



Archdiocese of Birmingham

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121 464 2141

Email: [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

[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.

### March is dedicated to St. Joseph

**Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'**  
**Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Intentional and Prophetic'**



Dear parents and carers,

13th March 2026

As we come to the end of another vibrant and purposeful week in school, I want to share some of the wonderful learning, celebrations and opportunities that have taken place across our community.

#### **Our Lenten Journey**

We have now completed Week 3 of our journey through Lent, continuing to grow in our understanding of prayer, fasting and penance. As we move into the next phase of our preparations, our focus turns towards giving and almsgiving, reflecting on how we can support others through generosity and compassion.

In this spirit, the Diocese has invited every child to donate £1 to Father Hudson's Care, and we are sincerely grateful for your support in helping us contribute to this important Diocesan appeal. Alongside this, each year group is undertaking a special Act of Kindness as part of their Lenten promises. These thoughtful initiatives have been shaped by the children themselves, and you will find full details later in the newsletter, including ways in which families can support and join in with their efforts.

#### **British Science Week**

We have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating British Science Week. Classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity as children took part in practical investigations that brought scientific concepts to life. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, teamwork and sense of discovery shining through.

#### **Wider opportunities and educational visits**

It has been a particularly exciting week for our Reception and Year 2 pupils, who have both enjoyed enriching learning experiences beyond the classroom.

##### Reception – Atwell Farm

Reception had an incredible time at Atwell Farm on Thursday. The visit linked beautifully with their curriculum learning about animals, growth and the natural world. The children were captivated by the hands-on experiences and returned full of stories and new knowledge.

##### Year 2 – Black Country Living Museum

Year 2 also had a fantastic day at the Black Country Living Museum, where they explored life in the past and deepened their understanding of history through immersive, real-world learning. The children represented the school brilliantly and gained so much from the experience.

#### **Mother's Day Inspire Workshops**

With Mother's Day this Sunday, we look forward to celebrating all mothers and mother figures in our community, through a series of special workshops in school, on Monday. It is essential that parents wishing to attend sign up via School Gateway. Please note that, due to the workshops taking place in classroom learning spaces, toddlers and babies cannot attend. Thank you for your understanding.

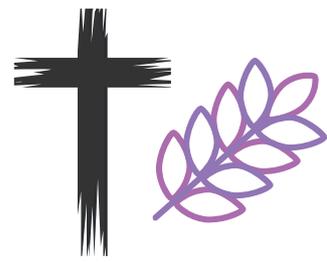
#### **Parents' Evening Appointments**

A reminder to please ensure you have booked your appointment for Parents' Evening next week. We are very much looking forward to meeting with you and sharing the children's progress, achievements and hard work.

Mrs Yorke, **Headteacher**



# Catholic Life



John 4:10

*'Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink". you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.'*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

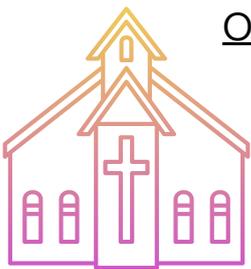
- **Know** that God's love and grace are for everyone.
- **Recognise** Jesus as our Saviour and the living water that will never run dry.
- Experience how our lives can be transformed by God's love.
- Share His love with others as we give, act and pray.



Year 1 Mass - 11.3.26

3rd week of Lent

Year 1 led a beautiful Mass in this third week of Lent. Children reflected on how they can follow Jesus' commandments and show love, kindness and forgiveness to others.



Our next Mass: - Reception Mass - St. Teresa of Calcutta

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 18th March 2026**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Reception will be leading this Mass and Year 6 will also be in attendance. All parents are welcome to attend.



## Lenten Prayer bags



We hope that you are enjoying using the Lent prayer bags with your in your homes. Please tweet any pictures of them being used and tag us in [@StMaryB17](https://twitter.com/StMaryB17)



# Catholic Life

## Charity

*We are raising money for Father Hudson's Caritas this Lent*



We are pleased to be taking part in the Archdiocese's Lent fundraising campaign this year - **'Pledge £1 for Father Hudson's Caritas!'**

Last year, the campaign raised **£130,000** and it is hoped, with your kind generosity, that an even greater sum can be raised to make further impact across the Father Hudson's Caritas (FHC) projects.

