



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

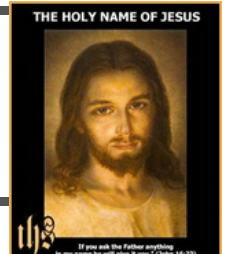


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'

Our virtues for this half term are: Compassionate and Loving



Dear parents and carers,

19th January 2024

As part of our learning this week, we have thought about the Holy Family's flight in to Egypt and their position as refugees and we have continued our School of Sanctuary work and Catholic Social Teaching around this theme. It has been a good week to explore our virtues of compassion and love and how we can use these virtues in how we look after others. Our week has concluded with a house retreat, where we have explored what the Year of Prayer is about and focused particularly on the prayer that our Lord taught us - the 'Our Father' - and how we can use this prayer to grow closer to God.

Thank you to all parents who attended workshops this week. They were very well attended and we hope that they were useful for you. The children looked wonderful on Tuesday for their fantastic phonics day in school.

I know that some parents have noticed that I have not been outside much this week on the barrier and at the end of the day. This is because I have broken my right arm. It is doing well and beginning to heal without a cast or operation. I am currently less available as I go between appointments, working in the building and working from home but will make an effort to be outside more next week. If I am unavailable, any member of staff can support

you, including SLT or your child's class teacher.

I wish you all a very happy weekend. Mrs Yorke.



This week's Gospel and Prayer

John 1:35

"Look, there is the Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- 'Lamb of God' is a title for Jesus that tells us about His sacrifice for us.
- Jesus' sacrifice enables us to get closer to God.
- Spending time with Jesus, helps us to get to know Him.

Catholic Life in School

Year 1 Mass - 17.1.24 - Refugees
Year 1 led our Mass about refugees this week and reflected on the fact that Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus were refugees too.



Y5 Mass - St Paul the Apostle

Our next Mass will be in the **School Hall** on Wednesday 24th January 2024, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 children will be leading our Mass and parents are welcome to attend.

Reception news: -

Reception had a really fun afternoon this week finding the beat in their music lesson!

MUSIC



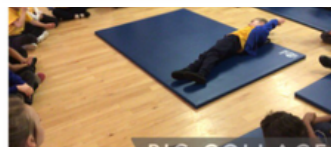
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been enjoying their PE lessons outdoors this week.



Year 2 news: -

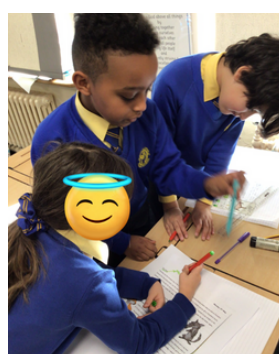
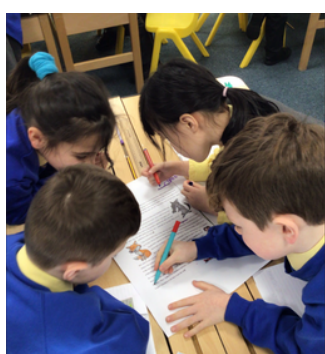
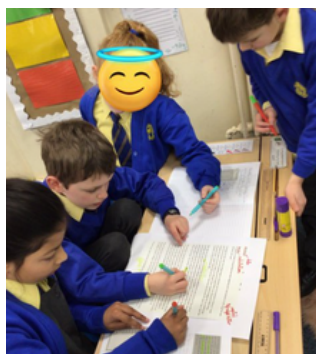
Year 2 loved their first gymnastics lesson this week. They explored different ways of travelling and practised some rolls.



Year 3 news: -

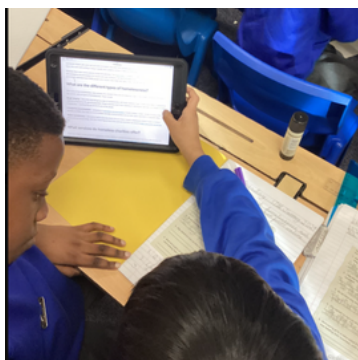
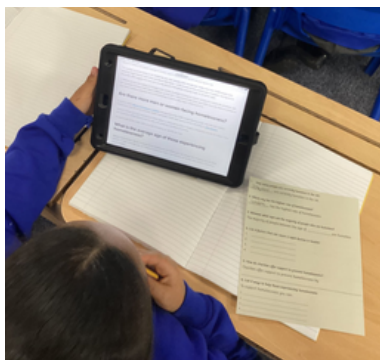
This week, Year 3 worked together to identify the features of a diary.

