



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.

May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Solidarity and the Common good'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Compassionate and Loving'



9th May 2025

Dear parents and carers,

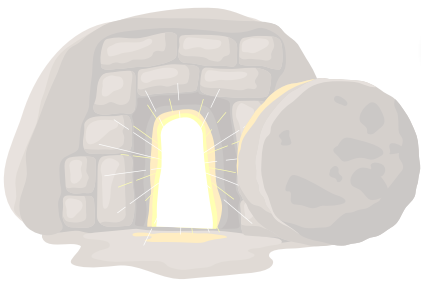
I am sure that you are as excited as we are to find out the name of our new Pope Leo XIV, and that one of our own Augustinian brothers has taken the seat of St. Peter. We had a special assembly in school today with all the children involved so that we could celebrate as a school our strong Augustinian heritage and reflect on what this news means to us a school. We would like to write to the Vatican and have asked the children to draw pictures of the Pope and any messages that we could include. We will have a competition in school where we select a sample to send. Please may we have any entries by Friday 16th May.

Our children have had a fantastic week of learning and our Year 5 children had a wonderful trip to Wyre forest on Wednesday. This was a great day for the children and they enjoyed the opportunities for learning outdoors.

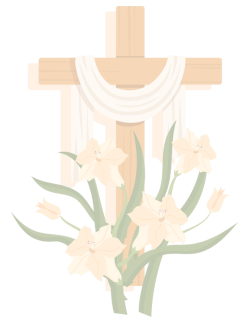
We are inviting children to show their devotion to Mary by bringing in pot plants and flowers for her during this month. We wish to fill our planters in the prayer garden so that the children can enjoy this sacred space during the Summer term and we would like every prayer area dedicated to Mary to have fresh flowers. We appreciate your support with this.

Please keep Year 6 in your prayers over the upcoming days.
Next week, Year 6 will complete their SATs and they have all worked so hard to prepare. They'll need a good rest this weekend and an early night on Sunday. Year 6 need to come in to school at 8am next week for their breakfast club,
Have a good weekend everybody, enjoying the nice weather.
Mrs Yorke





CATHOLIC LIFE



This week's Gospel

John 21: 5-6

'Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some."'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel, we learn: –

- Jesus, the Son of God is alive today!
- Jesus is our friend who loves us and wants to feed us.
- We can trust Jesus to care for us and provide for our needs.

Lord Jesus, I thank You for the gift of new life that comes through Your resurrection. Just as You rose from the dead, I ask that You raise me from the things that keep me bound—sin, fear, and doubt. Amen



Year 3 Mass – 7.5.25 – 3rd week of Easter

Year 3 led our Mass this week. The children reflected on the Bible story 'Breakfast at the shore' and reflected upon the key message from the scripture.



Our next Mass – Y6 Mass – 5th Week of Easter

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 21st May 2025, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 children will be leading our Mass and Year 5 children will be attending. All parents are welcome to attend.

Child-led prayer

Our children have been leading beautiful prayer and liturgy services, thinking about Jesus' appearances after his resurrection and what it means to be a follower of Jesus.



Class 3L

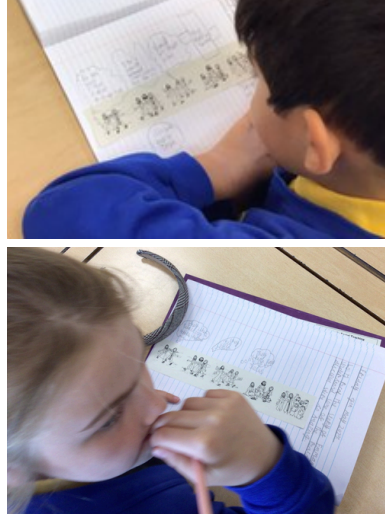
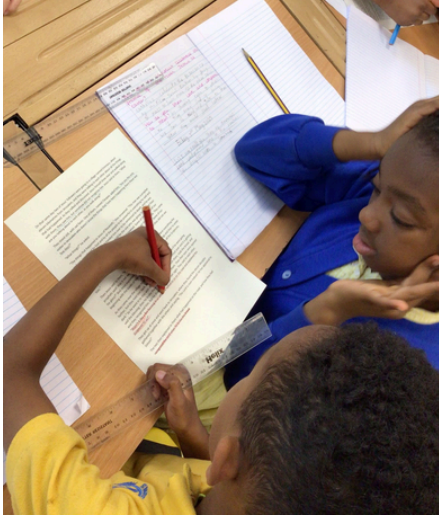