FHC is a charity that serves the Archdiocese of Birmingham; responding to need and helping all people to lead fulfilled services through a range of services and partnerships. The charity's inspiration is the example of Jesus in the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. FHC serves the homeless, the disabled, older people, children, families and schools, and refugees and migrants.

As part of our Lenten fundraising, **we are asking families to make a donation of £1 towards this campaign.** A payment link has been set up on School Gateway – please note, we cannot accept cash donations or any money brought into school. The link will be open until the end of the day on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

We are very grateful for all contributions in support of this worthy charity.

*Year 4 are collecting donations for St Basil's*



Year 4 are ready with their trolley to accept donations to St Basil's everyday at 3:30pm outside the Main Office (or bring in donations to School at other times).

Please see the 'wish list' below if you would like to donate.



### DONATIONS WISHLIST

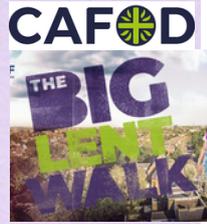
St Basil's works with young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, helping almost 4000 young people per year across the West Midlands region.

<p><b>FOOD</b></p> <p>Easy to prepare foods: Pot/ packet noodles Rice / Pasta packets Cereal Bars Tinned items- soups, beans Chocolate bars/ boxes Dried Pasta Sugar Small cereal boxes Porridge sachets</p>	<p><b>TOILETRIES</b></p> <p>New and unopened: Toothpaste/ toothbrushes Shower gels Soap Deodorants Sanitary items (tampons etc) Shampoo/ conditioner Socks/ underwear Baby wipes Nappies</p>
<p><b>KITCHEN</b></p> <p>Any kitchen items: Pots to cook with Pans to cook with Cutlery sets Cooking sets (ladle, spatula) Plates, bowls Mugs and cups Tea towels Washing liquid Laundry detergent</p>	<p><b>OTHER</b></p> <p>Any Christmas items: Gift boxes Gift vouchers Socks Video/ board games Card games Toiletry sets Boxes of chocolates/ sweets Coats or clothing Christmas decorations</p>

*Supporting our Lenten charities: -  
CAFOD, Father Hudson's, St. Basil's and Heathcote House*

**Year  
R**

Reception class will be taking part in The Big Lent Walk! Our smallest children will be asking for sponsorship to walk 200km collaboratively over Lent. Your donations can change lives! All money raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally.



**Year  
1**

Year 1 will be taking part in acts of kindness, by sharing a smile, kind words, a skill or talent, a language, a story and a toy. They will work towards an afternoon of fair play and using these skills together. Children can be sponsored for their charity work, and all money raised will go towards our Fr. Hudson's appeal.



**Year  
2**

Year 2 will be visiting our residents at Heathcote House during Lent – gifting them with their time. The children are looking forward to reading, singing and playing games with the residents.



**Year  
3**

Year 3 are taking part in the coins for CAFOD Lent Appeal. Children will place spare coins into a class pot throughout Lent for CAFOD, helping communities grow food, build water systems and protect crops.



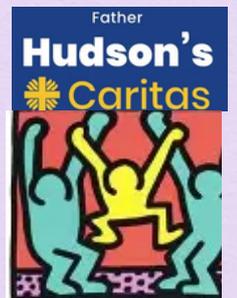
**Year  
4**

Year 4 children have been reading 'The nightbus hero in class' and would like to support local homeless charity 'St. Basil's; with a food collection. A visitor from St. Basil's will be coming into school to talk to the children about her role and what happens in a homeless shelter. We need lots of items in the Year 4 trolley so that she can take it back to St. Basils, for distribution to people in need.



**Year  
5**

Year 5 will be supporting Fr. Hudson's by creating and selling artwork inspired by 'The story of a Refugee', using the distinctive style of Keith Haring. Through their artwork, children will raise both awareness and funds to support the charity's work with vulnerable families.



