



Archdiocese of Birmingham

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

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

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: 'Stewardship'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Grateful and Generous'



Dear parents and carers,

1st May 2026

#### Potted plants for Mary

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. On Wednesday, we have our May procession straight after Mass – having offerings for Mary for this day would be greatly appreciated.



#### Keeping safe in the sun

As the warmer weather arrives, we'd like to remind families that children are welcome to wear a sunhat during the school day. Please apply sunscreen at home before your child comes to school, as we're not able to allow children to bring in their own sunscreen. They naturally want to share with friends, which we can't allow for health and safety reasons. We also ask that no personal items—such as mini fans—are brought into school. These items can easily be lost or broken, which can cause upset, and some are not fully safe for use in school. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe, comfortable, and ready to learn.

#### Saying goodbye to Mr Reid

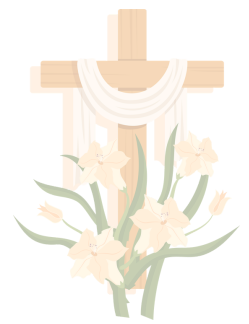
Today we say a very fond farewell to our wonderful caretaker, Mr Reid, as he retires after eight years of dedicated service to St Mary's. We are incredibly sad to see him go, but we are also so grateful for the care, pride and commitment he has poured into our school.

From keeping our site safe and welcoming, to supporting staff and brightening the day for countless pupils, Mr Reid has been a steady, reassuring presence at the heart of our school community. His hard work—often done quietly behind the scenes—has made a huge difference every single day. We wish Mr Reid the very best in his next chapter. He leaves with our heartfelt thanks and the warmest good wishes from everyone at St Mary's.

Have a lovely 3-day weekend everybody, enjoying the nice weather. We will see you on Tuesday after the bank holiday.

Mrs Yorke

# CATHOLIC LIFE



## This week's Gospel

John 10:10

*'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel, we: -

- **Recognise** that we all have a vocation. Sometimes they are specific, sometimes they are more general;
- **Know** that our common vocation is to love God, and live out our love for God for loving others;
- **Pray** for those living out their vocations.



Loving God,

We thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who knows us by name and leads us towards life in all its fullness.

Help us to listen for his voice amid the busyness of school life, and to follow his way with care and trust.

In all we do, may we reflect his gentleness, so that the children and families we serve feel safe, known, and valued, and that we treat one another with patience and kindness.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



## Masses

Year 4 Mass - 29.04.26 - 4<sup>th</sup> week of Easter

Year 4 celebrated a beautiful Mass this week on the feast day of St. Catherine of Siena. We reflected on her fierce love for truth and her unwavering devotion to God, praying that God grants us her courage and wisdom.



Our next Mass - Whole School Mass -  
5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter and May procession

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 6th May 2026, starting promptly at 9:30am. The whole school will gather for our Mass and all parents are welcome to attend.

We will then process from Church to our prayer garden to crown the statues of St. Mary.



# CATHOLIC LIFE

## ST GIANNA HOUSE RETREAT



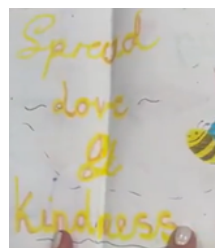
### Feast day

On Tuesday, our year 6 house captains for St. Gianna led with purpose and heart. To mark St. Gianna's feast day, all children in Gianna house gather to reflect and celebrate the values that she lived by.



### Positive vibes!!!

Sienna, Amelia and Sofia have been spreading positive vibes and words of affirmation this week. This incredible trio poured their energy, creativity and heart in to something special – a book of positive affirmations. It is more than just a collection of feel-good vibes and advice: it is a reflection of who they are.



### Stewardship learning

With the help of their Year 6 buddies, Reception spent the week discovering God's beautiful creation and learning why caring for our world matters. From plants to animals, they explored it all on a special Creation Walk, noticing the little wonders that make our world so precious.



# SPECIAL TREAT



## Stewardship learning

All of the children enjoyed a well-deserved treat this week as a thank-you for how wonderfully they behaved during last Friday's filming. Their patience, enthusiasm and brilliant attitudes didn't go unnoticed. To celebrate, everyone spent some time in the sunshine enjoying ice-lollies and tiptops.



# PRAYER

## Child-led prayer on vocations

Children have focused on what God is calling them to be and what they are being called to do in the world of work and vocation as they grow up.