Reception

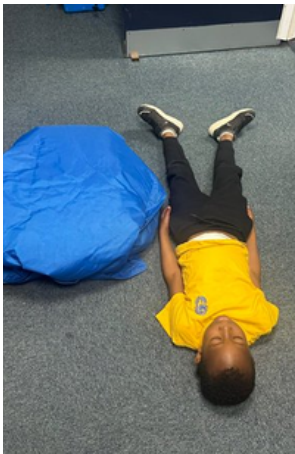


Class 4M

CELEBRATING OUR RE LEARNING



Year 3 have been analysing scripture to find evidence of how Jesus made himself known to the disciples. They have been looking at this through their learning about the road to Emmaus.



Year 1 have reviewed the story of Easter, from Jesus' death to His resurrection. They role-played this special moment and then created art work to show their learning.



Reception children listened to how Jesus met his disciples on the shore and re-enacted the story. They showed amazing teamwork to build their own boats and thought about how the disciples might have felt to see Jesus was alive.

PRAYERS FOR POPE FRANCIS



Year 4 child-led prayer, praying for the soul of Pope Francis and reflecting upon what he taught us through his encyclicals.



Year 2 chose to sit in the shape of the cross, as they remembered the life of Pope Francis. They wrote short prayers of thanks for his life and thought of ways we can continue his work by living simply, looking after our planet and taking care of the poor.



Year 6 reflected on the life of Pope Francis and how his teachings can inspire them to be pilgrims of hope.



Year 5 prayed for the soul of our late Holy Father and that he may receive eternal glory in Heaven.

MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN

In the month of May, we pray to Our Lady, Queen of Heaven for intercession.



WE HAVE A NEW POPE

Habemus Papam

Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Prevost, is the first American Pope.

He was born in Chicago in 1955 and joined the Order of Augustinians in 1977, before being ordained as a Priest in 1982.

He spent many years in Peru serving as a missionary and latterly as Archbishop.



He has chosen the name Leo. The last pope with this name was Pope Leo XIII, over one hundred years ago, whose work was the basis for Catholic Social Teaching.

As we celebrate this Year of Jubilee when we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope, we give thanks that Pope Leo will continue to speak up for those who are poor or marginalised in our world.



In his first speech, Pope Leo said, 'We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs his light. Humanity needs Christ as a bridge to be reached by God and his love. Help us, and help each other, build bridges.'

Archbishop Bernard has issued the following beautiful statement:

"I welcome the wonderful news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square he also gave us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in the world. As the first Pope from the United States of America he also remembered the people of Chiclayo in Peru where he had served as bishop until 2023.

I have just spent the last few days at Buckfast Abbey with all the Bishops of England and Wales as we prayed for the Cardinals in Conclave and as we waited to hear whom the Holy Spirit would identify as the Successor of Peter. It will be a great joy to serve the Church's mission inspired by the guidance of Pope Leo. All the lay faithful, the Religious and clergy of our Archdiocese are praying for our new Holy Father that he may serve the Church for many years and be richly blessed in his apostolate.



Let us pray for our new Holy Father. Habemus Papam: We have a Pope!"



We gathered together as a school for a special assembly to find out more about Pope Leo XIV and what this means to us as a school with strong Augustinian heritage. We're excited that whether in Rome or Harborne, our Augustinian priests and the Pope are all part of the big Catholic family!



At the end of our assembly, we were set a Go Forth...

Go Forth

A little bit of homework...

Draw a picture of our new Pope – we will have a competition in each class, where we will choose one from each year group to send to the Vatican.

Write a message about St. Mary's that explains what it means to us that our new Pope is an Augustinian.

Create a prayer, piece of scripture, message of support for Pope Leo XIV.

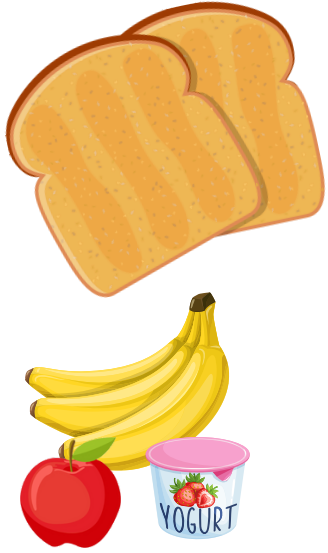


Due Friday 16th May 2025

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Year 5 loved their Geography trip to Wyre Forest. The children had so much fun measuring the brook, recording the creatures they found and reading maps.





