



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

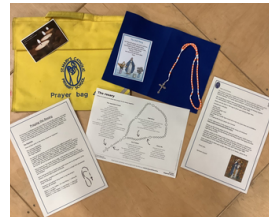


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - Grateful and Generous



6th October 2023

Dear parents and carers,

We are now in the month of the Rosary and our Spiritual Council have created prayer bags to help focus your prayer time at home. When your child receives the bag, please remember to return it the following day and send in your pictures (or post on twitter - #CatholicLife). We've had a lovely focus on poetry towards the end of the week linked to the theme of 'Refuge' and our week has concluded today with children sharing their poetry with their peers.

Year 1 also led us in a lovely prayer service, reminding us of the teachings of St. Francis and Pope Francis to look after God's beautiful creation. Well done Year 1. From Monday, we will be closing the yellow barrier again between the hours of 3pm and 5pm - unfortunately, we have had some 'near misses' as parents are coming down the driveway in vehicles when after school clubs and events are being dismissed. The safety of the children does come before the convenience of parking and so the Governors have made this decision. Please park responsibly and walk up the drive to collect your children - you can park on Waitrose for 90 minutes for free. Or you can buy a year permit from the cricket club for parking too. Thank you for your support with this.

Have a lovely and restful weekend everybody.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Matthew 21 : 21

"Which of the two did the father's will?"

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- that actions can be more important than words
- that God wants what we say and do to reflect what He asks of us

Dear God,

You invite me to follow what You say and do,
as Jesus did when He was on Earth.
Forgive me for the times when what I have said,
or what I have done, or failed to do,
have not matched my belief in You.
You invite me to love You and love others.
Help me to do this today both in what I say,
and in what I do.

Help me to act with love today.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 5 Mass - 4.10.23 - St. Faustina

Year 5 celebrated St. Faustina ahead of her feast day with a lovely procession back to school.



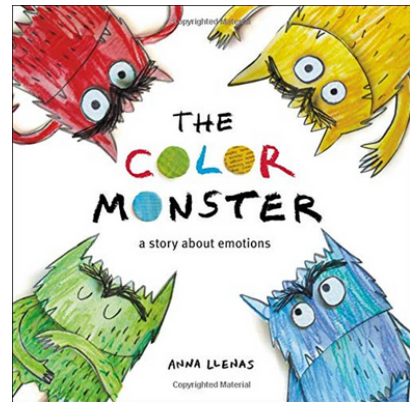
Y4 Mass - St. John Henry Newman

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 11th October 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 4 children will be leading our Mass and Year 3 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



Reception news: -

Reception class have been making worry monsters in their PSED lessons.



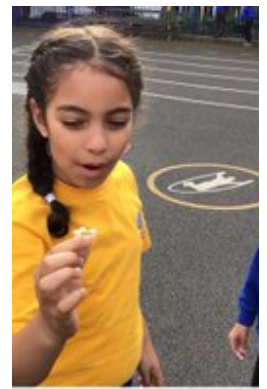
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 children led a prayer service for their peers in our prayer garden.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 enjoyed their nature walk – appreciating the little things in life.



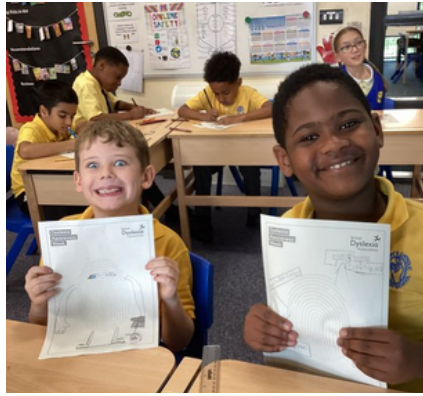
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning about health and well-being in PSHE.



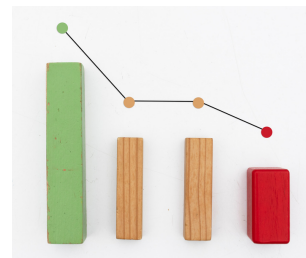
Year 4 news: -

Year 4 celebrated their own unique strengths during our Dyslexia Awareness Week.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been researching gestation of mammals and have charted their results in a bar graph.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 Scientists have been making periscopes.



Class Saints

It has been a special week in school for some of our classes as they celebrated their class Saint feast day.



