



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

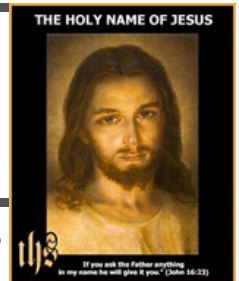


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'The Dignity of Work'

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



13th January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

This week, we have been thinking about the start of Jesus' ministry and reflected upon the example Jesus gave us in his baptism. Since returning to school, the children have been thinking about who of the Saints they would like as our House Saints and representatives from the school council, spiritual council and CAFOD club made their pitch to SLT on Wednesday. Our new house Saints will be announced in Monday's assembly. Next week, we will be thinking about the Holy Family fleeing as part of our refugee week in school, with a special house retreat morning on Friday. As part of our refugee week, we are collecting for St. Chad's Sanctuary. Thank you for the donations we have already received. Please may we have any further donations by Wednesday 18th January. Please may I mention that we are a 'nut free' school. We have some children with severe allergies and for this reason, please do not pack any nut products in your child's lunchbox (and let's keep those lunch boxes healthy). I wish you all a very pleasant weekend.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Matthew 3: 16-17

"A voice spoke from heaven, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on Him."

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

- We are loved by God and invited to be part of His family.
- We can choose to accept God's invitation.
- We should try to live out our baptismal vocation.

Father God,

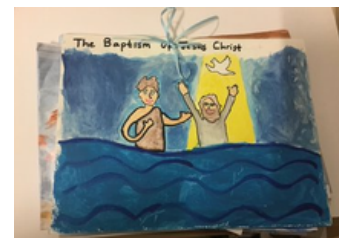
Empower us with your Spirit to live out our baptismal vocation in imitation of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

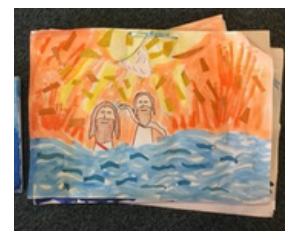
Y2 Mass Baptism of the Lord - 13.1.23

Thank you Year 2 for leading us in our Mass for the Baptism of our Lord. Such wonderful art work created and offered in our Offertory. Well done everybody.



Y5 Mass in Church - 18.1.23 at 9:15am - Mass for Refugees

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 18th January 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 children will be leading our Mass and Year 6 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



Reception news: -

Reception class have enjoyed learning about people who help us.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been working really hard on their writing.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been learning about balances in their gymnastics lessons.



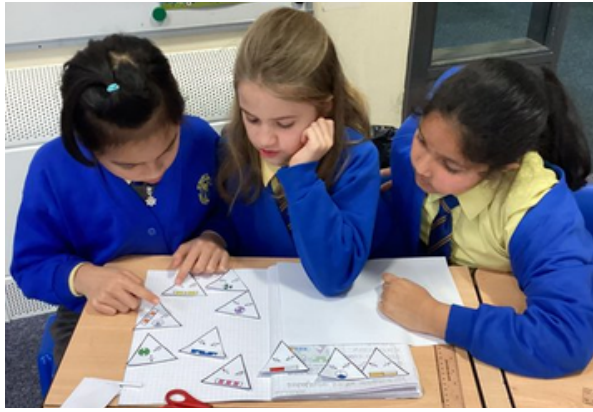
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning about the effect that some internet use can have on their feelings and emotional well-being.



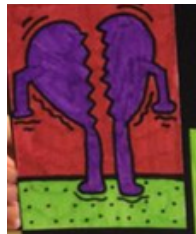
Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about unit and non unit fractions.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have produced art work showing the journey of refugees, based on the work of Keith Haring.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been working hard in their maths lessons.



Early Reading and phonics workshop- 10.1.2023



Thank you Mrs Russell for leading our Early Reading and Phonics workshop and to all the parents for attending. It was a wonderful turn out and now we hope that you have lots of ideas about how to support your child's reading at home.

Stunning start

Year 1 stunning start involved a teddy bear's picnic

To launch their 'Toys' topic this afternoon, year 1 children brought in their favourite teddy bear, drew a picture of their teddy bear and described their teddy bear. Then they had a massive picnic!



Extra-Curricular

KS2 Quidditch day - Monday 23rd January 2023

On **Monday 23rd January**, all KS2 classes will be taking part in a Quidditch Day led by an external company. The children will learn how to play the sport and do other active lessons throughout the day. It will be an exciting Sports Related Day for our KS2 children (especially if they like the Harry Potter stories).

On this day, please can all KS2 children come to school in their PE kit.

They may also wish to dress up a little for this day i.e. wear the Hogwarts style uniforms / hats / scarves / cape over their PE kit - this is okay too for a bit of fun - but not compulsory.

