



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.

## October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

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

Our virtues for this half term are: -Eloquent and Truthful'



8th October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

*This week, we have been learning all about St. Therese of Lisieux and we had a lovely retreat morning this morning where the children spent time reflecting on her teachings and producing work for their class Catholic Life folder. We have also enjoyed National Poetry day yesterday and we dropped everything to read for 10 minutes at 10:00 today. It was lovely to see so many children wear yellow for mental health awareness and we have a week dedicated to looking after our mental health next week. Have a restful weekend, and I will see you on Monday.*

Miss Louise Price

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

Mark 10:2-16

*"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."*

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

- Contrary to attitudes at the time, Jesus thought children were really important
- Trusting in God helps us feel at peace and make loving decisions

Dear Jesus,

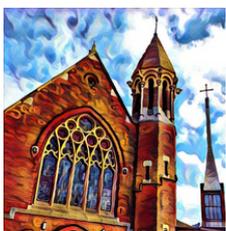
*Thank you that you see and hear children: you showed us that children are really important! Help us trust you to guide our thoughts and hearts. Help us to love and welcome others like you love and welcome us.*

*Amen*

### Catholic Life in School

#### Year 3 Mass -

Y3 lead us in our Mass – all about St. Therese of Lisieux on Wednesday. We had beautiful singing and reading. And it was lovely to see so many parents again.

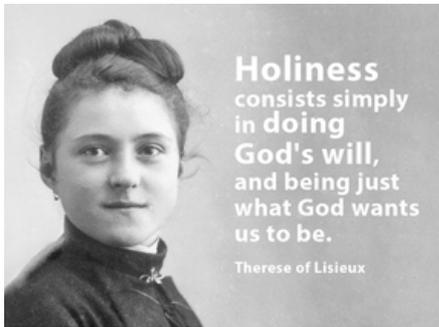


There will be no Mass next week. Instead children will live-stream a Mass in school. We look forward to welcoming parents back for our Mass the following week.



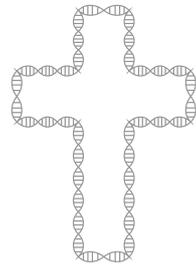
St Therese of Lisieux

# St. Therese of Lisieux



## Retreat - 8.10.21

This week, the children have been learning more about St. Therese of Lisieux in their classes on their retreat morning.



The Spiritual Council have lots of ideas about how we can continue to develop our prayer areas in school and will be bringing examples to their next Spiritual Council meeting.

## October - Pray the Rosary

Mrs. Davis and the Spiritual Council are continuing to lead the Rosary every Friday lunchtime in October and many children are taking up this opportunity. We are also continuing to pray the Rosary in our classes too.

October is a good time to pray the Rosary at home, it is the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the 'Glory Be'.



## This week's news



On Tuesday October 5th, it was wonderful to see so many parents at our 'Phonics and Early Reading' meeting in the school hall.

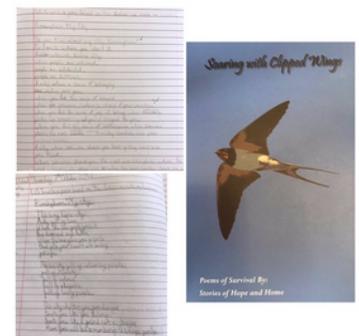
In the meeting, our teachers outlined our approach to reading and phonics at Saint Mary's, and explained lot of different strategies that you can use at home to help your children learn to read.

# READING WORKSHOP

# National POETRY Day 7 October 2021

## National Poetry Day

Our children have been performing poetry this week - you can watch some of them on twitter. Please give us a like so we know you enjoyed them.



**World Mental health day**  
We wore yellow today for our mental health.



**Reading buddies**  
Year 6 have been 'buddied up' with a Reception child to help them learn to read.

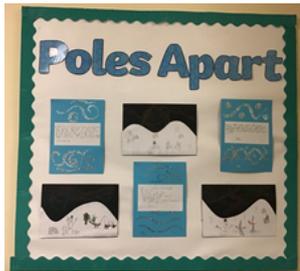
*Reception news: -*

Reception class have been working really hard to improve their reading, using their THRASS charts and picture matching. They've also enjoyed playing musical instruments.