3T celebration for St. Therese of Lisieux - 2.10.23



Class 3T enjoyed celebrating the life of their class saint - St. Therese of Lisieux

1F celebration for St. Francis of Assisi - 4.10.23

Year 1 held a special prayer service for parents focused on St. Francis



SF celebration for St. Faustina Kowalska - 5.10.23

Class SF had a wonderful time celebrating the feast day of their patron, St. Faustina. The children led the prayer of Chaplet of Divine Mercy during Prayer and Liturgy.



National Poetry Day 2023



Thursday marked 'National Poetry Day' which is an annual celebration that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry. The theme this year was 'Refuge' and the children were invited to read and create their own poetry on this theme. The results were fantastic and really showed our shared understanding of what refuge means and what it means to be a School of Sanctuary - an achievement that we are very proud of.

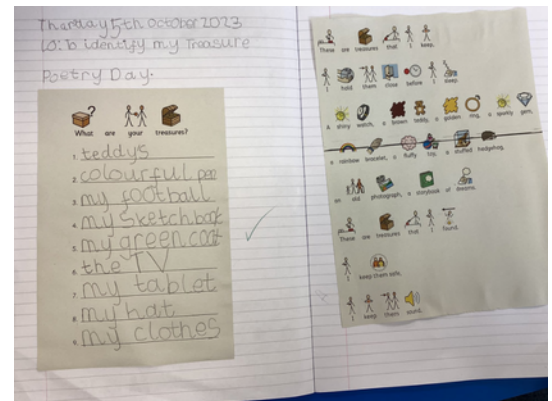


Year 5 celebrated National Poetry Day by exploring the poem 'At The End Of The Day' by Matt Goodfellow and writing their own poetry about refuge



Year 1 enjoyed reading 'My Treasures' by Kate Wakeling and thought about their own treasures.

Year 2 created poetry inspired by Benjamin Zephaniah's poem 'Nature Trail'



Reception were inspired by 'The Grass House' by Shirley Hughes and created poetry about where they feel safe.

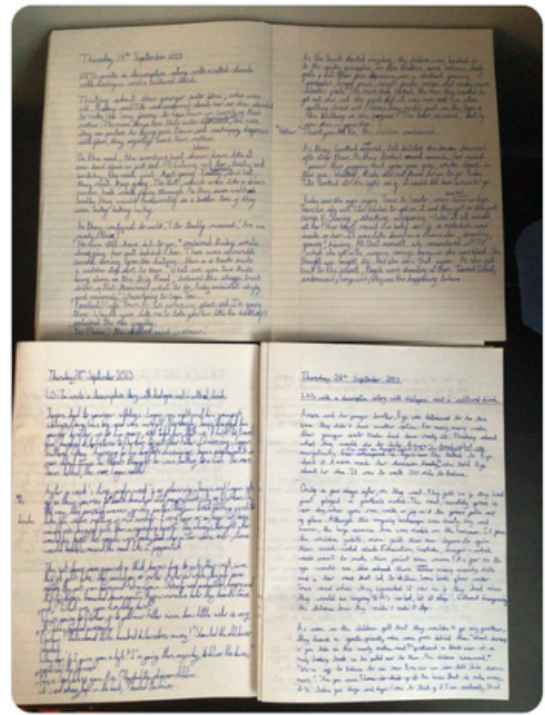


A Special Mention from a Special Author ...



This half term, Year 5 have been studying *Journey to Jo'burg* by Beverley Naidoo. This is a thought-provoking story about the dignity of human life and the courage of young people set in South Africa during apartheid. Y5 have been sharing their journey of this fantastic text with the author and this week, Beverley Naidoo herself has commented on the wonderful work that our children have produced.

Communicating with authors in this way really does bring learning to life and we are so grateful to Ms Naidoo for her kind comments and encouragement. Well done, Year 5!



1 1 2 36

You reposted Beverley Naidoo @Naidoo_J2J

Go well Y5s as you write, exploring thoughts & feelings... and I hope you're having lots of new conversations on the way too! Writers can be explorers, seeking new pathways to understanding our fragile world. Let's hope we can make it safer too for ALL its children. Go well!

Libraries Week 2023

What better way to mark Libraries Week than letters and drawings of appreciation for our fabulous local library!

We ❤️ Harborne Library!