## Reception prayer service for parents

Reception led a wonderful prayer service for their parents this morning, giving thanks for St. Bernadette and her example. The children reflected on how they could 'spend every moment loving' in the same way St. Bernadette did.



# CELEBRATING OUR RE LEARNING

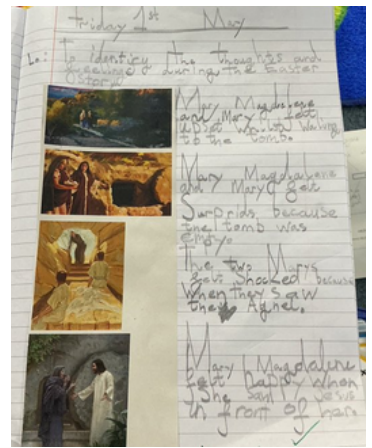
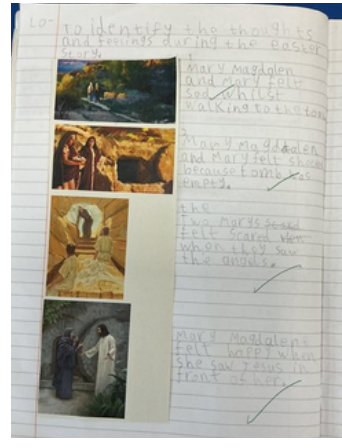
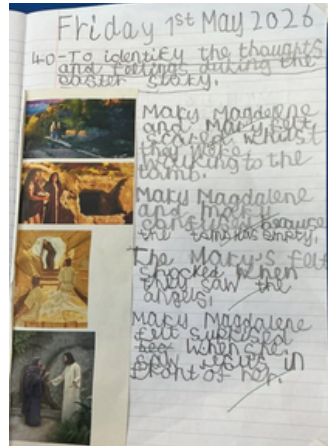
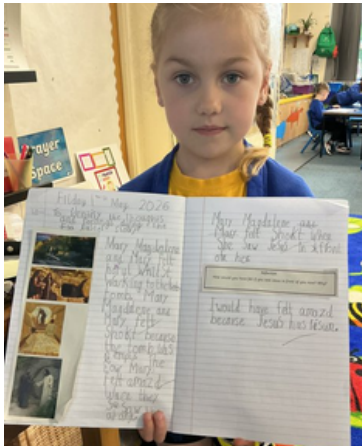
## Reception

Our Reception children have been working in pairs to create Easter gardens.



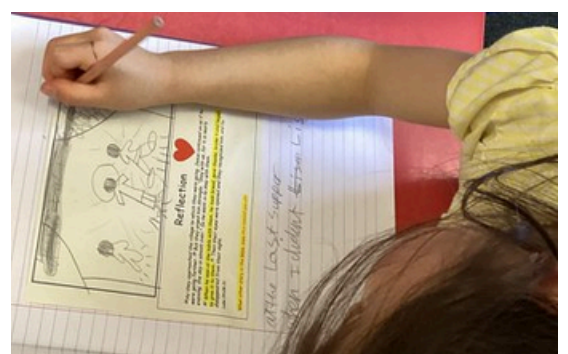
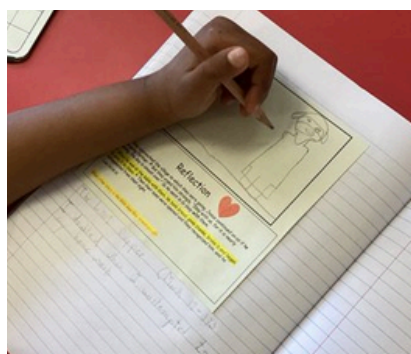
## Year 1

Year 1 reflected on the feelings of Mary Magdalene and Mary upon finding the tomb empty, seeing an angel and finding out that Jesus has resurrected.



## Year 2

Year 2 have been learning about the disciples walk to Emmaus - asking 'I wonder' questions.



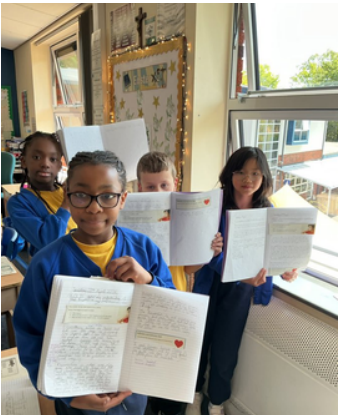
### Year 3

Year 3 summarised what happened at the 'Breakfast at the Shore' and thought about how the disciples felt when Jesus revealed himself to them.