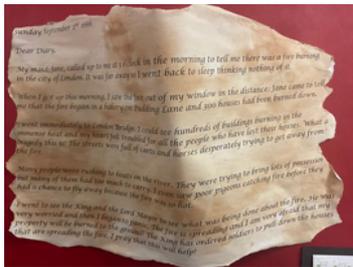
*Year 1 news: -*

Have been writing excellent non-fiction reports on polar bears.



*Year 2 news: -*

Year 2 have learnt so much about the Great Fire of London and the children have produced some beautiful art work for our displays in school.



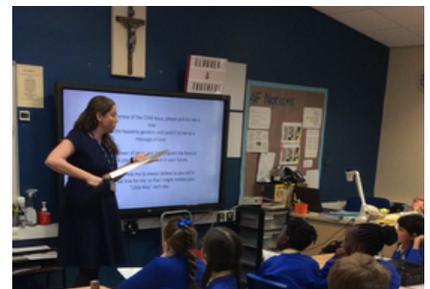
*Year 3 news: -*

Year 3 have been working on their fielding skills in cricket this week.



*Year 4 news: -*

Year 4 have had an exciting week because roman artefacts were found in the school grounds.



### Year 5 news: -

In RSE, Year 5 complimented each other on what makes them unique.



### Year 6 news: -

In Maths, Year 6 have been drawing their own 2D shapes accurately.



### Next week



**Mental Health Week**  
Next week, the children will be learning about the importance of mental health and looking after our minds and building positive relationships.

it's okay  
not to be  
okay



### Black History Month

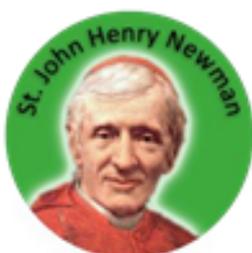
In October we learn about role models and inspiring people of all races and cultures.



### First AGM Meeting of PTA - Thursday 14th October at 7pm

We look forward to welcoming any parents who would like to join the PTA in supporting the school run events.

We look forward to seeing you there.

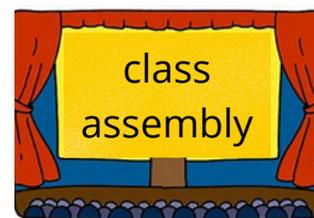


### 6F Class Assembly

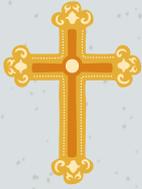
We are looking forward to welcoming parents of the children in 6F in to school next Friday 15th October, for their class assembly.

Please wear a mask when you are in the school building.

Arrive from 9am for a 9:15am start.



*Weekend Masses*



Weekend Masses are on Saturdays at 12:00 and 6:00pm  
Sundays at 9:30am, 11:00am and 5:00pm  
St. Mary's Church is open weekdays at 8:30am for a twenty-five minute Mass and then remains open till 4:00pm for private prayer and candles.

*About Being Catholic Course St. Mary's Church*



The **About Being Catholic** programme, is suspended for one week only. - so there will be **no meeting next week on Thursday 14th October** as the Fathers are on a Conference. The ABC programme will resume on Thursday 21st October at 7.30pm in the St Mary's Parish Centre, - with masks and social distancing.

*Rota for refreshments after 9:30am Mass on Sundays.*



After the 9:30am family Mass this Sunday 10th October, could those parents wishing to be on a rota for teas and coffees (fruit-juice, biscuits) in the Parish Centre after the Mass, please write their names, emails and phone numbers on clipboards outside the Church.

*Altar Servers training*



There will be an altar servers training session this Saturday 9th October at 2:30pm - 4:00pm in St. Mary's Church, for any pupils in the school who have made their First Holy Communion and would like to be an altar server. We look forward to having more altar servers for our school and parish masses.

*'Together we can make a difference' Competition*

**"Climate change is a global problem with serious implications. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day."** Pope Francis

Can you do a **poster, picture, story board or model to show what we can do to make a difference?**

These will be displayed in the porch and the church to give us all ideas of what to do.

Please put your entry in the box on the piety stall before October 19th.

( Or you can give entries in to school). Please put your name and contact details on the back of your entries.

