



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

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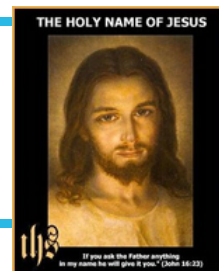
[www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

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.

**January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus**  
**Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the poor and vulnerable'**  
**Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Curious and Active'**



Dear parents and carers,

28th January 2022

The theme this week has been "Christ has no body now on Earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours". (St. Teresa of Avila). We also have been learning about St. Paul's conversion and thinking about what it means to be followers of Christ. Y4L Assembly concluded our week with an assembly that reminded us of the importance to remember that our actions on Earth should be a reflection of Christ's work. Today has been a fun day in school : Our week concluded with a Geography day that the children have really enjoyed. It has been wonderful to see some of their work and to speak to the children about how much they have learnt about their specific country.

Thank you to those who are being patient at pick-up time, your efforts to arrive at the correct time, and to queue until the class has come out, has really helped us to halve our numbers of cases in school. I ask that you continue to support us with these routines that keep our children and staff safe. Please remember that school is closed to pupils on Tuesday 1st February as it is a staff INSET day. I will see most of you on Monday. Have a lovely weekend. Miss Price.

*This week's Gospel and prayer*

*Luke 1:1-4 - "The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor."*

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

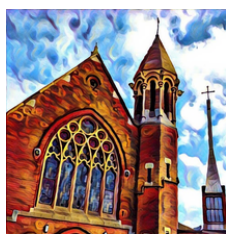
- What 'mission' is - to continue Jesus' work
- God loves us and helps those in need.
- God sometimes calls us to a specific mission.
- No-one is too young to be used by God!

*Thank you Lord for my mission.  
 Help me to be more like Jesus and to do  
 your work on Earth.  
 Amen*

*Catholic Life in School*

*Year 1 Mass - St. Paul the Apostle*

Year 1 celebrated the conversion of St. Paul the Apostle on Wednesday. We know that all things are possible through Jesus.



*YR Mass in Church - 2.2.22 at 9:15am - Presentation of our Lord*

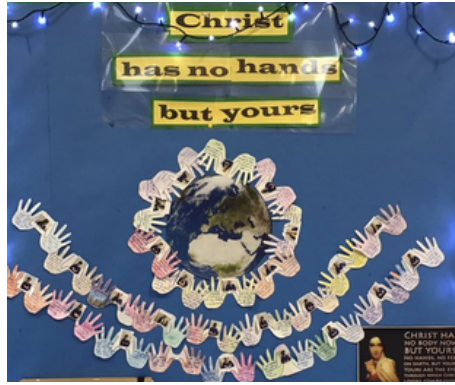
Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 2nd February, starting promptly at 9:15am. Reception pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend. (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).

# Christ has no body on Earth now but ours...

Our learning about how we can be Christ's body, hands and feet on Earth...



Bella and Phoebe wanted to let all refugees know that they're welcome at St. Mary's.



Year 6 created displays for the classrooms - so that they can be reminded every day by St Teresa of Avila - 'we are here to do God's work on Earth'



Simone reminded us of our responsibility to remember what happened to the Jews and others under Nazi Persecution.

## 4L Class Assembly - Friday 28th January 2022

4L assembly reminded us of how we could be more like Jesus



## This week's news

### Reception news: -

Reception class have been learning about China - prawn crackers and dipping sauces were the highlight of their Geography Day, but also building the Great Wall of China



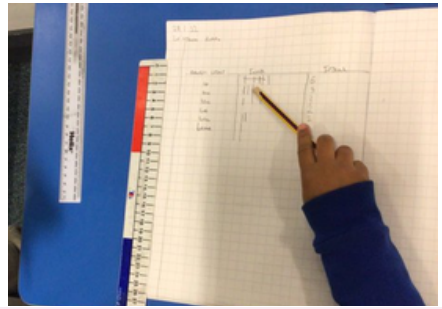
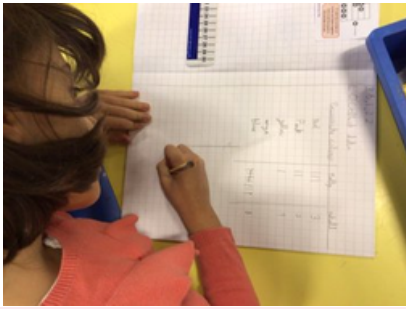
### Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been learning about division this week in Maths. The children learned to share amounts equally. They have been sharing amounts between groups of 2, 3, 5 and 10



## Year 2 news: -

Statisticians in Year 2 have been collecting data in Maths using tally and block charts



## Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been ordering and comparing mass and volume.



