



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

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Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.

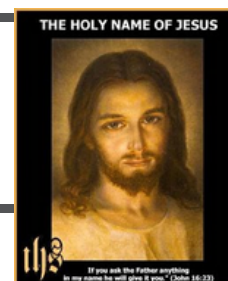


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Curious and active



Dear parents and carers,

16th January 2026

We have enjoyed another busy and productive week at St Mary's, filled with the kind of moments that remind us what a joyful and vibrant community we are. Classrooms have been alive with exciting learning, our assemblies have brought us together in reflection and celebration, and it has been wonderful to welcome so many of you into school for workshops. The children have also continued to lead us beautifully in prayer, creating a real sense of peace and purpose throughout the week.

Theme – Jesus' baptism

Our focus this week has been on Jesus' baptism and the lessons we can learn from it. Year 4 brought all of this learning together in a truly wonderful assembly this morning. Through song, Makaton signing, acting and prayer, they captured our mission, virtues and social action in just twenty minutes. It was a joy to watch – well done, Year 4.

Workshops for parents

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our Year 1 Early Reading workshop and our Year 6 SATs information session. Both events were very well attended, and we are so grateful for your continued support and partnership.

Drop-off for before school clubs

A reminder that the school office opens at 8:00am each day.

For clubs starting at 7:45am, a member of SLT will open the door from 7:40am. Please do not leave children unattended before this time or try to access the school building.

Lost-property

We currently have a large amount of lost property in the shelter. Please take a moment to look through it and collect anything that may belong to your child before items are donated to charity. Once collected, you can re-label items with your child's name. Clear labelling really helps us return belongings quickly and easily.

Thank you, as always, for your support and have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Yorke, Headteacher



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer



Matthew 3:16-17

"And when Jesus was baptised, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from Heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message, the children:

- **Know** that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all present at Jesus' Baptism;
- **Understand** that Jesus' Baptism makes a bold statement about who Jesus is – God's beloved Son;
- **Choose** to make a bold statement for God in how we live our lives.



Year 1 Mass - 14.1.26

The Baptism of the Lord

Year 1 led our assembly this week – they chose songs, prayers and created artwork to show all their learning about the Baptism of Jesus.



Our next Mass: – Year 5 Mass

Mass for Refugees

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 21st January 2026**, starting promptly at 9:15am.

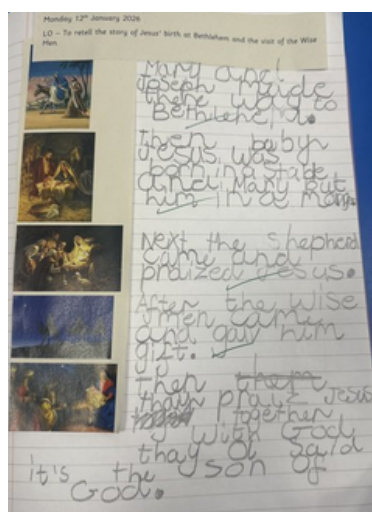
Year 5 will be leading us in our Mass, and Year 6 will also be in attendance.

All parents are welcome to join us.





Look at our wonderful RE learning this week: –



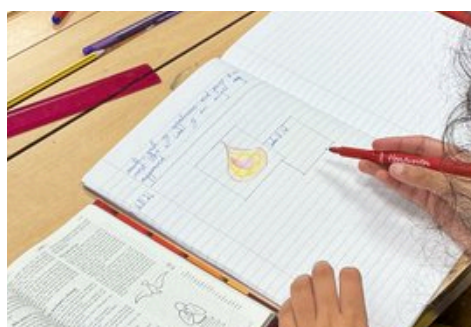
Year 1 have been retelling the birth of baby Jesus as well as the visit of the three wise men.



Year 4 have explored the angelic announcements of the births of Jesus and John the Baptist.



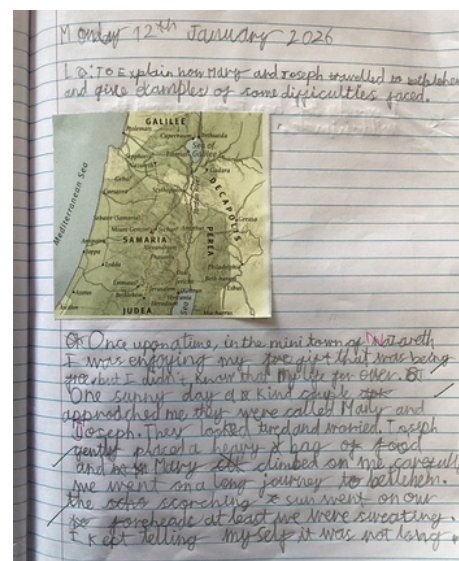
Reception are thinking about what it means to be curious and active in their learning.



Year 6 have been creating collages inspired by the titles given to Jesus in St. John's prologue.



