



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

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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.



## November is dedicated to the Holy Souls.

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Learned and Wise'

Dear parents and carers,

## One kind word

19th November 2021

This week has been our anti-bullying week in school, and staff and pupils have been sharing 'one kind word' with one another. To complete our week, I would like to share some kind words with you as parents. I thank you for your support, particularly the kind words that I have received from you in my first term as Head teacher here. It has been wonderful to begin to get to know some of you, and welcome you in to our Inspire workshops this week. More Inspire workshops are scheduled for this week. We are trying to ensure that the hall isn't too full so it is important that you let us know if you are attending, so that we can keep everybody safe. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Louise Price

## This week's Gospel and prayer

Mark 13: 24-32

*"Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away."*

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

- Change is a part of life
- God's word is unchanging, and offers us hope when we are facing difficult changes
- We can work with God towards the Kingdom of God
- Even death isn't something to be afraid of

Lord,

Grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; And wisdom to know the difference.

Amen

## Catholic Life in School

### Year 6 Mass - St. Andrew

Year 6 led us in a Mass dedicated to St. Andrew. We thought about what we can learn from St. Andrew as we follow his example as a follower of Christ.



### Year 5 Mass in Church - 24.11.21 at 9:15am - Christ the King

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 24th November, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and **parents are welcome to attend** (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



## Anti-bullying Week

Our theme for this week has been 'one kind word'. The week began with all pupils wearing odd socks to show that we are all unique and that it is good to 'stand out'. Let's all be 'odd' in our wonderfully, unique way - wouldn't the world be boring if we were all the same?



## advent *in*spire workshops

*Year 3 pupils were very proud of their snow globes that they created with their parents in their Inspire workshop*



*Year 4 parents and pupils enjoyed a fabulous, festive afternoon creating beautiful wreaths at their Inspire Workshop*

*Year 5 pupils and parents made Christmas trees and it was wonderful to spend time together.*



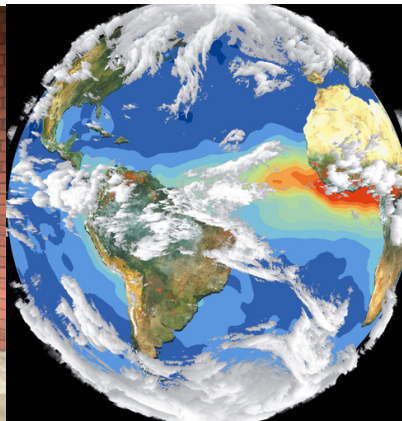


*Thank you to our Year 6 prefects, who were superb this week, leading our parents and pupils in prayer, at the start of our Inspire workshops.*

*This week's news*

**Chess Competition**

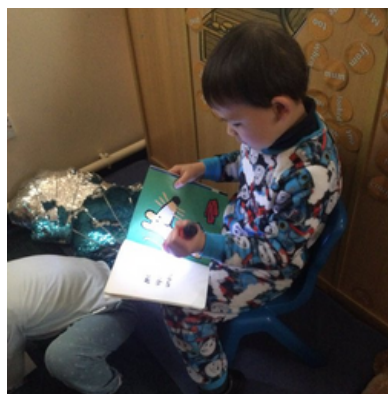
We have incredibly talented chess players at St. Mary's. Congratulations to all children involved and to T for coming joint first in the final. We have a marvellous chess teacher at St. Mary's and we would also like to extend our thanks and congratulations to Alex for his dedication to our pupils.



*Congratulations to our competition winners! The children created climate change posters which are displayed in the foyer of St Mary's Church. Please have a look at their wonderful work and the work of all the children who entered.*

*Reception news: -*

Reception class have enjoyed their bedtime story day today.



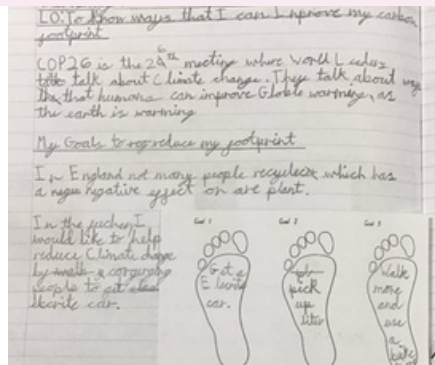


*Year 1 news: -*  
 Year 1 have created their own prayer book. They have also been identifying coins and their value in their maths lessons.

