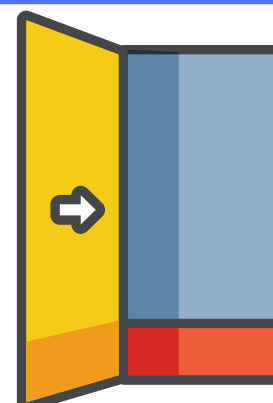
## ***SATs Week for Year 6***

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.



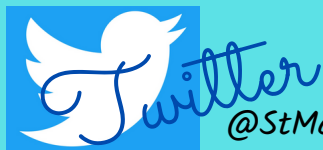


# KEEPING SAFE

## 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



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!!!

The children are talking about games that they are playing at home, which are for designed for children much older than primary age. These games can have inappropriate content and swearing in them. Please be aware as a parent/carer what games children are playing at home and who they might be talking to when interacting online. Not everybody online is who they say they are. For more advice on this visit

[www.askaboutgames.com](http://www.askaboutgames.com)

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.

### Dates for the diary

7th December 2021 - 3:15 - 4:15 -

8th December 2021 - 3:30 - 4:30

9th December 2021 - 3:30 - 4:30 -

9th December - all day

10th December 2021 - all day

17th December 2021

Reception and KSI disco in school (non-school uniform day)

Year 3 and 4 disco in school (non-school uniform day)

Year 5 and 6 disco in school (non-school uniform day)

Christmas dinner in school

Christmas jumper day and Fr. Christmas in school

Break up for Christmas break!

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KSI classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes



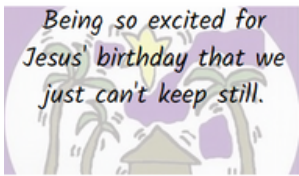


### Year Reception

13.12.21 at 9:30am  
in the Church

### WRIGGLY NATIVITY

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

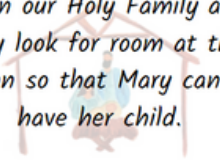


### Years 1 and 2

14.12.21 at 9:15am  
and at 2:15pm  
in the School hall

### BETHLEHEM'S BUZZIN'

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



### Years 3 and 4

15.12.21 at 9:15am  
and at 2:15pm  
in the School hall

### BETHLEHEM

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

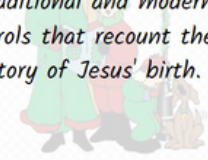


### Years 5 and 6

16.12.21 at 1:45pm  
in the Church

### CAROL SERVICE

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



Autumn Term 2021	Spring Term 2022	Summer Term 2022
<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Summer 1</b>
<p>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Children return to school</p> <p>Ends: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</p>	<p>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Bank Holiday</p> <p>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school</p> <p>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p>May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</p> <p>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Children return to school</p> <p>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Closed for Local Election Day</p> <p>Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May</p>
<p><b>Half-Term:</b> Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021</p>	<p><b>Half-Term:</b> Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022</p>	<p><b>Half-Term:</b> Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022</p>
<b>Autumn 2</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>	<b>Summer 2</b>
<p>Starts: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November Ends: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>Starts: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February</p> <p>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Ends: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p>	<p>Starts: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July - INSET - Children NOT in School</p> <p>Ends: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</p> <p>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee</p>
<p><b>Christmas Holidays:</b> Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021</p>	<p><b>Easter Holiday:</b> Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p>	<p><b>Summer Holidays:</b> Start Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p>

Term Dates



# Star of the week

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

Year RL	Vicky	<i>trying really hard in our Nativity practice.</i>
Year RF	Max	<i>fantastic effort and enthusiasm in reading.</i>
Year 1L	Peonya-Rose	<i>always being a wonderful role model and working super hard.</i>
Year 1F	Oscar	<i>always working hard and trying his best in all his work.</i>
Year 2L	Charlie	<i>being an excelling Angel Gabriel in English.</i>
Year 2F	Clara	<i>for learning our Nativity songs so well that she could them to Year 1.</i>
Year 3L	Rhoda	<i>her incredible efforts in every lesson.</i>
Year 3F	Hanna	<i>her enthusiasm and dedication towards her learning.</i>
Year 4L	Lilly	<i>an excellent piece of exciting writing.</i>
Year 4F	Ebubedike	<i>his fantastic attitude to learning in PE.</i>
Year 5L	Eloise	<i>being exceptionally helpful in the classroom and always trying her best.</i>
Year 5F	Ciaran	<i>being patient and kind with those around him.</i>
Year 6L	Amelia	<i>always working hard and trying her best in every lesson.</i>
Year 6F	Lucia	<i>excellent participation in English.</i>