We hope there will be lots of entries from adults and children of all ages. Combined efforts from families or classes or groups of friends are also welcome. Size should be at least A4 but bigger posters are welcome too. The main end purpose is to have a great display in Church encouraging people to think about what steps they can take personally to reduce the increase in global warming.

If you need ideas check out the CAFOD website at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

*Other News*

**'Moms' Meeting' - Thursday 14th October at 8:45am - 9:45am  
in the Parish Centre**

Getting together after School/Nursery Drop-Off - A Place to Belong

Are you a mum rushing to get the children to school or nursery on time? Or are you a 'new mum' looking for a place to dwell? Come and chat over a coffee after the school drop-off! We will get together for a natter and a little time of reflection every Thursday morning. Everybody is welcome (including your little ones who do not go to school/nursery!)! For more info email **Elena: [erivafisher@gmail.com](mailto:erivafisher@gmail.com)**

## Harvest Festival 2021

We are now asking for donations for our Harvest Festival.  
Please could we have the items listed below.  
We thank you for your generosity at a time when families are in need.

### SIFA Fireside are in need of the following items:

Baked beans  
Tuna  
Instant packet foods  
(e.g. pot noodle,  
pasta pots)  
Tinned meals  
Ketchup  
Mayonnaise  
Pasta  
Pasta sauce

Crisps  
Biscuits  
Cakes  
Cereal bars  
Custard  
Rice pudding  
Tea  
Coffee  
Sugar

Don't forget  
Parents'  
Evening!

**Parents' evening consultations can now be  
booked for your child using e-schools**



When you log on to e-schools, you will have the opportunity to book an appointment to see your child's teacher.  
Booking opens today on Friday 8th October 2021 at 3pm and closes on Friday 15th October 2021 at 12pm.

*Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days -  
Tuesday 19th October 2021 and Thursday 21st October 2021.*

*This year, all appointments will take place in the school hall.  
There will be an opportunity to look at your child's books following your appointment.*

*The appointment will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please do not arrive any more  
than 5 minutes early for your appointment to help us keep numbers in school to a minimum.*

*As we are keeping numbers down in school, we ask that you do not bring children (including pre school  
children and babies) to your appointment.*

*Please wear a mask on your arrival to school and during your time in the building. We also ask that you use  
hand sanitiser on entry and exit. If you are feeling unwell, please do not attend your appointment and instead  
phone school to book an appointment at a different time.*

*We will be asking all parents to complete a parent questionnaire on the night. Please look out for this.*

## Reminders

### Book bags - not rucksacks



After half-term, **school will no longer be able to allow ruck sacks in to the building.** The rucksacks are unfortunately too bulky and there is not enough space on the children's pegs for them all.

This is causing them to fall off pegs, which means they are **becoming a trip hazard, and are blocking corridors and doorways.**

**For health and safety reasons,** your child will need to use their book bag and draw-string PE bag from now on.

**Logo prints** provide a service where book bags can be personalised if you wish for your child to have a bag that feels unique and special to them.

Miss Price would like to thank you for your support with this - the safety of the children is her first consideration when making all decisions.



### 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. .

### Y6 applications for Secondary Schools - apply before 31.10.2022

If you have a child currently in Year 6, please make sure that you have applied for their Secondary School.

If you live in Birmingham you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) **between 1 September and 31 October 2021.**

It is important that you submit your application by 31 October 2021. Applications received after the national closing date of 31 October 2021 will be treated as late applications. Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools, and these applications will be processed after 1 March 2022, in accordance with Birmingham's coordinated admissions scheme.



### Coats

As the weather is changeable now, please ensure that your child comes to school with their waterproof coats.

### Labelling of clothing

There is a very high volume of unnamed jumpers, cardigans and coats now in the parent shelter.

Please label all belongings for your child (including lunch boxes / water bottles / clothing...)

Items that are labelled are returned to your child's classroom when they are left somewhere else in school.

Items that are not labelled are placed in the parent shelter.



### Homework

The school is currently in the process of reviewing homework. Following COVID, there have been lessons learnt and changes to expectations. We will provide more information in the upcoming weeks.



### PE day

Please make sure that children are still wearing PE uniform on the days that they are wearing their PE kit in to school. PE uniform is the Gold t-shirt, Royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and **black trainers**.