**Year  
6**

Year 6 will be exploring local and national community needs as part of their Lent charity work. After researching, the children wish to 'Get Involved with the Brushstrokes Community Project'. Children will identify and then gather items that will make a difference in supporting families through this project.



We would like children to embrace their Lent journey with learning and prayer time in school and within their homes too...

**Complete the task and bring your project in for our Lent displays and prayer areas**



## Lent Reflection

During Lent, we are given the opportunity to renew our relationship with God and one another, as it is a time to say sorry for things that we have done wrong and seek forgiveness. At this time, we try to be a little more like Jesus and we say sorry for the times that we get things wrong.

# Sorry

## scripture

*"Yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance." -*

*2 Corinthians 7:9*

## reflection

Lent is a time when we try to get closer to God. One of the ways we can do this is by saying sorry for the times when we have made the wrong choices.

It is important to remember that God still loves us, even if we have made the wrong choices, but we must say sorry and ask God for his forgiveness.

## open question

*What are you truly sorry for?*

## Task

**A Creative Reflection** Think about why it is important to say sorry- express your thoughts and aspirations in creative ways. This could be through artwork, poetry, prayer, photos or a short video, or any form that resonates with your family.

Share your creations with us.





# Prayer

A group of Year 1 children led prayer today in the Prayer Garden. They guiding their peers to reflect on kindness in this third week of Lent. After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, they invited classmates to recall moments of kindness they have received and offer up their thanks.



Gratitude.

Year 6 focused on gratitude this week during prayer. They wrote thank you cards to people they are grateful for.

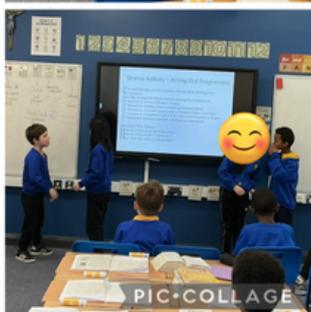
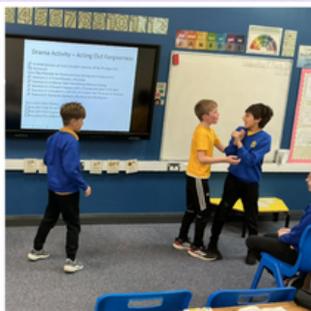
Year 5 focused on penance in their child-led prayer this week.



# RE learning

Year 5 reflected on the parable of the Prodigal Son and role played different modern day scenarios, related to forgiveness.

Year 6 created a poster about how they can help to solve world hunger and poverty - they reflected on Catholic Social Teaching and how they can put faith into action.





# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2026



Reception developed their observational skills and built their knowledge as they learned to identify the features of different animals



Year 1 enjoyed exploring how birds build their nests



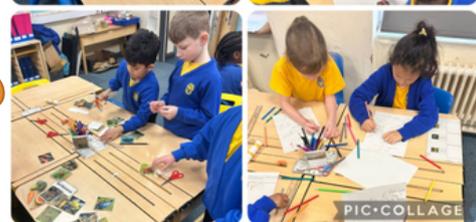
Year 2 had fun this week testing, sorting, bending, squashing and stretching materials to discover what they can do!



Year 3 explored food groups during Science Week!



Year 4 investigated why toast always lands butter-side down!



Year 6 investigated whether we are like sharks and there is a correlation between age and height.



Year 5 investigated how boats float and found out which designs could hold the most cubes before sinking!



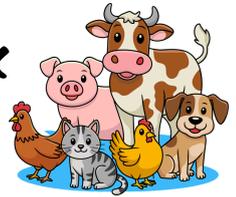


# Year 5 Dementia Workshop

We were very are very pleased to welcome Paulene from the Birmingham Irish Association who delivered a workshop to Year 5 about dementia. The children were very engaged and interested to learn about how to support and show kindness to everyone who is living with or affected by dementia.