DEAR DIARY



Year 4 news: -

Inspired by their class text "The Night Bus Hero" by Onjali Q Rauf, Year 4 researched the issue of homelessness in preparation for writing a letter.



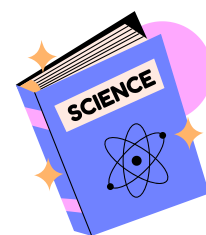
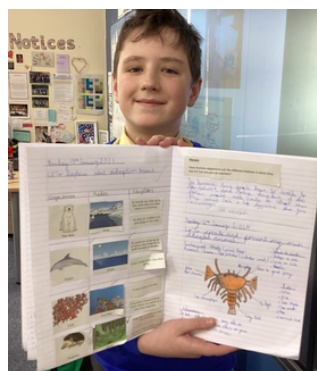
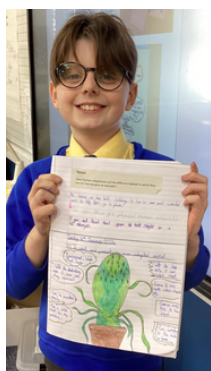
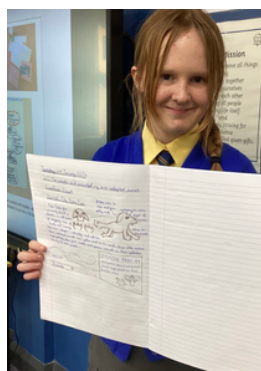
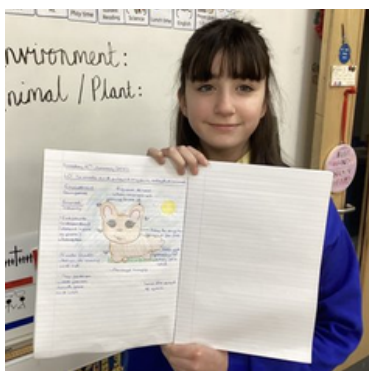
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 enjoyed sharing their book recommendations and story time in the local library in Harborne.



Year 6 news: -

In Science, Year 6 have been learning about adaptation. They designed their own animal or plant, explaining how it is adapted to its environment.



The classes have begun work on this half term's virtues. Year 6 have placed their work around the virtues tree. Our virtues for this half term are 'compassionate' and 'loving'. We have begun our work on the 'year of prayer' - we are praying that the Holy Spirit will lead us all along the road to compassion, just as Pope Francis reminded us to...

THE YEAR OF PRAYER

PREPARING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

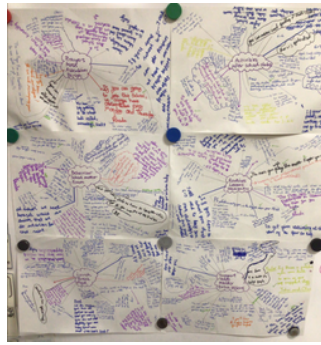
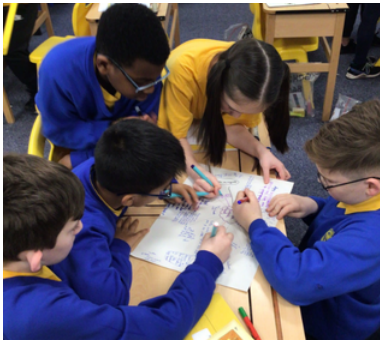


2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Our Father, which presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer.



REFUGEE WEEK

week beginning 15.1.24



Having started reading 'The Boy at the back of the class', Year 5 worked really hard planning their 'Welcome Letter' for any refugee child who may start at St Mary's, so that they can quickly feel part of the family.



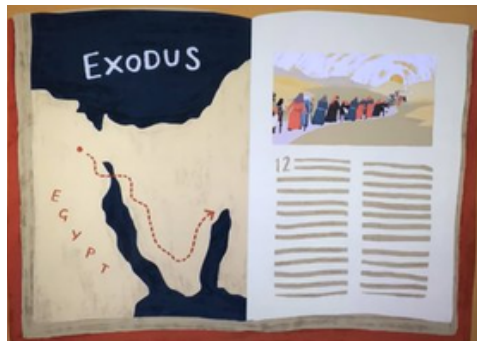
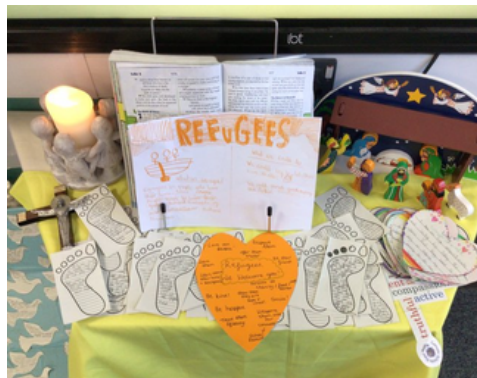
Year 1 led us in a wonderful Mass about the importance of welcoming refugees and standing up for our most poor and vulnerable in society.