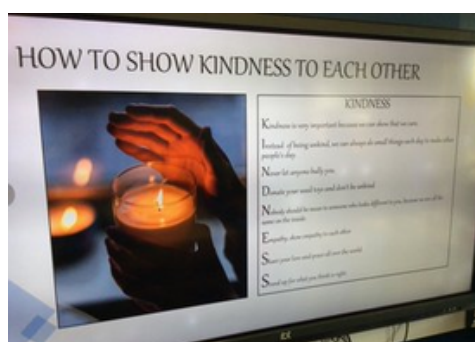
*Year 2 news: -*  
 Year 2 have been asking 'big questions' to deepen their understanding, asking questions as King Charles II about the Great Fire of London.



*Year 3 news: -*  
 Year 3 have been learning about COP26 and have been learning about the different ways that we can reduce our carbon footprint



*Year 4 news: -*  
 Children in Year 4 have been planning and delivering collective worship based around kindness as part of our anti-bullying week.



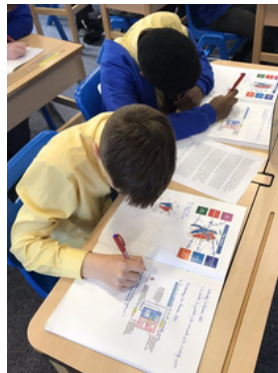
### Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been dissecting flowers whilst learning about the parts of a plant and the role each part has in plant reproduction.



### Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been writing explanatory texts explaining the circulatory system.



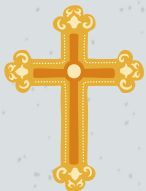
### Next Week

## advent inspire workshops

We look forward to continuing our Advent Inspire Workshops next week and having parents in school so that they can work alongside their children to create something festive. In these workshops, you will have the opportunity to complete arts and crafts with the children (purchased with the money raised at the film club). Please bring money with you as there will be opportunity to purchase items such as: a ticket for our Christmas raffle, or a festive mince pie.

### Parish News

#### 9:30 family Mass



When attending the St. Mary's 9:30am family Mass, please take your Reception child (and Year 1 sibling) straight in to the Parish centre for 9:30am.

Our next children's liturgy will be held on **Sunday 21st November 2021**.

#### Face Masks



Masks are needed please when attending all Masses at St. Mary's.

This includes the Wednesday school Mass at 9:15am.

Please do not sit in the front row on the left hand side (that is where the HT sits).

#### First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programmes



Thank you to the parents of children in Years 3 and 6 for your turn out last Tuesday and Wednesday for the Parish First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes.

# TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOV 7PM



Parents and friends, please join us for our wreath making workshop on **Tuesday 30th November** from 7- 9pm in the school hall.

£20 per person - includes all your greenery, plus a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie on arrival! Tickets available from your class reps / PTA committee Please bring with you, your own secateurs and any baubles, lights or ribbons to personalise your wreath.

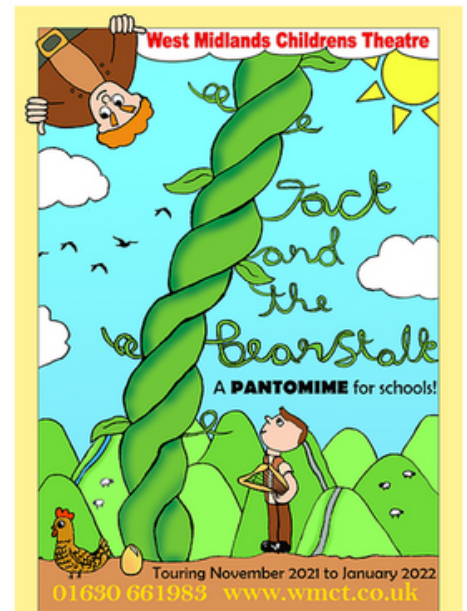
Any information required please contact

[ptaofstmarys@hotmail.com](mailto:ptaofstmarys@hotmail.com)

## Christmas Pantomime in School

### Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum!