## Reception Trip to Attwell Farm Park

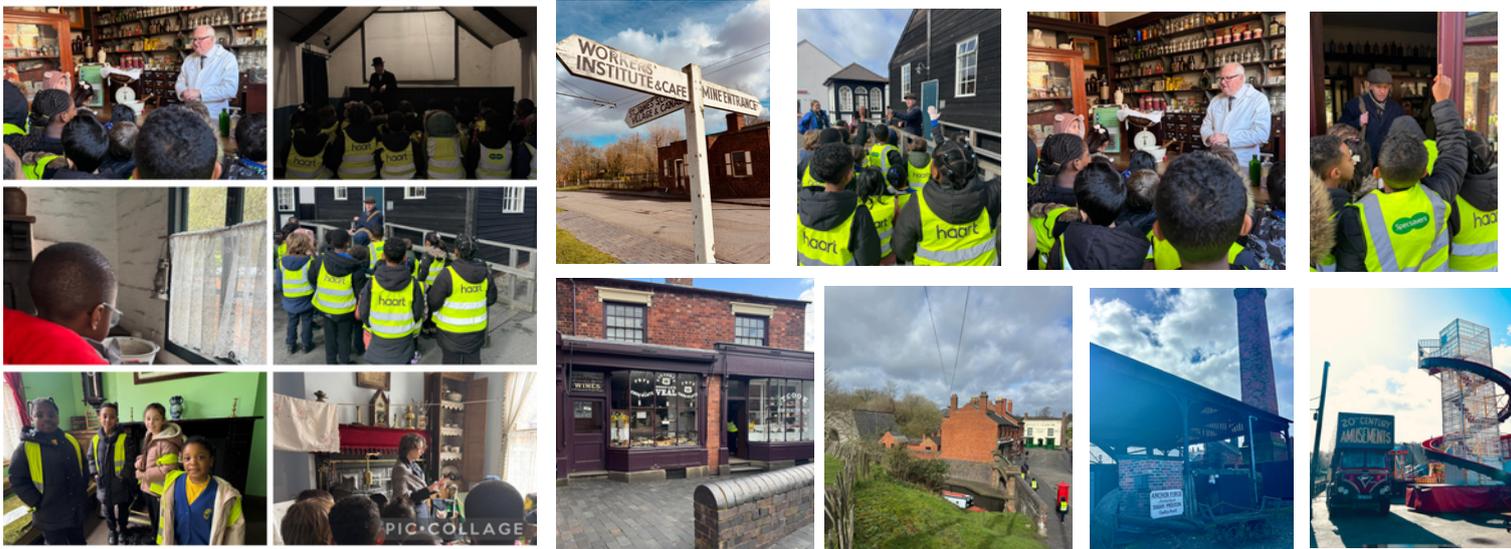


Reception had a wonderful day at the farm on Thursday!



## Year 2 Trip to Black Country Living Museum

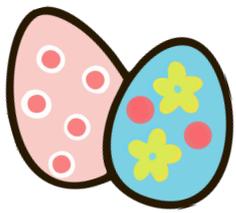
Year 2 had an incredible day at the Black Country Living Museum today!



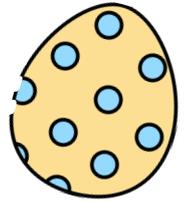


## Sports Results

Our Year 6 played amazingly on Thursday – winning their game with an 8–5 victory. They battled through the wind and rain to an incredible victory. Well done boys!



## THE GREAT EGG-HIBITION!



**Well done to the winners of our Egg-hibition prize draw!**

**Thank you to everyone who entered and to our families for their help in making this event such a success.**

**We will update you again soon with the final amount raised towards the new activity trail.**

## Chinese Themed Meal - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Children recently enjoyed a delicious Chinese meal planned and prepared by our School Cook, Mrs Brown. The children enjoyed chicken chow mein, a beef burger with hoisin ketchup and Asian slaw followed by mango pudding and fresh fruit. There was also a refreshing lemon and mango punch served to the children.

Delicious!



# DELICIOUS

## Out of School Achievements



Well done to Abigail in Year 6 who recently competed in a dance competition and was placed third for her lyrical solo.

is a well-established league where juniors across the Midlands and beyond can compete as a team for their club and gain invaluable matchplay experience of competitive golf.