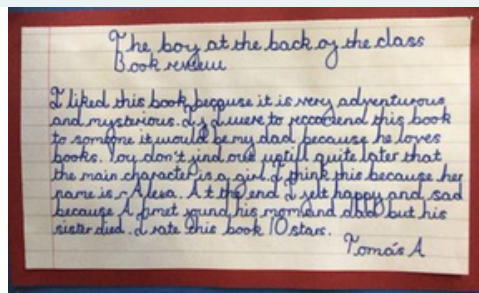
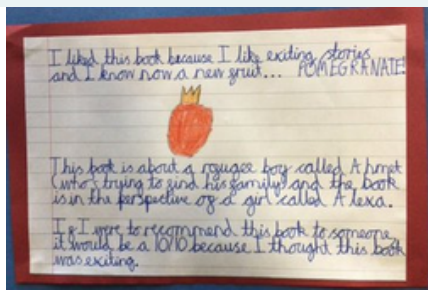
## Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been finding 4 figure grid references using a map of Brazil



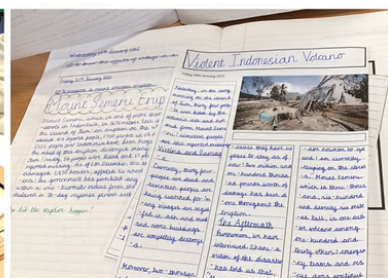
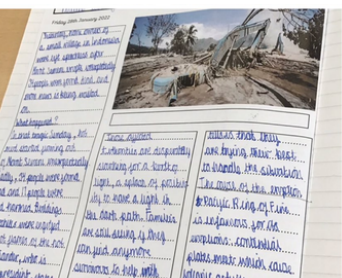
## Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have just finished reading 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' as their class reader. The children really enjoyed the story and have written some wonderful recommendations!



## Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have written newspaper articles about the recent eruption of Mount Semru.





# Geography Day



Friday 28th January 2022

Every year group was given a focus country for our Geography day today and the children have had a marvellous time. Children (and staff) came in to school dressed in the colours of their given country. Every class has had a maths lesson, writing lesson, map work focus, Geography lesson and a cultural activity lesson – all linked to their chosen country.



YR – China



Y1 – Russia



Y2 – India



Y3 – United Arab Emirates



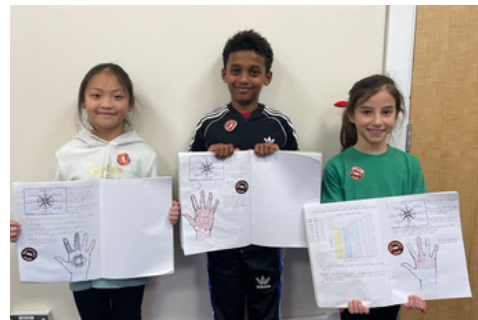
Y4 – Brazil



Y5 – Peru

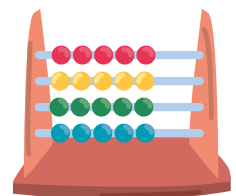


Y6 – Indonesia



## Y2 reading and maths workshop

Parents joined Mrs Russell and Miss Ruhan to find out more about early reading and maths at St. Mary's and how to support their child at home.



**Staff INSET Day - Tuesday 1st February - Closed to children**

School will be closed to children on Tuesday 1st February next week due to Staff Inset Day. School is open to children Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the normal start and finish time.



**NSPCC National Number Day Friday 4th February - Dress up for Digits**

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it.

We are having a fun day of maths activities on Friday 4th February and we will be taking part in: - **Dress up for Digits**. Pupils are asked to come to school wearing an item of clothing with a number on it. We encourage them to be very creative when dressing in a maths or numbers theme.



To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a £1 voluntary donation.

Parish News

St Mary's Church will retain all its Covid precautions for the foreseeable future, despite widespread relaxations.



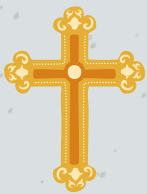
**Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation programme**

If your child is preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, please ensure that your child attends the Saturday classes.