### 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 (to start after half term)
- 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



### Asthma / inhalers in school

Letters have now been sent home to all children with asthma to update our records. If you have not received a letter to update your child's details, please collect one from the office and return marked FAO Mrs Davis.

### Healthy Snacks

Please may we remind all parents that only healthy snacks are permitted in school – your child may have a piece of fruit at break time. Do not send your child in with crisps, sweets or chocolate as they will not be able to consume this on site. Please also be aware that we do not allow nuts, in order to reduce the chance of children with allergies from having a reaction.



### Parking

School are receiving several complaints about parking – these are coming from parents, the local community and even the local police station has been in touch. We must be courteous at pick-up and drop-off times and put the safety of our children first. Miss. Price and Mrs. Tame will be working with the school council, PTA and police to ensure that parking is legal and safe in and outside our school. Please park safely.



## Dates for the diary

11th October 2021 - all week -

14th October 2021 - 7:00pm -

15th October 2021 - 9:15am -

18th October 2021 - all week -

19th October 2021 - after school -

20th October 2021 - 9:15am -

21st October 2021 - morning -

21st October 2021 - 9:15am -

25th October - 29th October -

Half-term homework

2nd November 2021 - morning -

3rd November 2021 - 9:15am -

4th November 2021 - 2:00pm -

8th November 2021 - all week -

10th November 2021 - 9:15am -

12th November 2021 - all day -

12th November 2021 - 9:15am -

15th November 2021 - all week -

16th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

17th November 2021 - 9:15am -

17th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

19th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -

Mental Health Awareness Week in school.

PTA AGM meeting in school hall.

Year 6F Class Assembly in school (6F parents welcome).

Book Fair in school.

Parent Consultations.

Reception Welcome Service in Church (YR parents welcome).

Photographer in school.

Parent Consultations.

Half term week.

Create a piece of art work for our 'all Saints display'

Flu vaccinations in school.

Y1 Mass in Church (Y1 parents welcome).

Reception open afternoon (for prospective parents of the school).

Remembrance week in school.

Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome).

Children in Need non-uniform day in school.

Year 5F Class Assembly in school (5F parents welcome).

Anti-bullying Week in school.

Y3 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome).

Y4 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

Y5 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).

## Macmillan Cake Sale

### Macmillan Cake Sale

I would like to say a massive thank you for the cakes that were donated to our Macmillan cake sale. Cake sales and online donations added up to £411.37, which I am sure you will agree is a fantastic amount for Macmillan Cancer appeal.

£411.37

### Walking home policy

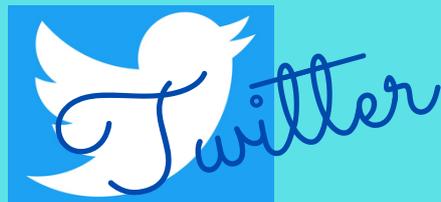
The school has a walking home policy that states that children should be picked up by the parents.

We encourage children to only walk home by themselves in the Summer term of Year 6.

## Online Safety

[www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)

Questions to ask your children about what they like to do online...



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!!!

1. What is your favourite thing to do online?
2. What things make you happy when you use technology?
3. What things make you unhappy when you use technology?
4. What are the rules for using technology at home?
5. Who helps you to stay safe?

## COVID

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.

# Star of the week

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

Year RL	Alonso	Trying really hard in his guided reading session this week.
Year RF	James	For applying phonics skills to do some super writing this week.
Year 1L	Sofia	Always doing the right thing and being a fabulous role model.
Year 1F	Amalie	Always trying her best and planning a fantastic report about polar bears.
Year 2L	Shiza	For completing a super science investigation plan.
Year 2F	Elsie	Always trying her best in French lessons.
Year 3L	Chisom	Fantastic sportsmanship in cricket.
Year 3F	Isabella	Showing dedication and commitment towards her learning.
Year 4L	Benedict	Great improvement in all his work and a super attitude to learning.
Year 4F	Victor	Fantastic behaviour all week and improving independence in his learning.
Year 5L	Gabe	Working really hard to include relative clause in his writing.
Year 5F	Remi-Mae	Trying really hard in Maths lessons.
Year 6L	Mehetabel	For participating in Mass with wonderful enthusiasm and reverence.
Year 6F	Maya	For consistently excellent behaviour.