The children also discussed the dilemmas that Mary and Joseph would have faced when escaping to Egypt; how their journey is similar to modern day refugees; and how Jesus, as a child refugee, needed to be protected. We linked our learning to Article 22 -

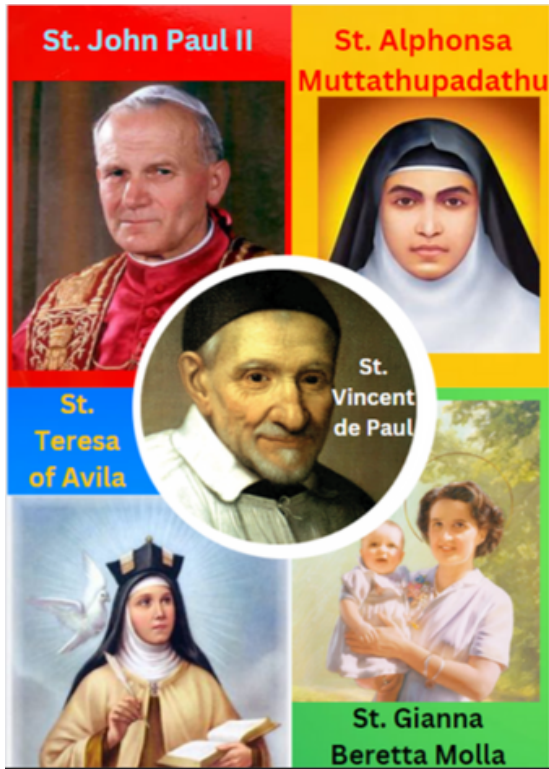


The children have led prayer and liturgy praying for refugees and focused on our virtues of how we can show love and compassion to all those in need.



Year 2 have learnt about how the bluebird took refuge in the robot's heart as they read their class text together this week.

Whole School House Retreat



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM
OFFICE for MISSION
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."



THE YEAR OF PRAYER

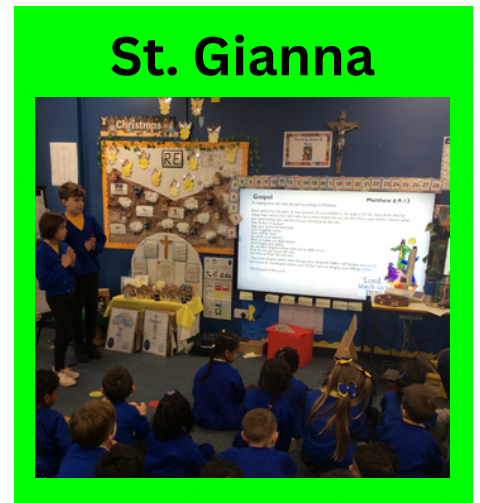
PREPARING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

The children are taking time to be with God as we begin our Year of prayer.

"We are learning about the importance of prayer to strengthen our relationship with God."

Our house captains led our house retreat...

The houses focused on the meaning of the Our Father prayer and produced art work for our whole school display.



St. Vincent



St. John Paul II



OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN...



Fantastic Phonics Day!



The day started with an exciting assembly led by Mrs Russell.



The children's outfits were fabulous and everyone had an opportunity to practise their chosen phoneme!



Reception and KSI had some visitors throughout the day who shared their favourite stories!



Reception and Year 2 also enjoyed some time sharing stories to each other during the day!



The adults weren't left out either! Mrs Russell led a phonics and reading workshop at the end of the day, for parents, too!



Year 6 SATs Workshop



On Wednesday, the Year 6 Teaching Team hosted a SATs Workshop for parents. The Workshop was well attended and offered parents an opportunity to find out more about the SATs, ask any questions and learn how they can support their child at home. After the presentation, the children worked with their parents on a variety of Maths, SPaG and Reading challenges.