Competitions for the children to get involved in



Did you know that you can now apply for a Blue Peter Book badge? A brand new Book badge has been introduced, designed by Sir Quentin Blake, which you can earn by sharing your love of reading. To apply, you must complete an online application form with an adult and share details of a book you have read which you enjoy, what authors you enjoy reading and you can even upload a picture of your favourite character from a book! Wouldn't it be great to see these lovely badges appearing on our school jumpers and cardigans!

To apply, please visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/findoutmore/blue-peter-apply-for-a-book-badge>

St Mary's Loves to Read!

My Favourite Book by Mrs Yorke

It's a difficult question this one for me - I love reading children's books and so much of my Bachelors Degree in English was studying Children's authors and literature.

I always enjoy a Michael Morpurgo book and 'Private Peaceful' is a fantastic one for Year 6 to be reading at the moment so I will go for that today - tomorrow though I would choose something else... I can never choose just one book!

Books take us in to a world where we can be in any place, at any time and be anybody. I read 3-4 books every month - it is my favourite hobby (apart from Netball!)



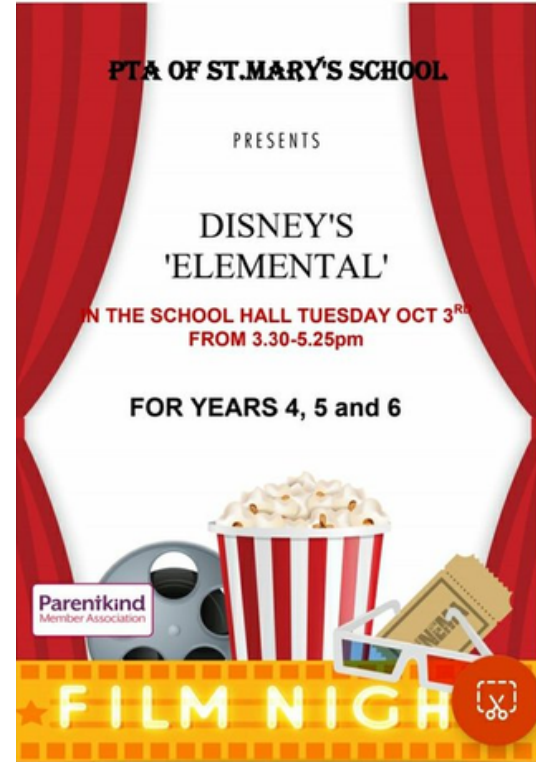
Writing competition

Calling all avid writers! The UK's most successful children's writing competition is back. Create a story in 500 words and enter by 10.11.23 to be in with a chance to visit Buckingham Palace and appear in a special TV programme! Details are available on the BBC website





*Thank you to our PTA for running our film evenings and thank you to all staff involved in supporting them too...
The children really enjoyed the shows!*



We have some big projects to fundraise for this year and beyond, including:

- A canopy for our Year 1 outdoor area and outdoor resources*
- Forest School outdoor resources*
- An additional classroom for our groups and interventions*
- A prayer room*
- Signage around school for health and safety*

Please continue to support our PTA events and help when you're available.

*You can also support us through donating to school fund
(we will be sending how to do this separately).*

We are all working together to create the best learning environment for the children of St. Mary's. Thank you so much for your support so far.

Forest School

Our Forest School lessons are now up and running and the children are having a marvellous time finding out about mini beasts. And getting muddy is fun!



Extra-Curricular

We now have nine brand new Play Leaders, who have completed their training and are excited to introduce new games to the playground.



Parish News



About Being Catholic
Thursday 12th October - 7:30pm in the Parish hall.
Fr. John will demonstrate and explain the Mass, how to understand it, and how Jesus is present in the little white disc.



Next week is Mental Health week in school. We are focusing on having an 'Optimistic October' and are continuing our actions for happiness - can you do any of these things as a family? Post on our twitter @StMaryB17 #OptimisticOctober #HelloYellow

World Mental Health Day - 10.10.23 all day

Tuesday is world mental health day and we are encouraging all children and staff to say #helloyellow, and to wear yellow this day in school. We believe in our young people and want them to know that how they feel matters. Our pastoral team are always available for the children to talk to and we have strategies to support all our children express how they feel.

#HelloYellow

#HelloYellow

Tuesday 10th October 2023 - 9:15-10:30am

On Tuesday we are holding our **Parent Hub**.

