



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.

## March is dedicated to St. Joseph

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

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



24th March 2023

Dear parents and carers,

We continue to enjoy learning our makaton signs each week and adding these signs to our prayers and singing too.

On Tuesday we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing lots of socks and the children entered a competition to design a pair of socks which stand out the most - the winners will be announced before we break up for Easter break. Next week, the PTA have organised a special treat for the children in school, where every class will have a session with the animal man. We are so lucky to have a PTA that is so active at St. Mary's. Thankyou.

The teachers are looking forward to speaking with you all about the progress of the children at our parent consultation evening - make sure that you have signed up. If you need an appointment, please call the office if you are unable to book online. I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Yorke

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

*John 9 : 1*

*"As Jesus went along, He saw a man who had been blind from birth."*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus can help us see the world through eyes of love and faith.
- With Jesus as our vision, we see what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- Jesus enables us to see opportunities to GIVE, ACT and PRAY.

*Jesus, be my vision,  
As I continue my journey through Lent,  
help me to see with eyes of faith and love.  
Be my guide as I GIVE to others,  
Be my strength as I ACT by making good choices,  
Be my friend as I PRAY and get to know you more.  
Amen*

### Catholic Life in School

*Year 5 Mass - 22.3.23 - 4th Week of Lent*

*Year 5 led a prayerful Mass today.  
We thought about the joy that  
Laetare Sunday brought us.*



*Whole School Mass - 5th Week of Lent*

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 29th March 2023**, starting promptly at 9:30am. All children and staff will be attending Mass. All parents are welcome to attend.



# World Down Syndrome Day #LotsOfSocks

On 21st March we took part in #LotsOfSocks for Down Syndrome Awareness Day.



## Year 5 news: -

Year 5 made stuffed aquatic animal toys. They completed them by using a blanket stitch that they learnt in DT.





## Parents' Consultations

We look forward to welcoming you to our Parent Consultation Evenings next week

*Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days -  
Tuesday 28th March 2023 and Wednesday 29th March 2023.*

*Our consultations will be hosted in the school hall.*

*After consultation with the teacher, your child's teacher will give you your child's books to look at. You will then have time to look at the books in one of the Year 3 classrooms. In the other Year 3 classroom, we will have the book fair.*

*There will be a parent questionnaire to complete too.*

*After looking at your child's books, please leave them with the TA in the classroom and you can either go to your next appointment, or leave the school via the playground and main gate.*

*The appointment with the class teacher will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please do not arrive any earlier than 5 minutes before your first appointment to help us keep numbers in the hall to a minimum and to allow for a timely well-organised evening.*

*Your children (those attending the school) will not be allowed to attend the appointment in the hall, if they are with you, we can look after them in the Year 2 classroom. If you need an interpreter, this should not be your child. It would be preferable if pre-school children, babies and older children do not attend the appointment so that you are able to focus on the consultation.*

*We are unable to look after pre-school children in our classrooms.*

*During parent consultations, key staff will be available for you if you have any concerns. Our SENDCo, Miss Hill, will be sat at a table in the hall. No prior appointment is needed, but if you would like to speak to Miss Hill about SEN, she will be available.*

*SLT (Mrs Yorke and Mrs Davis) are also present in their offices, should you need to discuss anything with them.*

*We ask all parents to treat members of our school community with respect as we work together in the best interests of your child/ren. We look forward to seeing you next week.*

# Religious Education

"During this Lent,  
let us all ask the Lord:  
Make our hearts like yours."

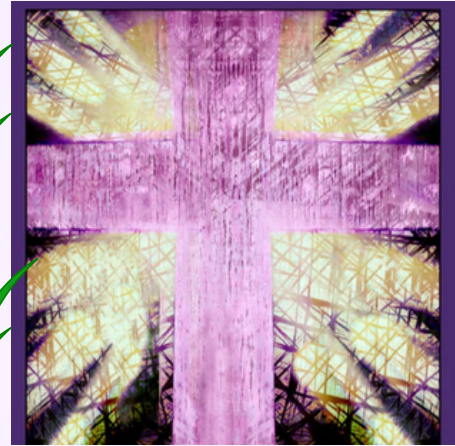
-Pope Francis



# PRAY

The children are leading prayer services for their parents during lent 9:00-9:30 on the following dates

- Year 6 - Friday 3rd March ✓
- Year 5 - Wednesday 8th March ✓
- Year 3 - Tuesday 14th March ✓
- Year 2 - Friday 17th March ✓
- Year 1 - Wednesday 22nd March ✓
- Year 4 - Thursday 23rd March ✓
- Reception - Thursday 30th March



Supporting our Lenten charities: -  
CAFOD

At St Mary's, we are working together, to take on the Big Lent Walk! The whole school will be walking 200km in 40 days throughout Lent. Each class will contribute to this total and will walk 9 miles. This will take place throughout this half term.

We are taking part in this walk as part of our Lenten charity work. We will be supporting CAFOD and raising money to fight global poverty. Any donations to this cause will be greatly appreciated.