Breakfast Club for Y6 SATs week

*We will be running a Breakfast Club for Year 6 during their SATs week (Monday 12th May – Thursday 15th May 2025) in the school hall – this is free and **for Year 6 only!***

Research has shown that children can concentrate and perform better in tests and exams if they are relaxed and have eaten beforehand. By attending, we can ensure that all children are in school on time, have had time to relax with their friends and feel settled.

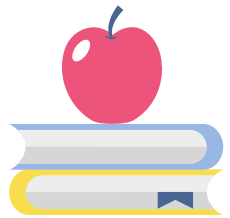
All Year 6 pupils are to attend breakfast club between 8:00am – 8:30am during this week. Thank you :)

Reminders

Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 12th May – Thursday 15th May 2025**
- Year 2 SATs take place **Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May 2025**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **2nd June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 9th June**



Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates. Further details will be given out nearer the time.

Being unkind online

Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness...

Here are some examples of what being unkind online looks like to talk to children about:-

Keeping safe online: –

- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies

Pot plants and flowers for Our Lady – Throughout May

During the month of May, we invite children to bring in flowers as a sign of our love and affection for Our Lady. We encourage children to bring in pot plants that can be displayed on class prayer tables and then planted in the prayer garden at the end of the month.



VE Day 80th anniversary celebration

When?

Friday 23rd May 2025 at 2pm

Where? School playground

What? Bring a picnic blanket and
your favourite treats (no nuts, fizzy
drinks or glass bottles)

How?

Dress up in war time clothes or
wear red, white and blue. Bring
flags to wave!

WHITSUN HALF TERM CAMP



HARBORNE
ACADEMY

PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

HARBORNE ACADEMY, HARBORNE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B15 3JL
TUESDAY 27TH - FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025

STANDARD DAY 9AM-4PM - £20
EXTENDED DAY 8.15AM - 5PM - £25
HALF DAY (4 YEAR OLDS) 9AM-1PM - £12.50

OFSTED REGISTERED, TAX FREE CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

MULTI
ACTIVITY
CAMP

OR

FOOTBALL
CAMP



SCAN HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION

or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps



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:



Louise Yorke
Headteacher



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor



Laura Noone
AHT



Jade Preedy
AHT

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 06/05/25-09/05/25

| Class | YRB | YRT | Y1L | Y1F | Y2E | Y2G | Y3L | Y3T | Y4J | Y4M | Y5M | Y5F | Y6R | Y6O |
|------------------------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|------|-------|------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| % | 92 | 97.9 | 97 | 97.4 | 97.5 | 95 | 96.6 | 99.5 | 99.5 | 94.1 | 83.7 | 84.5 | 97.4 | 95 |
| Lates | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| Whole School Attendance so far this year | | | | | | 96.1% | | School Target | | | | 97% | | |

Well done 3T and 4J: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for next half-term

Summer theme -

Summer 1

WB 12.5.25

16th May 2025 - all day

WB 19.5.25

21st May 2025 - 9:15am

21st May 2025 - all day

23rd May 2025 - pm

24th May 2024

Solidarity and the Common Good

Compassionate and Loving

Year 6 SATs Week

PTA event for children in school

Year 2 SATs Week

Year 6 Mass in Church (and Year 5 classes attend - parents welcome)

Year 6 leavers photos

VE day afternoon - wear WWII clothing or red, white and blue for our party

Break up for half-term break - normal time



| | | |
|---------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Year RB | Alice | For working hard on her phonics sounds and blending. |
| Year RT | Leon | For his outstanding behaviour and being a fantastic role model |
| Year IF | Sebastian | For his in-depth responses to RE reflection questions and thinking deeply about the importance of Easter. |
| Year IL | Luka | For his fantastic ball skills during our PE lesson |
| Year 2E | Ben | For super work and fabulous behaviour this week. Well done Ben! |
| Year 2G | Cara | For being a kind, caring and loving member of our class. |
| Year 3L | Raika | For his good behaviour, super manners and positive attitude to learning |
| Year 3T | Nathan | For showing fantastic behaviour this week both in class and on the playground. |
| Year 4J | Sophia | For her focus in lessons this week. |
| Year 4M | Henry | For being resilient, positive and working hard in class |
| Year 5F | Eliza-Rose | For being an excellent ambassador on the trip and showing fantastic learning behaviour all week. |
| Year 5M | Kanishka | For settling in exceptionally well and really trying to learn St. Mary's ways |
| Year 6O | William | For putting lots of effort into his SATs revision |
| Year 6R | Max | For his focused efforts during SATs revision this week |