The league's purpose is to foster and develop junior golfers in the region in a friendly and competitive manner. Each year, the league is divided into a number of divisions - in 2025 there were 35 teams across eight divisions of 4/5 clubs - competing from March to September. Eight juniors from each club play in a fixture. Afterwards, the scores are entered into the MJGL website & juniors/parents can review the leaderboards as the season progresses. At the end of the season, a Finals day is hosted & teams from the winners of each division battle it out to determine the overall winners of the League.

The League was started many years ago by Mike Harper,

decades. The MJGL was formed in 2018 from its predecessors (the West Midlands Junior League & North Gloucestershire Junior League) and has grown steadily over the years. Each season, juniors play six or eight matches (both home and away) - they learn to win/lose/draw with good grace and often make new friends with juniors at different clubs. Run by volunteers & funded by the league entry fee from the clubs involved. If you're interested in getting involved or sponsoring the league to help towards the junior prizes, we'd love to hear from you.

Have a look at the website <https://www.merclanjuniorgolf.co.uk> for more details.

over a 6-8 week period. During this time, pupils are introduced to the basic fundamentals of golf in a fun, inclusive and educational environment. The sessions focus on developing core golfing skills while also encouraging confidence, coordination, discipline and respect—values that extend well beyond the golf course. Importantly, the initiative does not end when the school programme finishes.

Once pupils complete the course, they are guided into local golf academies, creating a clear and structured pathway into the sport. This progression is designed to support long-term participation, with the ultimate goal of helping juniors move from academy coaching into club membership and a lifelong involvement in golf.

Steven Hughes PGA, Director of Junior Development at Druids Heath GC in Staffordshire supports the initiative in schools and has written a programme that children can continue to use as they move into academy life and integrate into club membership. This continuity ensures young golfers are not starting again at each stage, but instead building on a clear, progressive framework

that supports both skill development and confidence. Moving from school-based golf into the wider golfing environment can be a daunting step for both children and parents. This is where Pathway Golf plays a key role, supporting young players through this transition. By reinforcing coaching and helping juniors understand technique, etiquette and the rules of the game, Pathway Golf helps create confident, well-rounded young golfers ready for the next stage of their journey. Junior golf is truly on the move, and initiatives like this are helping to secure a strong and sustainable future for the game.

To find out more, visit [www.pathwaygolf.co.uk](http://www.pathwaygolf.co.uk).



pathwaygolf  
JUNIOR ACADEMY

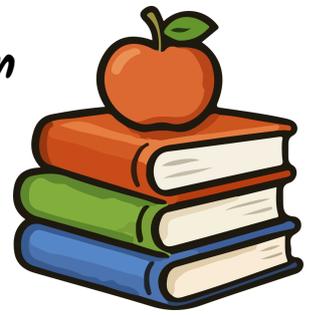
Well done also to Anaya in Year 6 who recently competed in a golf competition.

Well done to these children and to all our children who are striving for excellence worthy of their God-given gifts!

Don't forget  
Parents'  
Evening!

*Parents' evening consultations are open  
on School Gateway*

Schoolgateway



Please book an appointment to see your child's teacher.  
Booking is already open:-

Parents' evening appointments will take place over two days: –  
**Tuesday 17th March and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

All appointments will take place in the school hall.  
There will be an opportunity to look at your child's books  
following your appointment.

The appointment will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please do not arrive any more than 5 minutes early for your appointment to help us keep numbers in school to a minimum. Due to this, we ask that you do not bring children (including preschool children and babies) to your appointment.

Mrs Birchenall will be available on both Tuesday and Thursday evening for any parents who want to 'drop in' with her to discuss their child's SEND needs.

We will be asking all parents to complete a parent questionnaire on the night. Please look out for this.

There will also be the opportunity to visit our book fair and to take home any pre-loved uniform.