### Year 4

Year 4 have produced lovely learning about the significance of Resurrection in our faith.



### Year 5

Year 5 have been looking at how the resurrection of Jesus changed the lives of the disciples.



### Year 6

Year 6 are looking at similarities and differences in the accounts of the Resurrection in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Year 6 Unit 1 Lesson 1: Resurrection  
 Affinity Diagram - Research table  
 Gospel accounts of the Resurrection: 1) Matthew 28:1-10, 2) Mark 16:1-8, 3) Luke 24:1-12, 4) John 20:1-10  
 Working in pairs - Read your Bible extract and find out the information below. Highlight the Gospel you have read above.

Who	When	Where	Actions	Words
Mary Magdalene Simon Peter Peter	Early Sunday Morning	In the tomb	Mary M went to the tomb and called the disciples over and the disciples looked inside the tomb then went home	They have taken the Lord from the tomb!

	Matthew 28:1-10	Mark 16:1-8	Luke 24:1-12	John 20:1-10
Similarities	At the tomb Mary Magdalene	At the tomb Mary Magdalene - end	Mary Magdalene Gulilee, In tomb Peter	Mary Magdalene Simon Peter Peter, Sunday morning They have taken the Lord from the tomb!
Differences	Mother Mary Jesus, Angel Guard, After Sabbath day Sunday morn- ing	Mary, Mary of James, Angel Sunday morn- ing, Salome "Do not be afraid"	Mary mother of James, Mary women carried spices Why are you looking among the dead?"	

# CURRICULUM

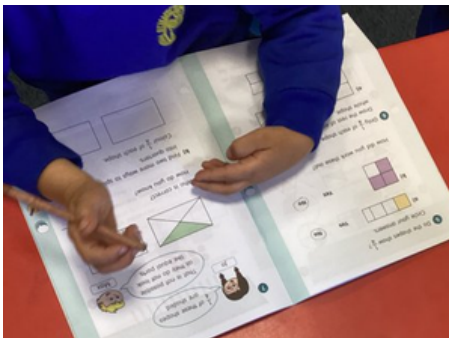


Fabulous teamwork and determination from our St Mary's girls in a 2-2 draw against Harborne Primary yesterday.

Well done 🏆💙💛



Year 5 have been learning about motors in their DT lessons and designing and making doodlers.



Year 2 have been finding quarters of shapes in their Maths lessons.



Year 1 have enjoyed measuring capacity using different size containers in their practical maths lessons.

Children have produced some wonderful written work this week also, working well together to uplevel their work and edit their writing too.

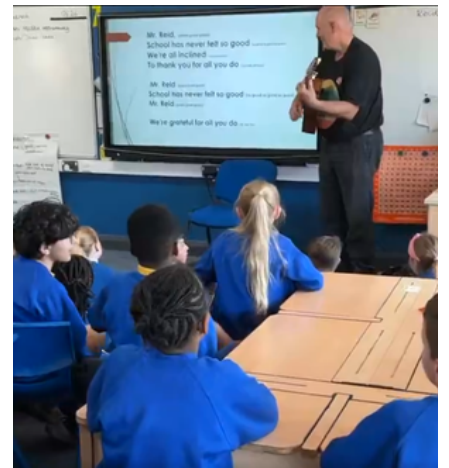


Our netballers are enjoying their after-school netball sessions.



# GOODBYE MR. REID

All the children, staff and parents said goodbye to Mr Reid today, on his final day at St. Mary's. He has taken such good care of our school for eight years, and we will miss him very much. We hope he has lots of fun in his retirement. Thank you, Mr Reid!





Please note, school is closed on the following days:

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – May Day Holiday**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Polling Day**

## 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.



## May Procession – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May – 9:30am

Join us for Mass followed by our May procession and crowning of our lady this Wednesday at 9:30. We begin with Mass in the Church and conclude in our prayer garden. Please support with potted plants and flowers to celebrate St. Mary.



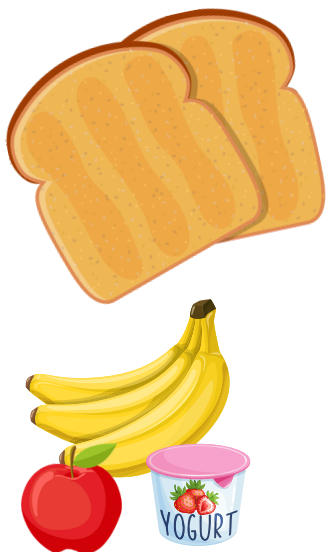
## Future Dates

### Breakfast Club for Y6 SATs week

We will be running a Breakfast Club for Year 6 during their SATs week (Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026) 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 :)**



## Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 11th May – Thursday 15th May 2026**
- Year 2 SATs take place **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026** for 3 weeks
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026**



**Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates.**

Further details will be given out nearer the time.