9:30 - 11:00 For Holy Communion (Parish centre)

11:30 - 12:45 for Confirmation (Parish Centre)

**Next session - Saturday 5th February**

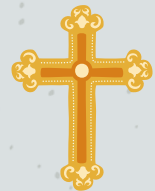


**Parents' First Communion session:**

8.00pm, Tuesday 1st February, Parish Centre

**Parents' Confirmation session:**

8.00pm, Tuesday 8th February, Parish Centre



**Requiem Mass for Sylvia Brennan**

*Sylvia Brennan, Irish Dancing Teacher for generations of children died Saturday 15th January in Good Hope Hospital after a short illness, with her family around her and having received the Last Rites. She is known and loved by thousands.*

*Her Requiem is in St Mary's Church on Wednesday 23rd February at 11am.*

*The only guaranteed way to attend the Requiem is by live-streaming on St Mary's Church, Harborne website.*



**NO Rucksacks**

There is no room for the rucksacks in school. We have two boxes for older children who sometimes need to bring a bigger bag in to school as they are doing PE clubs, but other than that every child needs to bring in a book bag.

This is for health and safety reasons, it is a matter of time before somebody trips over these unnecessary large bags and hurt themselves. It is important that we consider everybody and follow school policies.

**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. Your information / car registration may be passed on to the police / city council, if you continue to park illegally.

Please 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 **Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022**.

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

Books that I have read and shared			
Date	Book	Page No.	Comments

**Reading diaries**

We know that our parents understand the importance of reading with their children every day at home. Research proves that children learn to read best when they read to an adult every day, who can support them with intonation, pronunciation, new words and meaning. Please let us know what books / materials you are reading with your child at home by signing diaries – it supports us to evidence and implement further challenge at school.

**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.



**NO SMOKING  
NO VAPING**

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

When buying on amazon, you can name 'St Marys Roman Catholic School Pta' as a registered charity. 0.5% of what you spend automatically goes to the PTA pot, which they use to buy things for school (at no extra cost to you) - it's just like ticking gift aid.

**Hair styles**

We can not allow extreme hair styles in school. This is a reminder that long hair must be tied back. All hair should be one colour. Extreme cuts and lines are not allowed. Large bows and coloured beads are not allowed (small bows and head bands are allowed). All hair styles must be neat and sensible and not a distraction to others. Thank you.

## Collecting your children at the end of day

Please take time to re-read the end of day collection plan as we have noticed an increasing amount of people not following it. Teachers will release children to those following the queuing system only.

When queuing, please leave room for over-taking in the lanes. Nobody should bypass the queue and come straight up the middle. The middle is so that a larger amount of people can leave school grounds safely.

This system is to keep us all safe in times of Covid. SLT will approach anybody who is not following it and you will be asked to join the queue correctly.

### End of day

Please take note of the new end of day timings... following a review of end of day routines: -

At 3:10pm, Reception parents (once children are in full time) are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

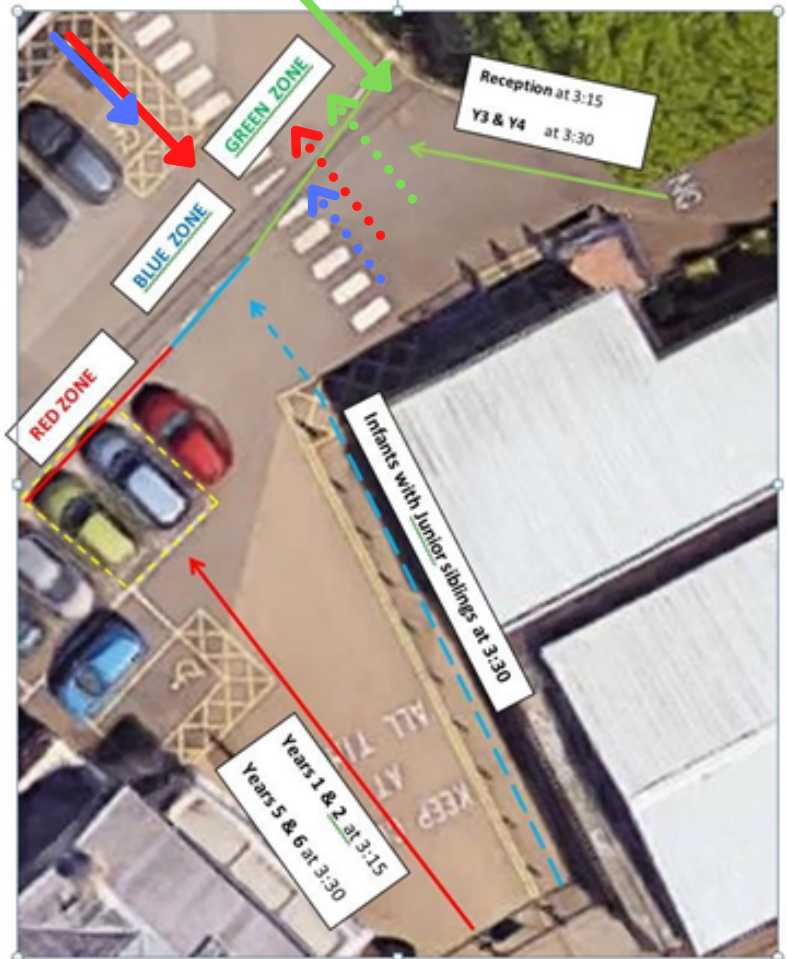
At 3:15pm, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:20pm, siblings will be released to parents, who will walk down on the **right** hand side (as shown by the blue arrows). Your children will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 3 and Year 4 parents are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 5 and Year 6 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