Year 3 have been thinking about why the nativity scene is important to us, especially the crib. They have researched what Pope Francis said about the nativity scene and why St Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene.



Year 2 have been busy writing the journey of Mary, Joseph and Jesus as they travelled to Egypt. The children loved stepping into the donkey's shoes, retelling the story through his eyes and imagining the sights, sounds and feelings along the way.





Prayer

Prayer comes to us in so many ways...



when children come together to choose scripture to explore when leading child-led prayer;



with Mark 10 mission;



when advocating for how we should care for the vulnerable;



by attending Mass;



and when sharing the Gospel with our peers.



Year 4 Prayer Assembly – 16.01.26

Year 4 led a beautiful Assembly today on the theme of The Baptism of Jesus. They have been thinking about the links between this and our Catholic Social Teaching themes.





Year 4 loved their trip to Harborne library this week and choosing new books to read at home, as well as reading 'Iron Man in class'.

CURRICULUM

St. Mary's loves to **Read!**



Year 6 are enjoying their Guided Reading sessions based on this half-term's book 'Trash'.



Year 5 are excited by their new text - 'The Boy at the back of the Class'.



Reception class are enjoying their shared text 'The Magic Paintbrush', and Year 2 read in small groups for Guided Reading.



Our **Maths** learning is practical and fun!



Year 1 have been using ten frames to represent numbers and support them in their calculations; and Year 2 have been using counters to group in 2s.



Year 5 have been using counters to trial different methods of adding mixed fractions.



Year 2 have been exploring 3D shapes and looking for patterns when counting the faces.



Reception created practical ways of making 5.



Year 4 used base ten concrete resources to multiply by 10.



Year 3 used manipulatives when multiplying 2digit numbers by a 1 digit number.

Workshops



It was wonderful to see so much parent support for our early readers at the Phonics parent workshop on Tuesday.



Our Year 6 SATs workshop for parents was incredibly well attended yesterday. Thank you staff and parents.

Themed lunch



Mrs Brown outdid herself with a fantastic 'afternoon tea' themed lunch yesterday, complete with cake stands and a special fruity punch! What a treat for the children. We hope that they enjoyed it.

Celebrating our God-given gifts

We're so proud of Nibe', who won the Warwickshire junior chess open (under 8 category). He was the only one to win 5/5 games in that category, and was awarded a gold medal for being so wonderful! Congratulations Nibe' for using your God-given gifts.



Next week - WB 19.1.26



Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 20.1.26

Year 3 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

3L will leave at 8:45am

3T will leave at 10:15am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 3 staff know.

Reception Writing Workshop

Wednesday 21st January at 8:45am



On Wednesday 21st January at 8:45am, we are hosting a Writing Workshop for Reception parents in the school hall. At the workshop, we will share the strategies we use to help the children with writing in school. Following this, we will bring your children up to the hall so they can work with you and provide different resources for you to use with your child and help you to support your child with different writing tasks at home.

Year 4 multiplication check workshop for parents

Friday 23rd January at 2:30pm



On Friday 23rd January at 2:30pm, Year 4 parents are invited in to school to find out more about the statutory multiplication check that takes place in this year group. We will share the strategies we use to help the children with times tables in school. Following this, we will bring your children up to the hall so they can work with you practising their times tables. We hope to see many of you there.

PTA meeting - 8:00am on Monday 26th January 2026

Any parent can join us for a coffee and biscuit on Monday 26th January just before school begins - we will bring your children in early. This meeting will be to help plan future PTA events. Our PTA is instrumental in raising vital funds for school and we're always looking for new ideas and volunteers to join our exceptional team.



FILM CLUB

Tuesday 27th January
3.30-5.15pm KS2

Thursday 29th January
3.15-5pm. Reception KS1



Film evenings

Sign up to our film evenings, which will soon be upon us.

A great opportunity for the children to have a cosy afternoon with their friends with a drink and popcorn, whilst raising important funds for school.



Year 5 Prayer Service for parents - Friday 30th January 2026

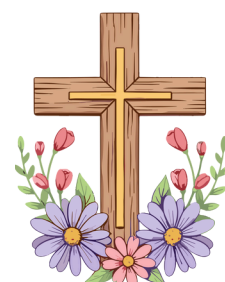
Year 5 parents are invited to join us for a beautiful Prayer Service in school on Friday 30th January at 9am, with a focus on 5M's patron - St Maximilian Kolbe. His witness to Christ's Resurrection inspires us to live with hope and courage, even in the face of adversity.

We look forward to welcoming you in to school.



Year 3 Assembly - Friday 6th February 2026 -

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 3 children into school on Friday 6th February, for their year group assembly.