We are very excited to inform you that we are welcoming West Midlands Theatre Company into school to perform Jack and the Beanstalk to all children on Thursday 2nd December 2021. The cost of this is £2 per child which can be paid via School Gateway. Please make payment by Friday 26th November.

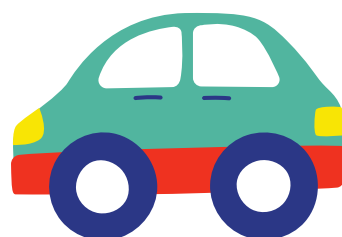


## Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas



Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham this Christmas. We are looking for all age groups ranging from 0-15 years.

Toys can be handed in at the office.



Collection Dates:  
1st November -  
16th December  
  
Irish TV are coming to  
school on Friday 26th  
November

# Schoolgateway

Quick and easy to use

Access messages and payments all in one place

*In order to improve our links with you and keep everyone up-to-date and well informed we are now using Schoolgateway as our means of sending out written communications.*

*This will enable you to receive information from school quickly and reliably. We can send letters by email to your inbox and short messages directly to your mobile phone as a text message, or if you have an Apple or Android mobile phone, by app message.*

*You will:*

- *Receive letters more reliably and promptly*
- *See letters in your inbox like any other email*
- *Get a short text or app message if we need to contact you urgently*
- *Not need to rely on your child for delivery*

*We can:*

- *Send more letters and information*
- *Save on admin time, printing and paper*
- *Contact you urgently when necessary*

*We will continue to use Schoolgateway for online payments as this has proven to be an effective, efficient and convenient system, which puts you in control and saves us time and money.*

## Download the free smartphone app

Parents, welcome to:

# Schoolgateway

Keeping you informed of what's going on at school.



Download the app Android and iPhone

or visit the website:  
[www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com)

**Activate your account today!**



**The easiest and fastest way to stay in touch with school.**

**By downloading the app you will help us save money too!**

- *Go to your app store and search for "School Gateway" and download the app*
- *Once downloaded, select the "I'm a New User" button; enter your email address and mobile number that we have on record for you. Select Send PIN and a PIN number will be text to your mobile phone*
- *Log in with your email address and the PIN, your account is now active and you will receive instant notifications of messages in your notifications bar*
- *If you change your contact details please let the school know as soon as possible*

*If you have any questions about this, please contact the school office.*

### Book bags



A massive thank you to our parents who have worked with us to ensure that bags are within the dimensions needed to safely fit on the pegs designated to the children. As mentioned in previous newsletters, there is not room on the pegs for bulky bags / rucksacks.



Any children bringing bags / rucksacks that can not fit on the pegs will now be asked to leave them at the **designated 'rucksack stop'** where the lunch boxes are kept.

### Correct Uniform

The children should now be wearing their winter uniform i.e. shirts/blouses and ties.

We also ask that children come to school in their winter PE kit on the days that they have PE. Again children should be in uniform for PE which is black/blue plain jogging bottoms (not patterned / not another colour), yellow t-shirt, school jumper and **black trainers**.



### 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.

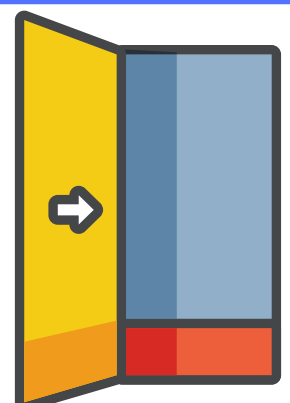
On PE days we are asking that children do not wear any jewellery, so that it is not lost if they are asked to remove it for physical lessons. Thank you for supporting us with this, your child's safety is at the forefront of our uniform decisions. .

### SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022. All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

### Open door policy

We have an open door policy at St. Mary's. A member of SLT (Miss. Price, Mrs. Davis or Mrs. Jones) is available at the start and end of every day for quick queries – or if a meeting is needed, please arrange through the enquiry email or the office. SLT do not use e-schools in the same way teachers do, so please do not contact us on there, as your query may be missed. Thank you.





### **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 (*still spaces*)

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



# 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.

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 have received notification that unfortunately, a student from a local Primary school was involved in an incident this week, on the way into school, whereby a stranger pulled up next to him in a car and tried to grab him. We ask you to be extra vigilant at this time and to not leave your child without supervision at the start of the school day. The safety of your children is your responsibility until they are handed over to an adult in school.

