



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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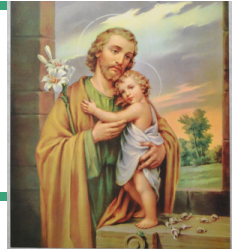
Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.



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'



3rd March 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Today, you will have received a copy of the report from our recent Ofsted Inspection (January 2023). We hope that you are as pleased, as we are, to read so many positive comments about our school. Ofsted found our staff to be incredibly committed and hard working and our pupils to be exceptionally well-behaved, tolerant, happy and safe. They also had many good things to say about teaching and learning and our curriculum.

It is great to receive external validation and next steps to support us further and we have lots of ideas for how to make St. Mary's even better. Our behaviour policy, which rewards the successes and achievements of the children; opportunities for wider extra-curricular activities; and planning for personal development was also highlighted as a strength. We will continue to 'reward the successes' of the children, including academic achievement, sporting competitions, behaviour and attendance going forward as this is best practice. We know that many of our parents are supportive of this positive approach and I thank you.

Any necessary changes being made currently to the curriculum and policy is always fully informed, and endorsed by the Governors, and all our policies are found on our school website.

We are now looking to improve our communications system - this may take time, but in the meantime if you wish to speak to me as the Headteacher, I am outside most mornings before school and afternoons after school, or you can email enquiry with the subject heading **F.A.O Headteacher** and this will be sent on to me.

On Wednesday, the church is still having the carpet fitted and so Mass for Reception class will be in the school hall. Reception children will be accompanied by their Year 6 buddies and parents are still welcome to attend. This means that our Year 5 prayer service will be in the canteen. Timings are still the same for both liturgies.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the teaching staff who are striking at this time. I appreciate that closing school to pupils is not ideal, but the strikes are coming from a good place and for the future education of your children. I will let you know about the two days in March, when I have the information. I hope that you all have a lovely weekend. We are looking forward to careers week next week.

God bless, Mrs Yorke.

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Matthew 4 : 1

"Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus was sent by the Father to be our path.
- With the help of the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus to the Father.
- Jesus was tempted, but He resisted. He trusted God to look after Him.

Jesus, be my path.

As I continue my journey through Lent, help me to walk in your way. 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

Reception news: -

Reception class have enjoyed sharing stories with their mummies and daddies this week.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been improving their throwing and catching skills.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have enjoyed their immersive listening experience using 'Now Press Play'.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 went on an Arctic experience with our new 'Now Press Play' reality headsets.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have made eggless sponge to recreate war time ration recipes.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have written lovely poems about rivers this week.

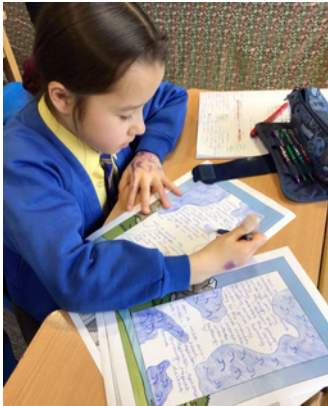
Ecumene are the days of untouched rivers,
Such a majestic sapphire blue - no more,
Now we run wearily through our path,
Lumping ever trash, plastic bottles and cans.

We are crying for help,
Our life, murky waters,
Eminent and polluted for the wildlife,
They drink us and catch disease.

A menacing monster called Pollution,
Sends rubbish with us, down waterfalls,
Meandering through our middle course,
Even to the sea.

Humans do not care,
They do not hear our wails of protest,
Our grey waves run through our path,
As we think of our old days.

The End
By Audrey

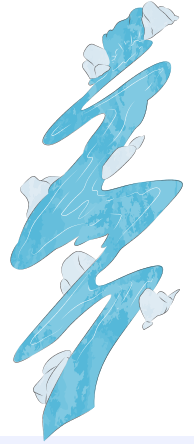
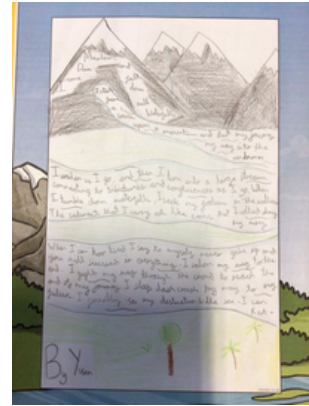


Anaiah's Raging River
I am a soldier, sailing my golden
feet
Running past and through red rocks,
and sediment,
Rushing to be free.

I am a car rising on the road,
A rushing, through traffic,
Turbulent and swift as I surge.