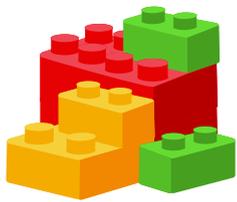
## INSPIRE Workshop (Mother's Day) – 16th March 2026

For Mother's Day, we will be hosting a special INSPIRE workshop for **one parent** to attend in school.

On Monday 16th March, mothers (or any family member over the age of 18) have the opportunity to come in to school and join in with their child/children on specially chosen activities.

Similar to the Father's Day INSPIRE workshop, there will be two sessions running (an AM session and a PM session) and a carousel of activities will take place during each session.

*AM Session – 9:30am until 11:00am  
Please arrive 15 minutes before the workshop*



*PM Session – 1:30pm until 3pm  
Please arrive 15 minutes before the workshop*

*Pilates*

The carousel of activities will include:

Pilates

French Singing

Rounders

Lego and Card Games

Coding

Arts and Crafts e.g.: self portraits and card making

Share a story



Please sign up on School Gateway, so that registers can be created and we know who is coming into the building on Monday.

**Please note that we do not have the room for more than one parent per child to attend.**

Unfortunately due to the nature of the INSPIRE, with a parent joining in activities with their child/children, it is not appropriate to bring preschool children and babies to this event due to space constraints and the nature of the activities. This event is taking place in the classrooms, where we can not permit babies.

Teas and coffees will be set up for adults to purchase throughout the school day and money made will go towards our PTA projects.



*Happy Mother's Day*





### **Mother's Day Inspire Workshops - 16.3.26**

The workshops will be running all day - please see the information above. Pre-registration on School Gateway is essential!

### **Year 6 Harborne Library Visit - 17.3.26**

Year 6 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

6O will leave at 8:45am

6R will leave at 10:15am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 6 staff know.



### **Parent Consultations - 17.3.26 and 19.3.26**

Parent's Evening is taking place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - see above information. Please ensure that you have booked a consultation on either day.

If you need any help or have any questions, please speak to the School Office.



### **World Down Syndrome Day - 20.3.26**



Celebrate with us on

**Friday 20th March!**

Wear your favourite socks as we celebrate everything that makes us different, and yet the same.



Children will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March by wearing their brightest odd socks! On the day, there will also be the opportunity to plant a sunflower, which the children will be able to take home.

Please do take photos of your sunflower and share them with us!





## Year 6 Confirmation Workshop – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Year 6 will join with the parents/carers to take part in a special Confirmation Workshop at School on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. More details to follow!



## Whole School Mass – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March Annunciation of the Lord

There is a Whole School Mass on 25.03.26 starting at 9:30am. Parents/Carers are welcome to attend and we would ask that you sit in the 'old' Church so as to ensure that the children can be sat together as a school.

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



Year 6 Parents/Carers, please check your emails for an important letter about the forthcoming residential to Alton Castle. If you would like your child to attend the trip, a non-refundable deposit of £25 is to be paid by 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The letter also contains information about the trip generally and details about the parent meeting that will take place in April.

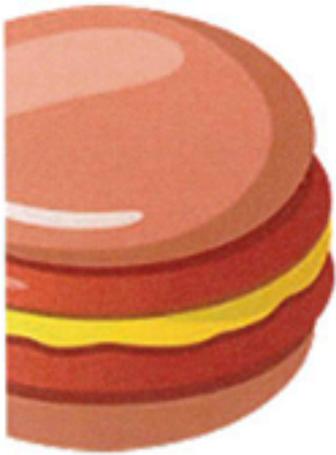
## Upcoming PTA Events



**PTA Spring Disco**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
**St Mary's Parish Centre**  
**6:30pm to 8:30pm**

Tickets on sale from the  
PTA soon!





# BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER



for

World  
Down  
Syndrome  
Day

**Sunday 22 March**  
**after 9.30am Mass**  
**in the Parish Centre**



**Organised by children from  
St Mary's Catholic Primary School**



Raising money for the



**SOLIHULL  
DOWN SYNDROME  
SUPPORT GROUP**

If you're unable to  
attend the Bake Sale  
but would like to  
donate, please scan  
the QR Code:  
JustGiving Page



Please come along to sample some of  
the delicious cakes on offer and help  
to support this local charity!