All donations will go to CAFOD.  
If you are happy to donate, you can donate via the link below.

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-marysb17>





*This half term, each year group will be supporting our Lent work. Find out what your child will be doing and how you can support them...*

**Year  
R**

*Reception class will be praying for those who need our prayers. They will say prayers for: those within our school, parish and community; those who are in a position of power and making decisions; and those who are affected by poverty and war.*



**Year  
1**

*Year 1 are keen to care for the school environment. They will ensure that any litter is picked up in our playground and that the plants are being watered. Caring for God's planet begins with caring for the school, that we all share, and taking responsibility over looking after it.*



**Year  
2**

*Year 2 are finding out ways that we can look after God's creatures. They are particularly interested in fundraising to 'save the tigers' - they're putting their campaign together during Lent.*



**Year  
3**

*Year 3 want to help the local community and have decided to go litter picking throughout Lent in the local area. The children will be placed on a rota with a small group of children going each week.*



**Year  
4**

*Year 4 will be supporting our food banks during Lent - they will be asking for donations and encouraging the staff to volunteer. More information about who we will be supporting during this time to follow.*



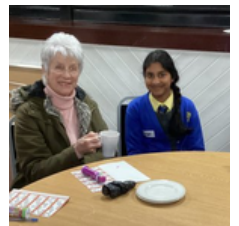
**Year  
5**

*Year 5 have learnt about the world water crisis and have explored the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' The children would like to complete their CAFOD walk whilst carrying buckets of water to raise awareness of water poverty.*



**Year  
6**

*Year 6 will be attending the Dementia drop-in group at the Parish Centre every Thursday morning in small groups to play games and speak with the residents.*



**Individuals  
/ groups**

*Other groups of children are collecting for charity too and have ideas for how we can change our lives and grow closer to Jesus during Lent - more details to follow.*





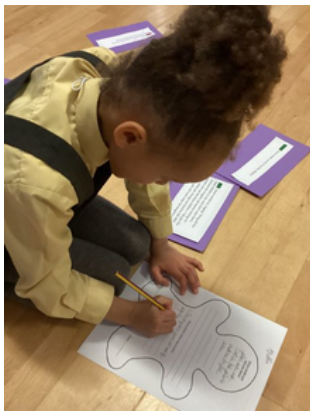
# Our Lenten Journey so far...

## Lenten Prayer bags



*The Spiritual Council have worked hard preparing our Lent prayer bags which have started going home. We hope you enjoy using them with your children this Lent. Please tweet any pictures of them being used and tag us in @StMaryB17*

Year 1 children led a prayer service about Jesus' teaching about children and the Kingdom of Heaven.



Year 4 children led a very prayerful liturgy for their parents.





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



## Viewing films safely online

*It is important that our children are watching films that are suitable for their age. The BBFC is the UK's regulator of film and videos and they have created this useful article answering the questions they get asked the most.*

<https://www.cbbfc.co.uk/resources/viewing-films-safely-online>

## 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.*

*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 -

**Week 13<sup>th</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> March**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	93.3%	96.1%	96.7%	95%	97.2%	97.8%	99.4%	100%	99.4%	100%	96.7%	94.3%	95.7%	93%
Lates	11	2	2	5	2	2	2	6	2	0	6	2	3	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.5%		School Target				97%		

Well done Y3T and Y4M: - our Attendance Champions



# Dates for this term

*Spring theme -*

*Spring 2 Virtues*

27th March 2023 - all day

27th March 2023 - 3:00pm

28th March 2023 - am

28th March 2023 - after school

29th March 2023 - after school

30th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

WB 3.4.23

3rd April 2023 - 1:30-3:00pm

3rd April 2023 - 3:45pm

4th April 2023 - 2:00pm

6th April 2023 - 11:00am

6th April 2023

*The Dignity of Work*

*Learned and Wise*

PTA organised event in school - Animal Man

Y4 parents meeting - about x-table check - in hall

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations

Reception Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Holy Week

Reconciliation Service for Y4-Y6 in Church

Y6 parents meeting - about Residential - in hall (parents only)

Reception class Easter Bonnet Parade

Y6 Stations of the Cross in Church

Break up for Easter break!

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KSI classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes



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

Year RB	Evan	trying so hard with his learning all of the time
Year RT	Leon	working so hard at all his reading and writing activities
Year IF	Eliana	being a good friend to others and always showing kindness
Year IL	Sarah	always trying her best in everything that she does
Year 2E	Peonya-Rose	being kind and considerate and an excellent role model
Year 2G	Theo	some particularly persuasive writing about a polar bear
Year 3L	Oscar	showing kindness to a new pupil and being a welcoming friend
Year 3T	Patrick	superb work during Science and trying his best
Year 4J	Rhea	displaying beautiful reverence during our Lenten Prayer Service
Year 4M	Isla	super contributions in class
Year 5F	Raffaelle	being a fantastic role model both academically and spiritually
Year 5M	Rufus	always being amazing and doing fantastic work
Year 6O	Lexie	living our the virtues of kindness and compassion
Year 6R	Marlowe	working hard in all lessons this week