We can not wait to meet with parents (babies/toddlers welcome) and have a **chat over a cup of tea/coffee and sweet treats** - It will be a great chance for the community, parents and staff to grow closer.

We will offer a friendly ear, advice and signposting to agencies/clubs should you need it and the opportunity to build up a St. Mary's community.

The first Tea and Talk Hub will take place in the School Canteen this Tuesday 10th October from 9:15-10:30am.

TEA & TALK

At St. Mary's School Canteen



Year 6 Harborne Library Visit - 10.10.23

Year 6 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

6O will leave at 9:00am

6R will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 6 staff know.

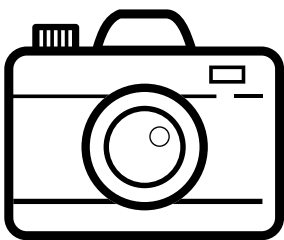


Photo day - Wednesday 11th October

Wednesday the 11th October will be school photo day in school.

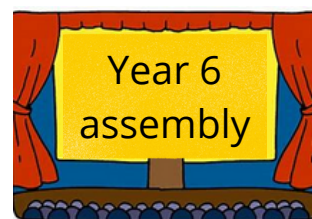
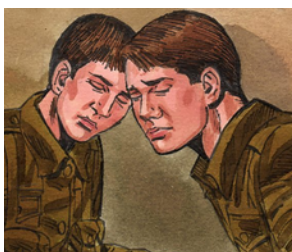
Children will be having their individual photos, photos with siblings and class photos. If you would like your child/children to take part in a sibling photo with a **younger sibling not yet at St. Mary's**, please email the office back by close of business on **Monday the 9th of October** to confirm.

8:45am for photos with younger siblings.



Year 6 Assembly

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 6 children into school next Friday 13th October, for their year group assembly based on our Dignity of the Human Person theme and their WW1 learning. Please arrive in time for a 9:15am start.



October collection for harvest - SIFA Fireside

Throughout October, we will be collecting for our harvest festival and supporting SIFA fireside. Here are the items to donate to school if you are able to support our charity work.



Feminine Hygiene Products

Socks and other Foot-care Items

Person Hygiene Items such as:

Shower gel, soap, deodorant, combs, hairbrushes, baby wipes, hand cream, chap sticks, tooth brushes, tooth paste

New and unopened long life items such as:

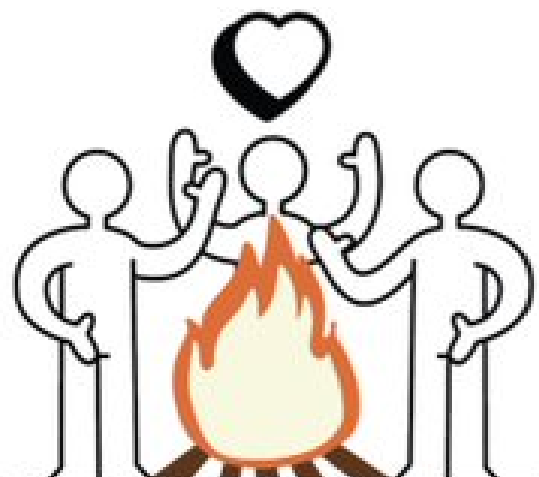
Granola bars/snack bars, easy open cans (with pull tabs), bottles of water, ready to eat meals, biscuits, crackers

Good quality used clothing such as:

Gloves, scarves, blankets, hats, sleeping bags, warm clothing (jumpers, trousers, vests, coats etc)

Birmingham, you're not alone

SIFA Fireside, 48-52 Allcock Street, Birmingham B9 4DY
Registered charity number: 1049728



Communication and Autism



Communication and Autism Team

Autumn Parent Session - SOUTH BIRMINGHAM

Come along and meet Katie and Lisa from the Communication and Autism Team (CAT).