**This is an Operation  
Encompass School**

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.

# KEEPING SAFE

## Online Safety

### Is TikTok safe? How does it work?



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 aware that many children use Tik Tok despite the advisory age being 13 years of age for used of this media. This blog tells you everything that you need to know to keep your child safe when using the very popular app TikTok.

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

## Parking Safety



Parking enforcement officers are now circulating at the start and the end of the school day. Please be aware of this as they are issuing fines to those parked illegally.

Own clothes day - Friday 26th November. All money raised to go towards small people bollards!



### NO STOPPING

The yellow lines outside of school have a 'NO STOPPING' rule between the hours of 8-9 am and 3-4 pm.

### SAFE PARKING

There are places where you can park safely around the school area - please be considerate and keep our children safe by choosing one of these options.



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.

## Dates for the diary

22nd November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -  
 23rd November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -  
 24th November 2021 - 9:15am -  
 24th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -  
 26th November - all day -  
 26th November 2021 - 1:30-3:30 -  
 30th November 2021 - 6:45 - 8:45pm  
 1st December 2021 - 9:15am -  
 2nd December 2021 - morning  
 3rd December 2021 - 9:15am -  
 3rd December 2021 - morning  
 7th December 2021 - 3:15 - 4:15 -  
 9th December 2021 - 3:30 - 4:30 -  
 10th December 2021 - all day  
 WB 13.12.21 - Nativities in school  
 17th December 2021

Y1 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).  
 Y2 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).  
 Y5 Mass in Church (Y5 parents welcome).  
 Reception Advent Inspire (parents and children work together).  
 Non-school uniform day in school to raise money for school council.  
 Y6 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).  
 PTA Wreath making workshop for parents in school.  
 Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome).  
 Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime in school.  
 Year 5L Class Assembly in school (5L parents welcome).  
 Flu immunisation day  
 Reception and KS1 disco in school  
 KS2 disco in school  
 Christmas jumper day and Fr. Christmas in school  
 More information about nativities to follow...

Break up for Christmas break!

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

Autumn Term 2021	Spring Term 2022	Summer Term 2022
Autumn 1	Spring 1	Summer 1
<p><b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - INSET - Children NOT in School</b></p> <p><b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - INSET - Children NOT in School</b></p> <p>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Children return to school</p> <p>Ends: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</p>	<p><b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Bank Holiday</b></p> <p>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school</p> <p><b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February - INSET - Children NOT in School</b></p> <p>Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p><b>May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b></p> <p>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Children return to school</p> <p><b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Closed for Local Election Day</b></p> <p>Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May</p>
<p><b>Half-Term:</b> Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021</p>	<p><b>Half-Term:</b> Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022</p>	<p><b>Half-Term:</b> Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022</p>
Autumn 2	Spring 2	Summer 2
<p>Starts: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November Ends: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>Starts: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February</p> <p><b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March - INSET - Children NOT in School</b></p> <p>Ends: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p>	<p>Starts: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</p> <p><b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July - INSET - Children NOT in School</b></p> <p>Ends: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</p> <p><b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee</b></p>
<p><b>Christmas Holidays:</b> Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021</p>	<p><b>Easter Holiday:</b> Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022</p>	<p><b>Summer Holidays:</b> Start Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p>

# Star of the week

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

Year RL	Janelle	being an absolute superstar in her Phonics assessment this week.
Year RF	Aurora	a wonderful drawing of a beautiful Owl baby.
Year 1L	Kush	trying his best all week.
Year 1F	Eleanor	always being kind and caring to others.
Year 2L	Matthew	his positivity and always using beautiful manners.
Year 2F	Giorgia	being consistently kind, caring and friendly to everyone.
Year 3L	Katy	her hard work and determination in everything that she does.
Year 3F	Isla	her great multiplication work.
Year 4L	Jagoda	her consistent hard work and positive attitude.
Year 4F	Katherine	her amazing perseverance and effort in all that she does.
Year 5L	Marlowe	always showing kindness and being a wonderful friend to everyone.
Year 5F	Simone	writing a fantastic letter as Nelson Mandela.
Year 6L	Tom	writing a fantastic explanation text on the circulatory system.
Year 6F	Aleksandra	writing a comprehensive explanation test on the circulatory system.

