Archdiocese of Birmingham



#### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ALL THIN

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.

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

### April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Dignity of Work' Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Attentive and Discerning'



Dear parents and carers,

11th April 2025

We are about to move in to one of our most special weeks in the Church's year – Holy Week. A week, where we journey with Christ to the foot of the Cross. We stay in school for Holy Week as this journey is very important to us and it is the perfect way to complete our Lenten journey. Our virtues for this half-term 'Attentive and Discerning' have helped us to focus on how we can grow closer to Jesus, especially at this time. The children have been showing that they wish to be attentive and discerning (show good judgement) in their daily lives, making right choices along the way. Well done children.

Over this half-term, I have collected in responses from parents, staff and children about school life. Leaders take these responses very seriously - we love to hear all the things that are going well and we're always "striving for excellence" (as is our mission statement), so willing to make changes in order to be even better.

Although 100% of children say that they enjoy RE lessons; and 95% of parents say that their children enjoy RE, our lowest percentage from parents was about how their children are doing in RE: - 84% of parents strongly agree or agree that they know how their child is doing in RE.

We currently share with you how your child is doing in RE through termly parents' evenings, where teachers provide comments about your child's progress and you have the opportunity to look at RE books; and we give a written report in the Summer term. Children are also selected for the remarkable RE award each fortnight, which is shared on our twitter feed and in the Newsletter; and selected for RE and virtues awards in our God-given gifts assemblies each term. We share RE being taught on our twitter and the curriculum maps are sent each half-term (also they can be found on the website). We welcome any further suggestions that would help you feel that you know how your child is getting on in RE – please let us know. You can pick up the phone or send suggestions in through the enquiry email address.

We finish for Easter break next Thursday at an earlier finish time. Staff are leaving straight away – please make arrangements with Kidz.comm or SchoolsOut if you need after school provision. Kidz.comm will close at the earlier time of 5:30pm on Thursday. Have a lovely weekend, from, Mrs Yorke Break up for Easter Holidays 1:40 finish time - Reception classes 1:45 finish time - KSI classes 1:50 finish time - sibling group 2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

## **Catholic Life**



Luke 15:24 "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.'

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

- The Year of Jubilee is an opportunity to be hopeful and grow our friendship with God
- During Lent, God calls us to be hopeful and positive in our relationships with others
- We can be 'Pilgrims of Hope' throughout the Year of Jubilee.



In Wednesday's Mass, we continued on our journey through Lent and we gave thanks to Mrs Davis for her service and devotion to the school, through a special presentation.



This weekend is Palm Sunday... a time to rejoice in our King Jesus and sing Hosanna



## Charity

A massive thank you for those who have donated to our Big CAFOD Lent Walk. We've raised an incredible amount of money for the charity.

Thank you for supporting our charity efforts £467 raised so far

We have walked 225.2km of our 200km target

https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-catholic-primary-schoolfundraising-page

## **Social Action**

A group of children horrified by the amount of refuse gathering on our school site, wrote to MP Preet Gill to ask for immediate action.

Preet wrote back to the children very promptly acknowledging the children's request for help and as a result the school bins have now been collected. Each child who wrote received a hand-written letter from her. Such a wonderful example of Social Action and the difference young voices can make.



## Prayer

Thank you Reception for leading a beautiful prayer service yesterday morning for your parents, dedicated to RB's class Saint - Saint Bernadette. The children shared ways in which they show love.



## **RE Learning**

We have started our Holy Week learning:



## **School of Sanctuary**

We were privileged to receive a visit from Steph and two refugees from 'Stories of Hope and Home', who came in to school to tell us more about what life is like for those who seek asylum from the country. The children baked biscuits to share with our visitors, listened with sensitivity and asked some great questions.





## **Holy Week Reflection**

As we begin our Holy Week journey - we think about Jesus' triumphant entry in to Jerusalem and His Passion. We have reflected on our own behaviours and have asked God for His forgiveness for our shortcomings. Now, it is our turn to forgive others we think about those who have hurt us... and ask God to help us to truly forgive them.

## scripture

"For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation" -2 Corinthians 5:19

## reflection

God gave us His Only Begotten Son so that we may be offered reconciliation. Yet, we are still called to merit reconciliation with our own deeds. We reflect on Our Lord's mercy given to us through Jesus' sacrifice and continue to give praise and glory to Jesus.

## open question

What do you need to let go of, so that you can be closer to God?

## Task

**A Creative Reflection** We invite families to explore Holy Week together at home. This could be through role-play, stories, artwork, prayer or any form that resonates with your family. Share your creations with us. All collective work will be displayed in the school hall.







#### Next week - WB 14.4.25

#### Next Week is Holy Week

Holy Week is the most important week for us as we journey with Jesus to the foot of the cross. Each day, next week, the children will attend a service that is led by another year group that takes them through the Passion of Jesus...

We began today with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where palms were waved and the people sang Hosanna!

Thank you Year I, Reception and Year 2 for leading us in our Palm Sunday service.









Reconciliation Service for Year 4, 5 and 6 Children will be going over to the Church on Monday morning for Confession as part of our final preparations. You can help your child prepare for this at home by thinking about 2 or 3 things that they are sorry for.

#### Reception Easter Bonnet parade - Tuesday 15th April at 2:00pm

Parents are invited to join their children in the school hall on Tuesday afternoon as they parade and show off their Easter bonnets.