This is an opportunity for you to:

- Meet other parent/carers with autistic children and young people
 - Find out a bit more about autism
 - Ask questions
- Have some time to reflect and recharge

The sessions will be delivered face to face termly at the following venue and time:

Northfield Manor Primary Academy Swarthmore Rd, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4JT	Wednesday 25 th October 2023 9.30 – 11.30am
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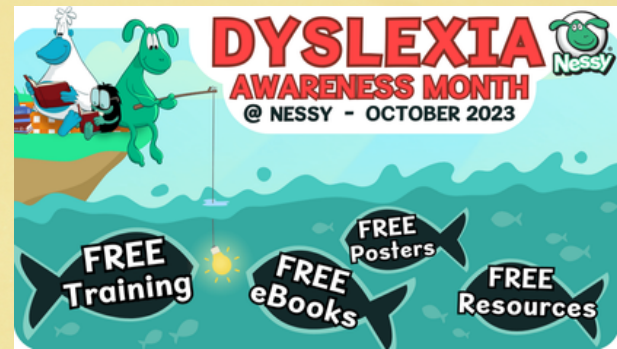
Please note: we do not have any childcare facilities at the venue.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Just turn up on the day - there is no need to book. We look forward to seeing you there!

Katie Price & Lisa Walmsley

CATParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk



Nessy has put together 3 'Just Teach Me' resource packs to empower teachers and parents to advocate for children. They are filled with important information, inspirational posters, and useful links to dyslexia support organisations from around the world!

You can also download and read Nessy's 'Dyslexia Explained' and 'What I Need' books for free - Two essential resources that help teach adults how to explain dyslexia to a child, as well as teach dyslexic children how to self-advocate!

<https://www.nessy.com/en-gb/free-resources/dyslexia-awareness-month>

Reminders

Parking

School is receiving several complaints about parking - these are coming from parents and the local community. We must be courteous at pick-up and drop-off times and put the safety of our children first.

The school is working with Police to ensure that parking is legal and safe around our school.

Please park safely in a car park such as the Waitrose car park.

Morning drop off

Reminder that school opens at 8:30 for drop off.

Children should not be left before that time unsupervised. If you need to leave your child before 8:30am, they should be booked in to kidz.comm. The school is not responsible for any child before the time of 8:30am and they should not be left without an adult.

Registration takes place between 8:30am and 8:45am. At 8:45am, the gate is closed and any children arriving after that time must be **signed in by an adult** and a reason given for why they are late.

Update your contact list

Contact details

Please make sure that we have the correct contact details for any adults that you wish to pick up your child. School can not release your child to somebody who is not on the contact list.

We legally need two contacts for each child.

If you would like somebody to pick up your child that is not you - please make sure that you provide school with contact details of who is picking up your child.

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 read the information below to find out more...

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience.

Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹.

We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care.

Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident.

This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want.

We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this.

¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021

If Police attend a home where children live (whether they are present or not) – they will automatically inform school so that we can offer any support. Any of our families can seek support from a member of the pastoral team. We are here to safeguard children and their families...

Pastoral Team

If you require any support from school please speak to a member of our pastoral team



Age ratings

There is so much that we can do online nowadays including playing games, chatting with others, watching TV or sharing our videos/photographs.

One of the ways we can help keep our children safe online is by checking age restrictions/ratings as detailed:

Films: The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) rate films. This page includes a link to a 'Parents' Guide to Age Ratings': <https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>

Video games: PEGI provides age classifications for video games. PEGI considers the age suitability of a game, not the level of difficulty. It is important to note that PEGI do not take into consideration the chat facilities within games.

Apps: Check the individual age ratings within the relevant app store. We also recommend that you download any apps and use them yourself to check their suitability.

Social Media networks: All social media networks have a minimum age rating; they are all at least 13+.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

AGE RESTRICTION 7 PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- SENSITIVE PREMISE**: In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned as impostors. They are tasked with murdering their colleagues while the other players try to catch them. While the concept is fun for many, the game's premise is a bit dark. It's also worth noting that the game has a 'Sensitiveness' filter that can be turned on or off.
- VIRTUAL VIOLENCE**: The in-screen death of characters may be uncomfortable for some children. The game also features a 'Sensitiveness' filter that can be turned on or off.
- CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS**: With up to 10 people participating in each game online, a large pool of players can be connected to the game. This means that children may be able to chat with strangers. The game has a 'Sensitiveness' filter that can be turned on or off.
- GOING OFF PLATFORM**: While Among Us provides basic tools for creating a private game, it also allows for public games. This means that children can be contacted by strangers. The game has a 'Sensitiveness' filter that can be turned on or off.
- IN-GAME PURCHASES**: Among Us is free to download on the App Store and Google Play. However, it does offer in-game purchases for cosmetic items. The game has a 'Sensitiveness' filter that can be turned on or off.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES**: Although Among Us is popular with young gamers, it's possible that your child might find the virtual violence or the chat with strangers uncomfortable. Consider alternative games that are more suitable for your child's age and interests.
- CHAT ABOUT CHATTING**: You might feel a product to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming. Encourage your child to talk to you about any concerns they have about the game.
- DISCUSS DISCORD**: In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping in touch with friends. However, it's important to discuss the risks of using the app with your child. Encourage your child to talk to you about any concerns they have about the app.
- AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS**: When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a social game of Among Us. However, it's important to discuss the risks of using the game with your child. Encourage your child to talk to you about any concerns they have about the game.
- STOP SURPRISE SPENDING**: If you're concerned about the possibility of your child making in-game purchases, you can consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. This way, you can control how much your child can spend on the game.