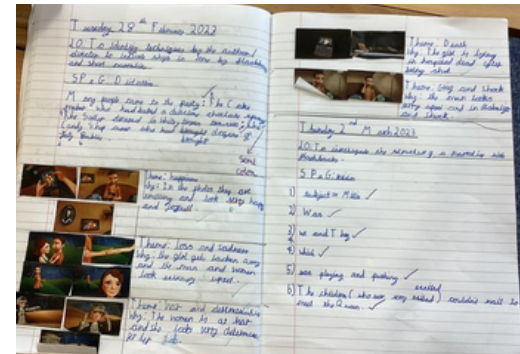
I am a butterfly, slowly glancing past the
winds,
Free and of my course,
As I sail by, my wings and body are
and I feel the wind, the golden sunset
glow.

I am a sun rising, out my eye,
I am a, and strong, pushing past anything in
my way,
I am a, on my path,
I am a, full and into the dark blue
sea.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been learning about stories with flashbacks and how to use this technique in their own writing.



Livesimply

Our children (and staff) are change makers!

CAFOD Club have been reminding themselves all about Laudato Si and reflecting on Pope Francis' message, to look after the world. They thought about different ways we can show that we are thinking deeply, living wisely and loving generously.



World Book Week

We've had a fantastic World Book Week in school. So many wonderful opportunities to encourage a real love of reading and it has been great to see the support of parents and the enthusiasm of the children.

Thank you so much to Mrs. Noone who worked so hard to organise this special week in school.

We had real authors talking to the children about story writing...



Axel Scheffler visited Reception virtually. He read 'The Three Little Pigs' and then showed how he illustrated the story!

KS2 enjoyed their virtual visit from author Claire Fayers and found out more about her fantastic book - Storm Hound.



The children loved their 'Share a story' time with their parents...



And learnt so much in their live lesson with BBC Live on World Book Day...



There were lots of opportunities for reading for pleasure...



And our reading café was a huge hit too...



The tiger came to tea in Year 2 for World Book Day...



Finally two entries from the World Book Day competition were drawn at random and our two lucky winners, Ava and Jennifer, enjoyed afternoon tea with Mrs. Yorke.



Extra-Curricular



Safer Internet Competition

Congratulations to our competition winners and runners up. The winning posters will be displayed in the classrooms to help remind everybody how to stay safe when using the internet. Well done to everybody who made a poster!

National Careers Week – Week beginning 6th March 2023

Next week, we are having a week in school where a range of careers will be celebrated. We would like to get the children excited by the breadth of careers available to them when they are older. Thank you to those who have signed up to the children about a job they do.



Mothers' Day – 10th March 2023

On Friday, mums (or any family member over the age of 18) have the opportunity to come in to school and work with their child in a lesson in school. Separate letters have gone home today with your child. Please send back the reply slip so that we have numbers and names for who is coming in to the building on this day and we can plan for this accordingly. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.



Parish News

Weekday Mass – 8:30am

St Mary's Church is being re-carpeted. Therefore, 8.30am Mass will be celebrated not in the Church on Monday/Tuesday but down Vivian Close in our Orangery. School Mass on Wednesday will be in the school hall. We will return to the Church hopefully later in the week.



Stations of the Cross

For Lent, why not come to the Stations of the Cross this Wednesday, 8th March, at 7.00pm, – and every Wednesday of Lent, same time, same place: St Mary's Church, for half an hour.



Lenten Confessions: 8:00pm

Lenten Confessions: are every Saturday in the Church, 10.30 to 11.30am, – with a date for a special Penitential Service to be announced after half-term.



CAFOD collections

This weekend, there are two secured CAFOD BOXES chained to the wall in St Mary's Church Porch, – for your Family Fast Day envelopes and other offerings. We give up some pleasure, in order to give to those without many pleasures/essentials.



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.

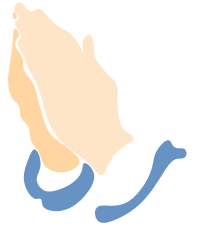
<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-marysb17>



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.



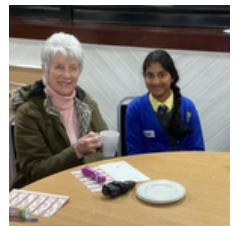
**Year
5**

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

St. Mary's Charity Work for Lent...

Some of our year 6 children have already been to the Dementia Drop-In group in the parish centre. They had some interesting conversations and played fun games of bingo with the group members.



Year 6 have also shared a lovely prayer service with their parents.