Extra-Curricular



Piano Star



It was wonderful to see a video of Wayne practising piano at home. Practise makes perfect! It is great to see how far you have come. Keep up all of the hard work and well done to all our children who are working hard to learn a musical instrument. Tag us in your videos

@stmaryb17

Other News



Harborne Village Social Club - Friday 2nd February 2024
8pm - midnight

Tickets are selling fast for a night of 80s music at Harborne Village Social Club. And any money made from ticket sales is shared amongst the local primary schools so you are helping fundraise for St. Mary's if you attend.





Year 4 Harborne Library Visit - 23.1.24

Year 4 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

4M will leave at 9:00am

4J will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 4 staff know.



Early writing workshop - Wednesday 24th January

On Wednesday 24th January at 2pm, we are hosting an Early Writing workshop in the school hall. In this workshop, you will be able to work with your Reception children in the school hall to support them in their writing.



West Midlands County Finals - 24th January 2024

Congratulations to our U11 football team, who have been nominated by the Harborne Football District to represent them in this season's West Midlands U11 Inter Schools 7-a-side County Finals. We will be transporting the children who are in the team to the venue in a mini-bus, leaving school at 11:30am. All children will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian at 4:30pm.

A separate letter has been sent out about this to parents.



Year 4 Assembly - Friday 26th January 2024 -

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 4 children into school next Friday 26th January, for their year group assembly based on how we can live like Christ on Earth.



Reminders

SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from

Monday 13th May - Thursday 16th May 2024.

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

Winter sickness

Remind your children about correct handwashing to try and reduce illnesses spreading this winter.

The 6 Steps of Hand Washing



CATCH IT
Germ spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

BIN IT
Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

KILL IT
Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



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



Teach your child about evaluating information and being critically aware of information found online. Most children use the internet to improve and develop their knowledge in relation to schoolwork and personal interests. Children should be aware that not all information found online is correct, accurate or relevant. Show your child how to check information they find by comparing it to alternative sources on the same topic. Show them trusted sites they can use to compare information.

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.

Attendance and Punctuality: –

Our attendance for this week was:-

Week 25th Sept – 29th Sept

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O	
%	98	97.3	92	98.6	93.3	95.3	100	98.3	97.6	97.6	98.6	99.3	97.1	98.6	
Lates	5	6	8	2	3	3	1	0	4	5	5	1	2	2	
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.3		School Target				97%			

Well done Y3L: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

23rd January 2024 - am

24th January 2024 - 9:15am

24th January 2024- 12:30-4:30

24th January 2024 - 2:00pm

26th January 2024 - 9:00am

30th January 2024 - am

31st January 2024 - 9:15am

1st February 2024 - 3:45-5:30

2nd February 2024 - all day

WB 5.2.24

6th February 2024 - all day

6th February 2024 - pm

7th February 2024 - 9:15am

9th February 2024 - 9:00am

9th February 2024 - end of day

19th February 2024 - all day

20th February 2024 - 8:45am

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Compassionate and Loving

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4M and 11:00 4J)

Year 5 Mass ONLY for Year 5 parents in school hall

U11 West Midland County Finals Football Competition

Early Writing Workshop for Reception parents

Year 4 Year group Assembly

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3T and 11:00 3L)

Reception Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome

PTA event - Quiz evening in school (against staff too - with prizes)

World number day - £1 donation for NSPCC

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day

Tea and Talk

Year 4 Mass ONLY for Year 4 parents in school hall

Year 3 Year group Assembly

Break up for half-term break - normal time

INSET DAY - school closed to children

Children return to school at normal time

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Lucas	For trying really hard with his writing this week!
Year RT	Nathan	For trying really hard to use the sound mat when writing independently!
Year 1F	Nathan	Excellent behaviour, retaining focus and following instructions first time, every time!
Year 1L	Josh	Always being a fantastic role model!
Year 2E	Willow	Excellent contributions to lessons.
Year 2G	Divine	For having a great first week in 2G at St Mary's!
Year 3L	Ethan	For his super handwriting - keep it up!
Year 3T	Zaki	Superb contributions to lessons.
Year 4J	Jhanvi	Being a great friend and always being polite and cheerful.
Year 4M	Isabella	For her wonderful effort and hard work in lessons.
Year 5F	Nathan	Excellent contributions in lessons and very positive start to the year.
Year 5M	Kaiden	For being an absolute star team member in 5M - We will miss you!
Year 6O	Miriam	Constantly being a wonderful role model to her peers.
Year 6R	Yumi	For working really hard in reading this week and sharing super examples with the class.