### END OF DAY COLLECTION POINTS AND TIMES –



Please note: -

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.

**Positions available on the PTA - The PTA are in need of a treasurer, secretary and office bearer. If you would like to fulfil this position, please speak to Chair of PTA or Miss Price.**

#### Role of the Treasurer-

The Treasurer ensures accurate financial records are kept and best practice procedures are followed for counting money, banking and making payments. He or she should keep the committee updated with regular reports, and ensure end of year reports are completed for the association's AGM and the Charity Commission annual return.

#### The Secretary role-

The Secretary supports the Chair to build effective communication links between the school and the association and maintains accurate records. They take the minutes at the meetings and keep an update on actions.

#### The Office Bearer role-

The office bearers ensure that the committee fulfils its responsibilities. They advocate for the PTA and act in accordance with the PTA's constitution and financial matters. They work as a team member through support and assisting with projects.

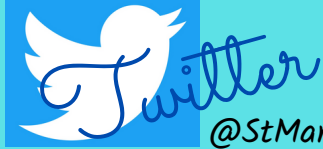


## Fidget spinners / toys / card games - Not in school



We are seeing an increase in children bringing their own toys / fidget spinners in to school and unfortunately this is causing arguments and upset in school. Please keep all toys at home. The school are working with the PTA to provide more equipment for children to play with when they are outside - so these things will not be necessary. Thank you.

### Online Safety



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!!!

Follow this link to find out more about how to keep your children safe when they play online games: -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE**

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content - including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a popular app for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astonishingly popular platform has had a huge social impact, influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
YouTube is a video-sharing platform where anyone can upload content. This means there is a wide range of content, including inappropriate content. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of inappropriate content, such as violence, sexual content, and hate speech.

**CONNECT WITH STRANGERS**  
YouTube is a social media platform, which means it can be used to connect with other people. This can be a great way to connect with friends and family, but it can also be used to connect with strangers. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of connecting with strangers, such as identity theft and fraud.

**SUGGESTED CONTENT**  
YouTube has a recommendation system that suggests videos to watch based on what you've watched before. This can be a great way to discover new content, but it can also be used to suggest inappropriate content. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of suggested content, such as inappropriate content and identity theft.

**HIGH VISIBILITY**  
YouTube is a popular platform, which means it has a high visibility. This can be a great way to reach a large audience, but it can also be used to reach a large audience of strangers. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of high visibility, such as identity theft and fraud.

**TRENDS AND CHALLENGES**  
YouTube is a platform where trends and challenges often spread quickly. This can be a great way to have fun, but it can also be used to spread harmful trends and challenges. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of trends and challenges, such as identity theft and fraud.

**SNEAKY SCAMMERS**  
YouTube is a platform where scammers often use to trick people. This can be a great way to make money, but it can also be used to trick people. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of sneaky scammers, such as identity theft and fraud.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

- APPLY RESTRICTED MODE**  
Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents children from seeing that content. It's a great way to help protect your child from inappropriate content.
- TRY GOOGLE FAMILY**  
Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, listening and interacting with online. It's a great way to help protect your child from inappropriate content.
- CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS**  
YouTube gives users the option of updating their privacy settings. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of privacy settings, such as identity theft and fraud.
- CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS**  
In addition to YouTube, children may have other social media accounts. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of other platforms, such as identity theft and fraud.
- MONITOR ENGAGEMENT**  
YouTube is a social media platform, which means it can be used to connect with other people. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of monitoring engagement, such as identity theft and fraud.
- LIMIT SPENDING**  
Although YouTube is free, it does offer some paid services. Parents and carers should be aware of the risks of limiting spending, such as identity theft and fraud.