**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 4:00–6:00pm**

Support our PTA event with an exciting netball competition between teaching staff and parents. You can join in by either signing up to a team or paying to spectate. All funds raised come directly back in to the school. We are really looking forward to it.

**Support our PTA!**


**Our PTA plays a vital role in enriching school life by bringing families and staff together, fundraising for extra opportunities, and helping to create a warm, supportive school community.**



### **Year 6 Residential – Alton Castle 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

If your child is going to Alton Castle and you were unable to attend the meeting on 30/04/2026, please ensure that you pick up an information pack from the School Office.

A polite reminder also that the second instalment of £50 is payable by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May.



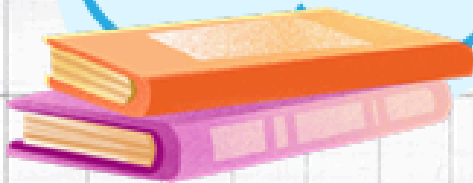
Reception 2027

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2026

- Morning Tour: 10:30 - 11:30
- Afternoon Tour: 13:45 - 14:45

Email: [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)  
to book your place

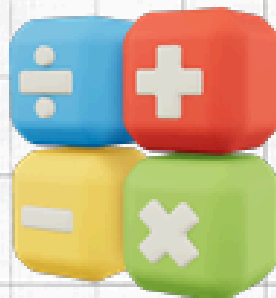
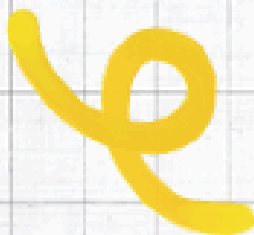


## OUR MISSION

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.

For more information call our school  
office on: 0121 464 2141 or visit our  
website:

[https://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk/web/september\\_2027\\_reception\\_class/720099](https://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk/web/september_2027_reception_class/720099)





**Birmingham Irish**  
ASSOCIATION



## **Dementia Awareness Project**

**Support group for children who have a family member living with Dementia**



When someone close to you has Dementia, it can be a very unsettling and distressing time for the whole family. It can be particularly difficult for children to understand and all the changes can make them feel anxious and worried. They may need help to talk about and understand dementia.

**We are here to help**



Encouraging children to talk about their thoughts and feelings is important, but we understand this can be challenging. It can be hard to know how much you should tell them about dementia, or how to explain things. We are offering small group sessions to support children who have a family member living with dementia. We would like to help them to understand dementia and learn about ways they can help and connect with their loved one. When children learn about dementia, they feel more comfortable talking about it and sharing their experience with other children facing a similar situation will also help them to overcome any fear or worries they may have.

If you would like some more information, please call our Children's Support worker Paulene on 07495 711 696 or email [paulene@birish.org.uk](mailto:paulene@birish.org.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.

## Pastoral Team

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



Laura Noone  
Lead DSL  
DHT



Louise Yorke  
Headteacher



Jade Preedy  
AHT



Rachel Jones  
Senior Teacher



Sharon Tame  
School  
Counsellor



Rachel Richards  
EYFS Lead



Shania  
Birchenall  
SENDCo

## 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. Noone.

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 27/04/26-01/05/26**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	90	90	98	91	93	96	97	93	95	98	94	100	97	94
Lates	4	0	2	4	4	5	9	1	0	1	1	0	1	4
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.7%		School Target				97%		

Well done 5F: - Our attendance champions!