Meet Our Expert

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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 this week was –

Week 02nd Oct – 06th Oct

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96.3%	96.9%	98%	94.3%	99%	98.7%	99.3%	97.3%	94.8%	98.7%	97.3%	96%	89%	93.4%
Lates	6	8	10	1	5	3	1	2	4	7	3	3	5	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.99%		School Target				97%		

Well done Y3E: - our Attendance Champions

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

October 2023

October 2023

10th October 2023 - all day

10th October 2023 - 9:15-10:30

10th October 2023 - am

11th October 2023

11th October 2023 - 9:15am

12th October 2023 - 4:00pm

13th October 2023 - 9:00am

13th October 2023 - 6:30pm

WB 16th October - all week

16th October 2023 - all day

17th October 2023 - am

18th October 2023 - all day

18th October 2023 - 9:15am

20th October 2023 - 6:30pm

24th October 2023 - all day

24th October 2023 - am

24th October 2023 - 3:30-6:30

25th October 2023 - am

25th October 2023 - 9:15am

25th October 2023 - 3:30-6:30

26th October 2023

27th October 2023 - all day

Half Term holiday

Autumn 11 virtues

6th November 2023 - all day

WB 6th November 2023

6th November 2023 - all day

7th November 2023 - am

8th November 2023 - 9:30am

9th November 2023 - all day

9th November 2023 - 4:00pm

10th November 2023 - 9:00am

Dignity of the Human Person

Grateful and Generous

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

Mental Health Awareness Day - children can wear yellow #helloyellow

Parent hub - come have tea and sweet treats with us in the school canteen

Year 6 visit to Harborne library (9:15 6O and 11:00 6R)

School Photo day

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

U11s boys' football match

Year 6 Year group Assembly

KS2 Autumn Masquerade Disco in Parish Centre

Please send in donations for our Harvest Collection

Children in **St. Teresa of Avila House** - wear blue non-school uniform

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 5F and 11:00 5M)

Year 1L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Luke

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

KS1 Autumn Masquerade Disco in Parish Centre

Children in **St. John Paul II House** - wear red non-school uniform

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4J and 11:00 4M)

Parent Consultation Evening

Flu immunisations

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

Parent Consultation Evening

PTA circus workshops in school

INSET Day - school closed to children

Half Term Holiday

Grateful and Generous

Children return to school at normal time

Poetry Week for Remembrance and Holy Souls

Year 4M non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Martin de Porres

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3T and 11:00 3L)

Whole School Remembrance and Holy Souls Mass in Church (Parents welcome)

Social Media Kindness Day

U11s boys' football match

Year 4 Prayer Service for all Year 4 parents

Dates for next term

Star of the week

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

- Year RB Charlotte for her beautiful drawing about feeling safe for world poetry day
Year RT Azariah for working hard, being a lovely friend and having wonderful manners
Year IF Patryk for an amazing exciting writing and high standards to all his work!
Year IL Esme for being a fabulous role model!
Year 2E Scarlett-Rose for super work in french this week!
Year 2G Gabriel for super effort in his learning this week
Year 3L Ravi for always being enthusiastic in lessons and trying his best all of the time!
Year 3T Issak for showing enthusiasm in his learning and always trying his best!
Year 4J Mussie for supporting his peers in their learning
Year 4M Marquis for writing a thoughtful thank you prayer to Jesus
Year 5F Ethan for working hard, resilience and a fantastic first month at St Mary's
Year 5M Ethan for a positive attitude towards learning
Year 6O Melisanda for an excellent poem 'Refuge'
Year 6R Gabriel for working really hard in English and enthusiastically sharing his work with others.