Meet Our Expert: National Online Safety (NOS) #WakeUpWednesday

### Safer Internet Coffee Morning

Join us on 7th February (if your child is in YR, Y1, Y2) or on 8th February (if your child is in Y3-6) for a coffee morning, where we will discuss Safer Internet Issues and offer advice. It is also a great opportunity to meet other parents from your child's year group.



### Covid Update

Cases of those testing positive for the Covid-19 virus have dropped considerably this week.

As a school, we are keen to ensure that we protect children's education and limit disruption for parents and so will continue with another week of extra precautionary measures next week.

Our extra measures are outlined in our Covid outbreak plan but include: -

- Ensuring that affected areas (classes/rooms where threshold has been met) are deep cleaned before next use.
- Ensuring that any enclosed spaces are adequately ventilated (this is why the windows are open).
- Sibling/household close contacts over the age of 5 daily LFD test for 7 days.
- Promoting prompt isolation and LFD testing.
- Reverting to video-link assemblies.
- Having separate areas for break-time and lunch.
- Having lessons outside if the weather allows.
- Increased hand washing routines.
- Enhanced cleaning regimes.
- Staff social distancing and use of PPE as appropriate.

We are hopeful that by following these measures will see a further decrease in numbers. However, if any numbers rise in a particular year group - so that 5 or more test positive - I will write to the affected year group individually.

Currently, we are able to run before and after school clubs, and the leaders will also put in extra precautions to keep the children in year groups.

Please continue to be patient with us as all measures are made to keep your children safe and all routines are in place for this reason too. Report any positive cases to [covid@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:covid@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)



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.

## Dates for the diary

# Dates for next term

*1st February 2022 - all day -*

*2nd February 2022 - 9:15am -*

*4th February 2022 - all day -*

*7th February 2022 - 9:00am -*

*8th February 2022 - 9:00am -*

*9th February 2022 - 9:15am -*

*11th February 2022 - 9:15am -*

*16th February 2022 - 9:15am -*

*18th February 2022*

*28th February 2022 - all day -*

*2nd March 2022 - 9:30am -*

*4th March 2022 - all day -*

*9th March 2022 - 9:15am -*

*11th March 2022 - 9:15am -*

*15th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -*

*15th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -*

*16th March 2022 - 9:15am -*

*16th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -*

*16th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -*

*17th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -*

*17th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -*

*18th March 2022 - 9:15am -*

*21st March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -*

*21st March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -*

*22nd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -*

*22nd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -*

*23rd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -*

*23rd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -*

*25th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -*

*25th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -*

*29th March 2022 - after school -*

*31st March 2022 - after school -*

*INSET day - school closed for all pupils*

*YR Mass in Church (YR parents welcome)*

*World Maths Day - dress up in digits! (Non-school uniform day)*

*Safer Internet and Online Safety coffee morning for Reception / KS1 parents*

*Safer Internet and Online Safety coffee morning for KS2 parents*

*Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome)*

*Year 3L Class Assembly in school (3L parents welcome)*

*Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome)*

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

*Children return to school*

*Whole school Mass for Ash Wednesday (children only)*

*World Book Day*

*Y2 Mass in Church*

*Year 3F Class Assembly in school (3F parents welcome)*

*YRF Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*YRL Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y5 Mass in Church*

*Y1F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y1L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y3F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y3L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y2F Class Assembly in school (2F parents welcome)*

*Y5F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y5L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y2F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y2L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y4F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y4L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y6F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Y6L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)*

*Parent consultations*

*Parent consultations*

# Term Dates

## Spring 1

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

### Half-Term:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Spring 2

Starts: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Easter Holiday:

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Summer 1

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Children return to school

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Closed for Local Election Day

Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May

### Half-Term:

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

## Summer 2

Starts: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee

### Summer Holidays:

Start Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022



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

Year RL	Belle	fantastic efforts with her writing this week
Year RF	Paris	brilliant effort with reading and writing this week
Year IL	Ethan	being such a wonderful and kind friend
Year IF	Zaki	always making the right choices and trying his best
Year 2L	Isla	super exciting writing this week
Year 2F	Bella	an amazing story inspired by Rama and Sita
Year 3L	Theo	working extremely hard and being curious in his learning
Year 3F	Alex	his enthusiasm on Geography day and super knowledge about UAE
Year 4L	Flevin	huge improvement in his handwriting and being an excellent role model
Year 4F	Henry	fantastic effort and improvement in extended writing
Year 5L	Amelia	always pushing herself to go above and beyond what has been asked of her
Year 5F	Nesta	living out the school virtues through her thoughts and actions
Year 6L	Alfie	making his teacher proud this week and for excellent writing
Year 6F	Patrick	being kind and helpful to his peers