# This Year's Term Dates - 2025-2026

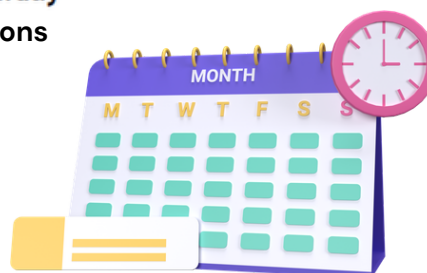
Summer Term	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June - Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July

## School Closed:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - May Bank Holiday
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - local elections

## INSET DAYS

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026



## Dates for this half term

*Summer theme -*

*Summer 1*

*4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - all day*

*6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - 9:30am*

*7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - all day*

**WB 04.05.26**

*14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - 2:30pm*

*15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - all day*

*15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - 4pm*

*20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - 9:15am*

*22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 - 9:15am*

*22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026*

*Stewardship*

*Grateful and Generous*

*May Day Holiday - **SCHOOL CLOSED***

*Whole School Mass followed by May Procession*

*Polling Day - **SCHOOL CLOSED***

***Year 6 SATs Week - Year 6 children attend school from 8am***

*Year 1 Assembly for parents*

*PTA event for children in school*

*PTA event - charity netball competition - teachers vs parents*

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

*Reception Assembly for parents*

*Break up for half-term break - normal time*

# Dates for next half term

Summer theme -

Summer 2

1st June 2026 - all day

**WB 01.06.26**

3rd June 2026 - 9:15am

5th June 2026 - 7:00pm

6th June 2026 - 10:00am

6th June 2026 - 2:00pm

5th June 2026 - all day

**WB 08.06.26**

10th June 2026 - 9:15am

10th June 2026 - am

15th to 17th June 2026

17th June 2026 - 9:15am

19th June 2026 - 9:15 or 1:15

24th June 2026 - 9:30am

26th June 2026 - 3:30pm

1st July 2026 - all day

2nd July 2026 - pm

3rd July 2026 - pm

8th July 2026 - 9:15am

9th July 2026 - 2pm

10th July 2026 - 2pm

14th July 2026 - 9am

14th July 2026 - all day

15th July 2026 - 9:30am

16th July 2026

Stewardship

Attentive and Discerning

Children return to school at normal time

**Year 4 Multiplication check window - 3 weeks**

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

Confirmation Mass for Year 6 in Church with Bishop David Evans

Holy Communion Mass for Year 3 in Church

Holy Communion Mass for Year 3 in Church

**World Ocean Day - wear blue**

**Phonics check for Year 1 this week**

Year 3 Mass in Church and Holy Communion celebration - parents welcome

Years 4, 5, 6 Sports Day at Tudor Grange - wear house colours - parents welcome

Year 6 Residential at Alton Castle

Year 1 Mass (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

Fathers' Day Inspire for Reception to Year 6

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

PTA event - Party in the Playground (ticketed event)

Transition Day (inc. new Reception cohort) - children meet their new teacher

Reception Sports Day - wear house colours

Years 1, 2 and 3 Sports Day - wear house colours

Year 2 Mass in Church (and Year 1 classes attend) - parents welcome

Performance of Year 6 production to parents

Performance of Year 6 production to parents

Year 2 Prayer Service for parents

St Alphonsa House Feast Day - wear own clothes

Year 6 Leavers Mass (Whole School) - parents welcome

Break up for Summer holidays

Early finish time

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Year 6 shirt signing on final day in school and 2:00pm guard of honour

## Next Year's Term Dates - 2026-2027

<b>Autumn Term</b>	<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>Spring Term</b>	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>

### School Closed:

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2027 - May Bank Holiday

### INSET DAYS

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026
  - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026
  - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2027
- 2/3 more INSET days to be confirmed

# Star of the week

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

- Year RB Eleesha *For trying her best in phonics and doing brilliant blending!*
- Year RT Finn *For always being curious and asking questions to deepen his understanding.*
- Year 1F Emilia *For trying her best in all subjects, especially her writing. Well done Emilia!*
- Year 1L Archer *For showing great resilience this week when finding tasks difficult and trying his best. Well done!*
- Year 2E Chikanyima *For writing a persuasive piece with enthusiasm, and a passion for saving the worlds rainforests.*
- Year 2G Kori *For being a wonderful member of year 2 and always trying her best!*
- Year 3L Rory *For his super effort in class and participation!*
- Year 3T Erina *For always being respectful and striving for excellence by contributing in lesson and her work. Well done!*
- Year 4J Olivia *For her resilience when reading in mass this week. Well done Olivia!*
- Year 4M Cyril *For listening well in lessons and contributing this week.*
- Year 5F Amalie *For being a super role model during group work this week.*
- Year 5M Oscar *For demonstrating incredible problem-solving skills on DT day!*
- Year 6O Peter *Incredible artwork showing real skill and technique.*
- Year 6R Paulos *For working hard and showing resilience in his reading and SpaG revision.*
- Mr Reid *For being the best care taker ever! And for always going above and beyond for the children and staff at St. Mary's.*