# Information for Parents

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ENERGY DRINKS

Energy drinks are highly caffeinated beverages often consumed for a quick energy boost. However, excessive intake can lead to health risks like increased heart rate and sleep disturbances. Statistics underline these products' popularity among young people – many of whom consume them regularly. Here's our expert's advice on addressing the concerns surrounding energy drink consumption in adolescents.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### HIGH CAFFEINE CONTENT

Most energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine: often much more than a typical cup of coffee or fizzy drink. Excessive caffeine consumption can lead to increased heart rate, high blood pressure, anxiety, insomnia, digestive issues and – in extreme cases – even more severe conditions. For children and adolescents, whose bodies are still developing, excessive caffeine intake can be particularly harmful.

#### INCREASED RISK OF HEART PROBLEMS

The combination of high caffeine levels and the other stimulants found in energy drinks can put extra strain on the cardiovascular system. Potentially, this could lead to irregular heart rhythms, palpitations and increased future risk of heart attack – especially in individuals who have an underlying heart condition.

#### IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

The significant levels of caffeine and sugar in energy drinks can exacerbate anxiety, nervousness and even – in susceptible individuals – contribute to panic attacks. Additionally, the crash that often follows the initial energy boost can actually make mood swings worse and possibly lead to feelings of depression and irritability.

#### DISRUPTED SLEEP PATTERNS

Consuming energy drinks, especially during the afternoon or evening, can disrupt normal sleep patterns. The stimulating effects of caffeine can make it difficult for children and young adults to fall asleep – leading to insufficient rest and its associated health risks, including impaired cognitive function, mood disturbances and decreased academic performance.

#### LINKS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Some research has suggested a correlation between energy drink consumption and higher rates of alcohol and drug use among young adults. Young people may mix energy drinks with alcohol, mistakenly believing that the energy drinks' stimulant effects will counteract the sedative nature of alcohol. This combination, however, can be dangerous and increase the risk of accidents, injuries and alcohol poisoning.

#### POTENTIAL FOR DEPENDENCY

Frequent consumption of energy drinks can lead to tolerance – meaning that individuals may need to consume increasing amounts to continue achieving the desired effects. This can potentially lead to dependency and addiction, especially in younger individuals who may be more vulnerable to addictive behaviours.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### LIMIT CONSUMPTION

It's wise to educate young people about the potential risks related to energy drinks, emphasising the consequences of excessive caffeine consumption. Encourage healthier alternatives like water, herbal teas or natural fruit juices. You can model healthy behaviours by restricting your own consumption of energy drinks and creating a supportive environment for informed choices.

#### PROMOTE HEALTHIER HABITS

Schools can help with this issue by including discussions about the possible dangers of energy drink consumption into their health education curriculum. Encourage children and young adults to critically evaluate the marketing messages they see and make informed choices about their health. Teachers could also provide resources and support for children to identify healthier alternatives.

#### ADVOCATE FOR REGULATION

If this is something you're particularly passionate about, you could work with local health organisations and policymakers to advocate for regulations on energy drink sales to children and young people. Raise awareness among parents, educators and community members about the potential health risks associated with energy drinks and support initiatives promoting healthier options in schools and communities.

#### SET A POSITIVE EXAMPLE

Adults can model healthy behaviours by visibly choosing alternative beverages instead of energy drinks. Maintain open communication with children and young adults about the reasons for limiting energy drink consumption – underlining the importance of balanced nutrition, adequate hydration and sufficient sleep for overall wellbeing and academic success.

