



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

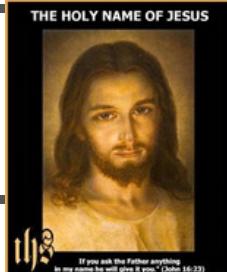


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

## 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*

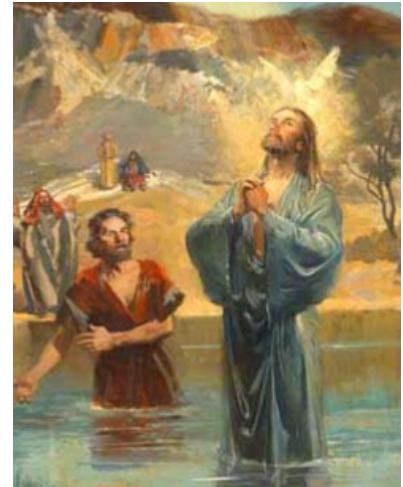


*Matthew 3:16-17*

*"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.



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## Year 1 Mass - 14.1.26 The Baptism of the Lord

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

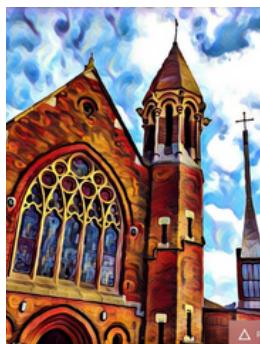


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## Our next Mass: – Year 5 Mass Mass for Refugees

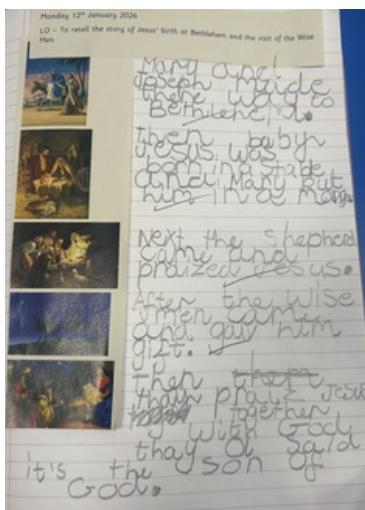
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Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 will be leading us in our Mass, and Year 6 will also be in attendance. All parents are welcome to join us.



# Catholic Life

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.



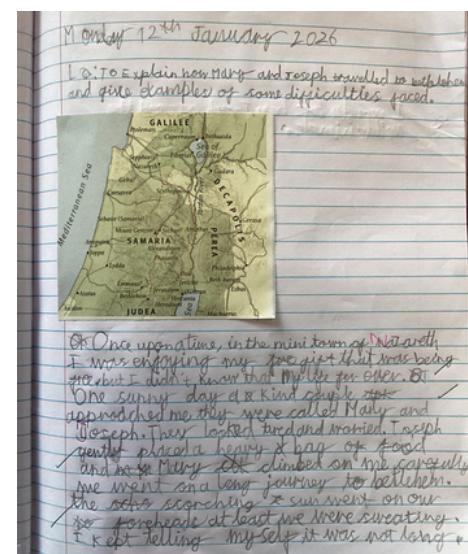
Reception are thinking about what it means to be curious and active in their learning.



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.



In moments of thought,  
reflecting on Jesus' baptism –  
'Jesus water of life';



when advocating for  
how we should care for  
the vulnerable;



with Mark 10 mission;



by attending Mass;



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



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.



# CURRICULUM

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



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'.



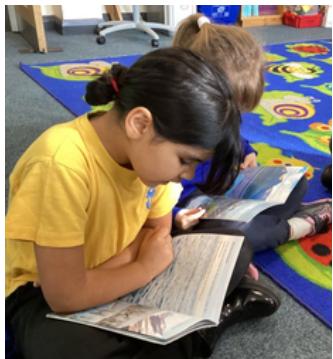
Year 6 are enjoying their Guided Reading sessions based on this half-term's book 'Trash'.



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 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 2:30pm**



On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Any parent can join us for a coffee and biscuit on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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



Consent School Gateway

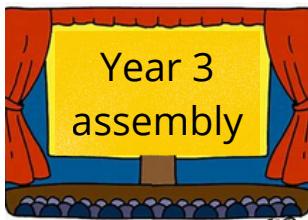
Tickets SHOCAL



## Year 5 Prayer Service for parents – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Year 5 parents are invited to join us for a beautiful Prayer Service in school on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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

**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:



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

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

### School Closed:

- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - May Bank Holiday**

### INSET DAYS

- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**
- **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026**
- **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026**

# Star of the week

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!