***NB any loose items of clothing will be taken off before taking part in physical activity.**

This is a good opportunity to read the books or watch the films too ahead of the day so that the children know all about Quidditch before the tournament in school.



Parish News

First Holy Communion and Confirmation teaching programmes

Parents of Year 3 and Year 6, the St Mary's Parish First Holy Communion and Confirmation teaching programmes for your children began in the Parish Centre Saturday 14th January with Sister Brenda and her Team.

Please, if you have not yet enrolled your child, email Sister Brenda as soon as possible: brenda.mccole@btinternet.com - with an apology for late enrolment!

Further, if you want to enrol but as yet have not had your child baptised Roman Catholic please email Fr John: parishpriest@saintmarysharborne.org.uk



Baptisms

Parents wanting to have their new-born babies baptised, again email Fr John at the above or speak to him at pick-up or drop-off.

Blessings

Blessings for those really wanting a baby, again, see Fr John



REFUGEE WEEK



Houses of Parliament Visit - Monday 16th January 2023

Some of our School Council Representatives are off to Parliament on Monday – how very exciting.

We have a 2pm visit planned and tour.

Children will leave school at 11am and will return at the later time of 7:30pm.

Year 5 Library Visit - Tuesday 17th January 2023

Each week a KS2 class will be walking to Harborne Library where they can peruse the books on offer and choose one to take home using their library card.

Next week is Year 5's turn to go to the library.



St. Chad's Sanctuary - Donations required for 18.1.2023

As part of our School of Sanctuary Work and our Refugee Week in school WB 16.1.23, we have a visit booked at St. Chad's Sanctuary on **Wednesday 18th January 2023**.

We would like to take a group of children to the Sanctuary with some donations.

The Sanctuary are in urgent need of toiletries, food, men's clothes, baby items and shoes.

Please bring any donations to the school office before Wednesday 18th January, if you are able to help. Thank you.



Indian Meal in school - Thursday 19th January




We're having a themed meal day in school next week and this time it is Indian Food. A letter has been sent out separately for any children who are normally sandwiches but would like the Indian meal next week to opt in. Free school meals receive their meal at no cost. There are other options available too (for those who do not like Indian food).

Refugee Retreat - Friday 20th January 2023

Our Spiritual Council have planned our house retreat morning next Friday. They have planned a morning where we will consider what the Saints tell us about how we should treat one another – particularly our most vulnerable and to think about what it was like for the Holy Family as asylum seekers needing to flee to safety.



CLUBS Before School

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
|  | Gymnastics | Mondays 8:00-8:45am | Years 1 - 6 |
|  | Dance | Tuesdays 8:00-8:45am | Years 1 - 6 |
|  | Karate | Wednesdays 7:45-8:45am | Years 4 - 6 |
|  | Karate | Thursdays 7:45-8:45am | Years 1 - 4 |
|  | Karate | Fridays 7:45-8:45am | Years 1 - 4 |

After School

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
|  | Boys' Football | Mondays 3:30-4:30pm | Years 5 - 6 |
|  | Netball | Mondays 3:30-4:30pm | Years 5 - 6 |
|  | Girls' Football | Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm | Years 3 - 6 |
|  | Create Club | Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm | Years R - 2 |
|  | Boys' Football | Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm | Years 3 - 4 |
|  | Chess | Wednesdays 3:30-4:45pm | Year 3 |
|  | Football | Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm | Years 1 - 2 |
|  | Create Club | Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm | Years 3 - 6 |
|  | Chess | Thursdays 3:30-4:45pm | Year 4 - 6 |

NO PARKING!

Thank you to our parents who are being considerate with their parking. Unfortunately, we do have some parents who continue to park illegally on double yellow lines and in no stopping zones. We are also having complaints that parents are blocking / parking in private roads.

Many of our residents are elderly and this is not acceptable. Your information / car registrations are being passed on to the police and city council. Please report any illegal parking on:
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle

Put the safety of our children and community first when parking.

SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May 2023. All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

No dogs / smoking in the school grounds

Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed in the school grounds under any circumstances; whether on a lead or carried. This is due to health and safety reasons, and that some children are scared by dogs no matter the size. Thank you for your understanding with this.

In addition, we do not allow smoking of any sort, including vapes or e-cigarettes on the school grounds.

**Reception Admissions**

Online admissions opened on 1st October 2022 for Reception admissions for September 2023. Applications can be made online through the Birmingham City Council website until the final deadline of **15th January 2023**. Please note as 16th April 2023 is a Sunday, offers will be sent on Monday 17th April.