### HELP FOR ALL FAMILIES IN BIRMINGHAM



BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

**BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP**

**EDGBASTON**  
EarlyHelp@edgbaston.gov.uk  
0121 456 7011

**ERDING**  
EarlyHelp@erding.gov.uk  
0121 748 8199

**HALL GREEN**  
HallGreen.Families@greenparagoncc.org.uk  
0121 703 913 511 (9.30am to 4.30pm)

**HODGE HILL**  
YouthSupport@hodgehill.gov.uk  
0121 289 4875

**LADYWOOD**  
BirminghamCityCouncil@ladywoodcitycouncil.gov.uk  
07914 086 407

**NORTHFIELD**  
EarlyHelp@northfield.gov.uk  
0121 456 7011

**PERRY BARO**  
EarlyHelp@perrybaro.gov.uk  
0121 748 8199

**SELLY OAK**  
SellyOak.Families@greenparagoncc.org.uk  
0121 748 8199

**SUTTON COLDFIELD**  
SuttonColdfield@hodgehill.gov.uk  
0121 748 8199

**YARDLEY**  
Yardley.Families@greenparagoncc.org.uk  
0121 289 4875

If you need help with this issue or any other parenting issues, Early Help is available, Please speak to Mrs Noone or contact the Early Help office local to you. We can also provide details of all the parenting courses provided through the Family Hubs so please ask if you would like details.



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 09/03/26-13/03/26**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	98	99	95	91	98	98	98	97	99	95	99	100	99	99
Lates	0	1	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.9%			School Target				97%	

Well done 5F: - Our attendance champions!

# Dates for this term

## Spring theme -

### Spring 11 Virtues

16th March 2026 - 9:15am 1:15pm  
 17th March 2026 - am  
 17th March 2026 - pm  
 18th March 2026 - 9:15am  
 19th March 2026 - pm  
 20th March 2026 - all day  
 24th March 2026 - am  
 24th March 2026 - 1:30pm  
 25th March 2026 - 9:30am  
 26th March 2026 - 9:00am  
 27th March 2026 - 6:30-8:30pm  
 WB 30.3.26  
 30th March 2026 - pm  
 1st April 2026 - 1:45pm  
 2nd April 2026 - 11:00am  
 2nd April 2026

## Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

### Intentional and Prophetic

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school  
 Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)  
 Parent Consultation Evening  
 Reception Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome  
 Parent Consultation Evening  
 Down Syndrome Awareness Day  
 Year 5 library visit - 5F (8:45) and 5M (10:15)  
 Year 6 Confirmation Workshop with parents  
 Whole School Mass - parents welcome  
 Year 6 prayer service for parents  
 PTA event - Spring Disco in Parish  
 Holy Week  
 Reconciliation Service for children in Years 4/5/6  
 Reception class - Easter Bonnet parade  
 Year 6 Stations of the Cross in Church for KS2 and parent  
 Break up for Easter Holidays  
 1:40 finish time - Reception classes  
 1:45 finish time - KS1 classes  
 1:50 finish time - sibling group  
 2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

## Term Dates: -

Spring Term	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January - Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
	Half-term
	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February - Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
Summer Term	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
	Half-term
	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June - Friday 17 <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
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026



# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Janel	<i>For brilliant behaviour during our farm trip!</i>
Year RT	Isabella	<i>For having lovely conversations with Mrs Richards during our farm trip. Well done Isabella!</i>
Year IF	Rosabella	<i>For her wonderful writing of a postcard where she used lots of creative adjectives. Well done, Rosabella!</i>
Year IL	Allegra	<i>For beautiful handwriting and for being an excellent role model to other children.</i>
Year 2E	Azrael	<i>For reverent and prayerful behaviour in Mass this week.</i>
Year 2G	Fifeh	<i>For a fantastic piece of exciting writing!</i>
Year 3L	Thea	<i>For always being a good role model and working hard</i>
Year 3T	Zhimu	<i>For always trying her best in everything she and always showing St Mary's values</i>
Year 4J	Tomas	<i>For his wonderful determination to make his handwriting the best that it can be!</i>
Year 4M	Willow	<i>For excellent, knowledgeable contributions in class discussions.</i>
Year 5F	Arsin	<i>For her participation during maths lessons.</i>
Year 5M	Danny	<i>For his increase in confidence to contribute to class discussions. Keep it up!</i>
Year 6O	Clara	<i>Incredible focus and such a hard-working and contentious young lady in all her subjects!</i>
Year 6R	Bruce	<i>For working incredibly hard on writing and editing his diary entry as Macbeth!</i>