Raffaelle, Payton, Ben, Alex, Daniel and Anna have created their own fundraising page, selling badges, hats and bookmarks. They have already raised £170.50. This is a marvellous effort children and shows what our young people can do for charity.

SCHOOL FUND

giftaid it



Our School Fund is a vital source of income for our school. It pays for the 'extras' such as Christmas activities, theatre or performances as well as subsidising school trips.

Contribution to this fund is entirely voluntary and we are very grateful to those parents who regularly support the school in this way.

However, in the last few years the amount of school fund received has dropped quite significantly. There are probably many reasons for this, but perhaps the most obvious is remembering to send in a donation every year, half term or term.

Several parents make their contribution by standing order and we are very grateful to them all. As we have been accepted as a charity for tax purposes, we can claim the tax on donations to school fund

by parents who are taxpayers if those parents sign a Gift Aid Declaration.

This means that for every pound you give we get an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation to go further.

Consequently, by setting up a standing order for say, £2 per month per family, you will guarantee the school a monthly income on which we can reclaim tax.

Over the past 18 months, school fund has supported some of our larger improvement projects, including: -

Curriculum Related (activities & resources) - £5,207.87

New Early Reading Scheme - £8,099.09

Pupil Retreats - £1,958.00

Outdoor/Grounds Improvements - £852.00

Our PTA is also a massive support fundraising for projects in school. We have some new big projects in mind for the future and with shrinking school budgets, we can only do this with your support.

Please get involved if you are not yet supporting school fund and are able.

Ask the office for more information and gift aid forms.

Sometimes - charity starts at home!

Thank you

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.

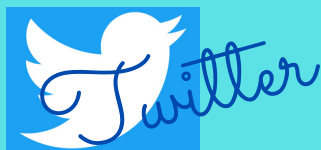
Pastoral Team

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



Is YouTube safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube>



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!!!

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 13th Feb – 17th Feb

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	91%	94.1%	99.3%	97%	98.3%	99.3%	97%	97.7%	99.3%	97.3%	94.5%	96.9%	95%	99.3%
Lates	8	8	4	11	8	5	8	10	6	2	7	3	7	6
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.4%	School Target					97%		

Well done Y1L, Y2G, Y4J and Y6O: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 2 Virtues

WB 6.3.23

7th March 2023 - am

8th March 2023 - 9:15am

8th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

10th March 2023

WB 13.3.23

14th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

14th March 2023 - am

15th March 2023 - 9:15am

15th March 2023 - all day

16th March 2023 - all day

17th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

21st March 2023 - all day

21st March 2023 - am

22nd March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

23rd March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

24th March 2023 - 9:15am

28th March 2023 - am

28th March 2023 - after school

29th March 2023 - after school

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

WB 3.4.23

6th April 2023 - 11:00am

6th April 2023

The Dignity of Work

Eloquent and Truthful

Careers Week

Y3 visit to Harborne Library

Reception Mass *in school hall* and Y6 buddies attend - parents welcome

Year 5 Lenten Prayer Service for parents in canteen

Mothers' Day Activities in school

British Science Week

Year 3 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Y6 visit to Harborne Library

Y2 Mass in Church and Y1 children attend - parents welcome

Potential STRIKE Action

Potential STRIKE Action

Year 2 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

World Down Syndrome Awareness day - wear odd socks to school

Y5 visit to Harborne Library

Year 1 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Year 4 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Y2 Year group assembly

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations

Reception Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Holy Week

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

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Jayden	<i>always trying his best at everything he does in school</i>
Year RT	Jason	<i>being a kind friend to other children in the playground</i>
Year IF	Yoaden	<i>always following the class rules and being kind to others</i>
Year IL	Melissa	<i>brilliant work in Maths</i>
Year 2E	Peter	<i>great skills in PE lessons</i>
Year 2G	Adel	<i>amazing adding and super subtracting in Maths</i>
Year 3L	Gabriele	<i>good effort to listen attentively and be kind to others</i>
Year 3T	Noah M	<i>hard work and super ideas in RE lessons</i>
Year 4J	Seth	<i>always putting in 100% effort in all pursuits</i>
Year 4M	Amber	<i>fantastic piece of Exciting Writing</i>
Year 5F	Jagoda	<i>great quality writing in composing her poem</i>
Year 5M	Ophelia	<i>excellent non-fiction writing about rivers</i>
Year 6O	Dhanyashri	<i>kindness and caring demeanour when working with members of Dementia group</i>
Year 6R	Jaden	<i>being kind and attentive at the Dementia drop-in group this week</i>