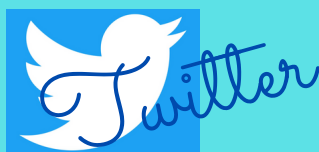
Please note if your application is late, it is less likely you will be offered one of your preferred schools. All the information parents need to support with making their preferences is available on the website: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> More advice and support is also available from Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.

Reading bags not rucksacks please.

Children should be bringing reading bags please in to school rather than rucksacks. Any children who are bringing rucksacks need to keep them at the 'rucksack stop' as there is not room for them to be safely kept on school pegs.

**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.



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!!!

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



Let's keep kids safe online

Join us at St. Mary's School for online safety coffee evening. Monday 27th February 2023

The online world is an important part of kids' lives nowadays. It's an exciting place for them to explore, with all sorts of fun and educational stuff to discover, but there can be some risks too.

'Keeping children safe online' will teach you how to help kids explore their favourite apps, games and sites safely. Our workshop will:

- help you understand how children experience the online world
- show you resources and tools that could help keep them safe
- empower you to guide them in their journey.

Date: Monday 27th February 2023

Time: 4:45-5:45pm

Location: St Mary's Catholic Primary

NSPCC



Attendance and Punctuality:-

Good attendance, continues to be a school and government priority.

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.

Our attendance for last week was -

Week 4th - 6th Jan

| Class | YRB | YRT | Y1L | Y1F | Y2E | Y2G | Y3L | Y3T | Y4J | Y4M | Y5M | Y5F | Y6R | Y6O |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|---------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| % | 89.7% | 93.7% | 98.9% | 96.1% | 97.2% | 94.4% | 95% | 92.8% | 100% | 100% | 96.2% | 86.5% | 95.6% | 97.5% |
| Lates | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Whole School Attendance so far this year | | | | | | 95.3% | | School Target | | | | 97% | | |

Well done Y4J and Y4M: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

WB 16.1.23

16th January 2023

17th January 2023 - am

18th January 2023 - 9:15am

23rd January 2023 - all day

24th January 2023 - am

24th January 2023 - 2:00pm

25th January 2023 - 9:15am

27th January 2023 - all day

31st January 2023 - am

1st February 2023 - 9:15am

3rd February 2023 - all day

3rd February 2023 - 9:15am

WB 6.2.23

7th February 2023 - all day

7th February 2023 - am

7th February 2023 - am

8th February 2023 - 9:15am

WB 13.2.23

14th February 2023 - am

15th February 2023 - 9:15am

16th February 2023

17th February 2023 - 9:15am

17th February 2023

27th February 2023 - all day

28th February 2023 - am

1st March 2023 - 9:15am

2nd March 2023 - all day

WB 6.3.23

7th March 2023 - am

The Dignity of Work

Eloquent and Truthful

Refugee week

KS2 School Council visit to Parliament

Y5 visit to Harborne Library

Y5 Mass in Church and Y6 children attend - parents welcome

KS2 Quidditch day

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Reception Writing Workshop

Y3 Mass in Church and Y4 children attend - parents welcome

Geography Day

Y3 visit to Harborne Library

Reception Mass and Y6 buddies attend - parents welcome

World Maths Day

Y4 Year Group Assembly for parents

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Coffee Morning in school for parents

Y6 visit to Harborne Library

Y1 Mass in Church and Y2 children attend - parents welcome

Acts of Kindness Week

Y5 visit to Harborne Library

Y6 Mass in Church and Y5 children attend - parents welcome

Y6 trip to St. Chad's

Y3 Year Group Assembly for parents

Break up for February half-term - finish at normal time

Children return to school

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Y4 Mass in Church and Y2 children attend - parents welcome

World Book Day

Careers Week

Y3 visit to Harborne Library

Star of the week

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

| | | |
|---------|---------|--|
| Year RB | Amira | excellent work finding number bonds to 5 |
| Year RT | Damian | trying so hard and settling in so well during his first week at St. Mary's |
| Year IF | Monty | trying his hardest in all of his work |
| Year IL | Gabriel | completing a fantastic piece of writing |
| Year 2E | Alarna | trying hard to use interesting words in her writing |
| Year 2G | Adadike | using non-fiction texts to research Bengal tigers |
| Year 3L | Bella | hard work and an effort to listen attentively |
| Year 3T | Emily | a superb piece of writing in RE and being a brilliant role model to all |
| Year 4J | Rodrigo | working really hard to improve his handwriting |
| Year 4M | Eyobel | loving writing in English lessons |
| Year 5F | Jahzi | an enthusiastic performance acting as Bosun in our English lessons |
| Year 5M | Jay | fantastic effort and enthusiasm in maths |
| Year 6O | Mariah | sharing her art work so confidently with the class |
| Year 6R | Noah | working really hard and enthusiastically in all subjects |