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

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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:



Laura Noone
Lead DSL
DHT



Louise Yorke
Headteacher



Jade Preedy
AHT



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher



Sharon Tame
School
Counsellor



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Shania
Birchenall
SENDco

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 –
Attendance

Week 12/01/26-16/01/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96	98	98	98	96	96	96	97	96	100	98	99	97	97
Lates	3	5	1	0	3	4	3	7	0	4	0	0	0	6
Whole School Attendance so far this year						97.05%			School Target			97%		

Well done 4M: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for Spring term 2026

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

20th January 2026 - am

21st January 2026 - 8:45am

22nd January 2026 - 9:15am

23rd January 2026 - 2:30pm

26th January 2026 - 8:00am

27th January 2026 - am

27th January 2026 - am

27th January 2026 - 3:30pm

28th January 2026 - all day

29th January 2026 - 3:15pm

30th January 2026 - 9:00am

WB 2.2.2026

3rd February 2026 - am

4th February 2026 - 9:15am

6th February 2026 - all day

6th February 2026 - 9:15am

WB 9.2.26

9th February 2026 - all day

10th February 2026 - all day

10th February 2026 - all day

11th February 2026 - 9:15am

13th February 2026 - end of day

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Curious and Active

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

Early Writing Workshop for Reception parents

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

Year 4 multiplication-check workshop for parents

PTA meeting in school hall

Reception eye-screening check in school

Year 5 library visit - 5M (8:45) and 5F (10:15)

KS2 film evening

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

Reception classes and KS1 film evening

Year 5 prayer service for parents

Children's Mental Health Week

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

Reception Mass in Church (with Y6 buddies in attendance) - parents welcome

Number day - wear digits

Year 3 Year group Assembly

Online Safety Week

Year 4 school trip to Bosworth Battlefield

Safer Internet Day

Class photo day - ensure children are in full uniform

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

Break up for half-term break - normal time

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

23rd February 2026 - 8:45am

24th February 2026 - am

25th February 2026 - 9:15am

25th February 2026 - pm

27th February 2026 - 2:30pm

WB 2.3.26

4th March 2026 - 9:15am

5th March 2026 - all day

6th March 2026 - 9:15am

10th March 2026 - am

11th March 2026 - all day

11th March 2026 - 9:15am

13th March 2026 - all day

16th March 2026 - 9:15am 1:15pm

17th March 2026 - am

17th March 2026 - pm

18th March 2026 - 9:15am

19th March 2026 - pm

20th March 2026 - all day

24th March 2026 - am

24th March 2026 - 1:30pm

25th March 2026 - 9:30am

26th March 2026 - 9:00am

27th March 2026 - 6:30-8:30pm

WB 30.3.26

30th March 2026 - pm

1st April 2026 - 1:45pm

2nd April 2026 - 11:00am

2nd April 2026

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Intentional and Prophetic

Children return to school at normal time

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

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

Oliver Twist workshop for Year 6

Reception parent workshop about Maths

Careers Week / Vocations week

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

World book day - dress as your favourite book character

Year 2 Year group assembly

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

Reception school trip to Attwell farm

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

Year 2 trip to Black Country Living Museum

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

Parent Consultation Evening

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

Year 5 library visit - 5F (8:45) and 5M (10:15)

Year 6 Confirmation Workshop with parents

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

Year 6 prayer service for parents

PTA event - Spring Disco in Parish

Holy Week

Reconciliation Service for children in Years 4/5/6

Reception class - Easter Bonnet parade

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

Term Dates: - Academic Year 2025-2026

Autumn Term	Tuesday 2nd September - Thursday 23rd October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th December
Spring Term	Monday 5th January - Friday 13th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 23rd February - Thursday 2nd April
Summer Term	Monday 20th April - Friday 22nd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

School Closed:

- Monday 4th May 2026 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Friday 24th October 2025
- Monday 20th July 2026
- Tuesday 21st July 2026



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

Year RB	Mia-Grace	For always being helpful and for showing good listening to others!
Year RT	Boyang	For trying so hard to write his whole name independently this week!
Year 1F	Isobel	For her beautiful reading in Mass this week and showing consistent hard work in all lessons!
Year 1L	Joseph	For trying so hard with his handwriting!
Year 2E	Willow	For listening carefully and working super hard in all lessons!
Year 2G	Kori	For always working super hard in all aspects of her learning!
Year 3L	Anicet	For trying really hard in his work, asking for help and putting his hand up!
Year 3T	Reena	For always coming in with a smile and ready to learn every day.
Year 4J	Melissa	For always working hard to help others in lesson!
Year 4M	Vaanie	For starting her learning well in the new year and impeccable manners
Year 5F	Ioan	For being so helpful to our visiting teachers. It's really appreciated!
Year 5M	Daniel	For making meaningful contributions to our class discussions. Keep it up!
Year 6O	Sofia	Trying extremely hard in maths and volunteering answers. Great to see you growing in confidence!
Year 6R	Patrick	For working incredibly hard this week across all subjects, especially science! Well done!