Children are able to come to school wearing their own clothes on Tuesday - please bring in shop bought cakes (no nuts) for our cake sale.

#### The Passion of our Lord Jesus – Stations of the Cross – Thursday 17th April – 11am

Parents and the Parish Community are welcome to join us in St. Mary's Church on Thursday 17th April at 11am, as our Year 6 children lead us through the Stations of the Cross. All KS2 children will be in attendance.





#### PTA news



The PTA Bunny is back! Guess the rabbit's name correctly to win. £1 a go!

The PTA will be at pick up every day until Wednesday next week selling tickets.

The PTA are after a Treasurer for the PTA (starting September). Our PTA is really important to the school. If you think you can help, please contact a PTA member or let the school office know, if you are interested in the position?

#### Signposting



This online 6 week course is free for Birmingham parents and carers of children and young people with ADHD or suspected ADHD

## LED BY ADULTS WITH ADHD

Does your child have ADHD or suspected ADHD? Are you trying to support them but find that everyone gives you different

advice?

- In this 6 week course, you will learn about ADHD
- Understand the effect on our
- mental health **Understand the reasons behind**
- behaviours
- Gain confidence in advocating for our children
- Learn new strategies
- Help our kids be confident, resilient and be their best selves

#### Phone: 0731 116 7485

Email:contactus@brewseducation.org Birmingham Resilience Education and Wellbeing Services CIC

What parents have said about this course

This course is literally game-changing nns course is interaity game-changing for parents, caregivers, teachers and anyone living with a child (or adult) with ADHD. So much misunderstanding, frustration and worry could be prevented if everyone had access to this amazing resource.

Essential course for any parent of a child with ADHD. It changed the way I see my son and my ability to respond to his needs effectively.

Very informative, friendly, no pressure, enjoyable sessions



#### NEW GROUPS STARTING SOON!

Nurturing

Free online 6 week course for parents and carers Each session is 90 minutes

#### Next half term's courses

Tuesdays 7 - 8.30pm starting Tuesday 29th April Register HERE or use QR code

Wednesdays 10-11.30am starting Wednesday 30th April Register HERE or use QR code

#### **Registration closes at** 5 pm on Monday 28th April

If you miss the deadline, email us at contactus@brewseducation.org and you can join the next one starting in June







Half term clubs

# Back by demand days during toster holidays LEGO CODING **SESSION**

## e Fl Arcade Birmingham

PECIAL OFFER Kids Eat Free with every full paying adult



£20





We have two new sessions during Easter to give young people 2.5 hours of fun filled activities with a Formula 1 theme.

SUCCESS EDUCATION

URNING THE IMPOSSIBLE INTO POSSIBLE

All attendees will get to create and code fantastic F1 themed builds whilst also getting to race in the state of the art simulators at FI Arcade



Sign up using link



Scan me!

## SESSION INFORMATION



2 Chamberlain Sq, Birmingham B3 3AX



Thurs 17th Apr and/or Friday 25th Apr

For further information johnpaul@successeducation.org

#### This is an **Operation KEEPING SAFE** 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.

#### **Pastoral Team**

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

If you have a concern that a child is being harmed, is at risk of harm, or you receive a disclosure (intentionally or unintentionally) you must contact one of the following staff members as quickly as possible:





Amy Davis Deputy Headteacher Headteacher Lead DSL Deputy DSL











Louise Yorke DSL

**Rachel Jones** Senior Teacher

**Rachel Richards** EYFS Lead DSL

Sharon Tame School Counsellor DSL

Laura Noone AHT DSL

Jade Preedy AHT DSL

Alternatively, email DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

#### 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.

Celebrating our fantastic attendance:- Our attendance for last week was - Week 07/4/25-11/4/25														
Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	үзт	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	95.3	94	<mark>99.3</mark>	88.6	97.3	97.6	94	<mark>99.3</mark>	98.6	95	94.6	95	96.2	94.3
Lates	3	5	0	2	1	1	0	3	1	0	3	4	2	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%		School Target					97%	

#### Well done 1L and 3T: - Our attendance champions!

## Dates for this term

17th April 2025 - 11:00am 17th April 2025

Year 6 Stations of the Cross in Church for KS2 and parent Break up for Easter Holidays 1:40 finish time – Reception classes 1:45 finish time – KS1 classes 1:50 finish time – sibling group 2:00 finish time – KS2 classes



Holy Week

Year RB	Gracious	For delivering his lines so confidently during our prayer service.
Year RT	William	For speaking confidently at the Reception prayer service.
Year IF	Nathan	For his fantastic contributions and excellent work in Maths this week.
Year IL	Natnael	For trying so hard to improve his handwriting.
Year 2E	Massimo	For a super attitude to learning and for trying his best in all lessons.
Year 2G	lan	For being a kind and thoughtful member of the class!
Year 3L	Monty	For always being polite and using super manners
Year 3T	Harper	For working incredibly hard across all subjects this week, especially RE! Well Done.
Year 4J	Theodore	For being kind and supporting his partner in their learning
Year 4M	Alicia	For volunteering to sing a solo in our Holy Week Assembly
Year SF	Giorgia	For the creativity and enthusiasm she puts into every lesson. Your writing, in particular always blows me away!
Year SM	Emily	For amazing progress in her work, especially reading and maths
Year 60	Nathan	For making excellent progress with his handwriting!
Year 6R	Ethan	For the help he gave his class mates during their Design and Technology work



