



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.

### December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Family and Communities'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Faith-filled and Hopeful



Dear parents and carers,

2nd December 2022

As we enter the second week of Advent, we light our 'Bethlehem' candle representing faith. Next week, the children will be reminded of Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem. It is an exciting time in school, with school concerts, discos and nativity rehearsals, but also deep prayer and preparation. We are living the virtues for this half-term in our advent season - we are full of faith (faith-filled) and we are hopeful for the birth of Jesus and His second coming. We remind ourselves that it is important not to wait for good things to happen to us. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope. All children and staff have made a promise to be change makers and they're doing some wonderful things.

Within this newsletter, I have outlined the events taking place in school over the next two weeks. Any further information will be shared with letters and through e-schools. Our advent prayer bags have been going home and it wonderful to see photos of children praying with their families at home. This week, we continue our daily meditation and 'Walk with Me' journey as we continue to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Mrs Yorke

### *This week's Gospel and Prayer*

*Matthew 24: 37-44*

*Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Advent is a time of preparation for celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas and looking forward to His Second Coming.
- We can be ready by following Jesus' teaching, looking out for others, and paying attention in prayer.

Dear Jesus,

*We love you and we are getting ready for your coming! Holy Spirit, help us to stay awake and be ready! Help us to listen to and remember Jesus' teaching. Help us to reach out to others.*

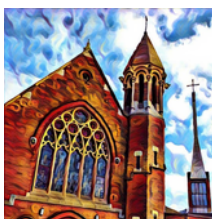
*Help us to welcome Jesus into our hearts through prayer.*

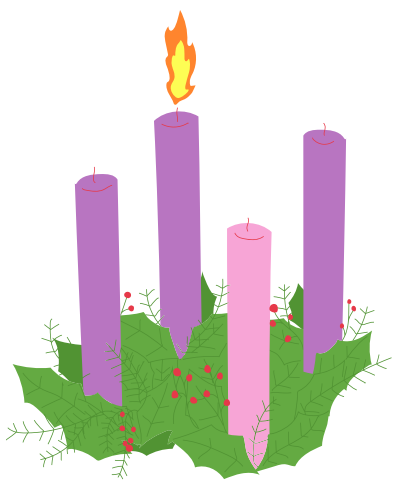
*Amen*

### *Catholic Life in School*

*Whole School Mass in Church - 7.12.22 at 9:30am - Immaculate Conception*

Our next Mass in Church will be for **for the whole school** on Wednesday 7th December, at 9:30am. All pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend. **Please sit in the old part of the Church if attending Mass.**





First advent candle has been lit!  
The first Sunday of Advent symbolises Hope with the "prophet's candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

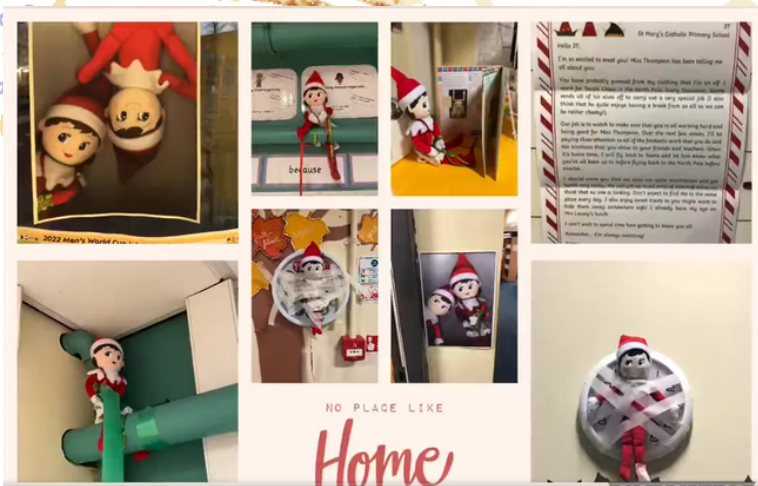
# Advent prayer... at home



# and in school...



# The elves are here



## WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP



### Thankyou PTA

The PTA put on a wonderful evening and everybody had a marvellous time making wreaths.



## KS2 Theatre Trip Nativity - The Musical!

The children had a marvellous time watching 'Nativity! The Musical' at Birmingham Rep.



### Reception news: -

Reception class enjoyed their day and night theme day yesterday.



### Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been creating abstract pieces of art.



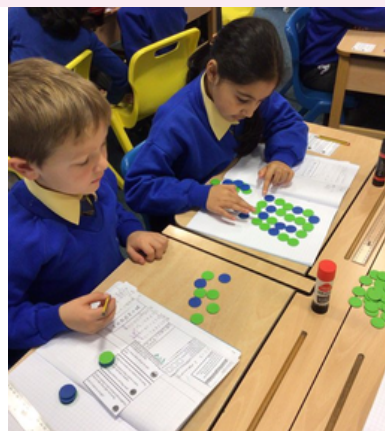
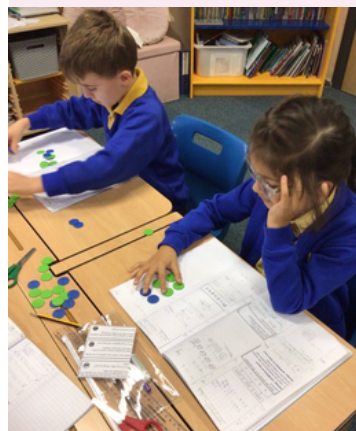
*Year 2 news: -*

Year 2 made wonderful Ferris wheels in their DT lessons.



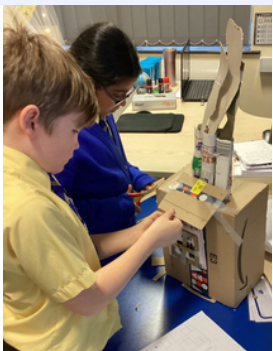
*Year 3 news: -*

Year 3 have been improving their division skills this week.



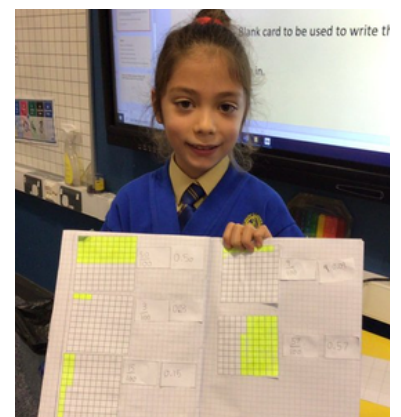
*Year 4 news: -*

Year 4 have studied Birmingham architecture and made their own terraced houses and factories from the industrial revolution era.



*Year 5 news: -*

Year 5 have been exploring fractions as decimals.



## Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been working really hard in their RE lessons this week.



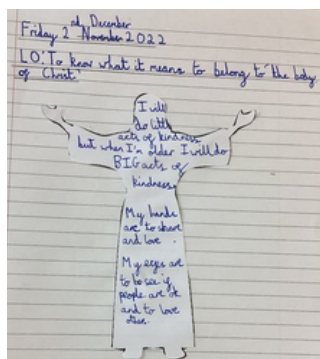
### Year 6 writing moderation

It was fabulous to welcome Year 6 teachers from across the Tolkien schools at St. Mary's. The teachers shared good work and practice. - everybody came away with lovely ideas going forward.



# Livesimply

Our children are change makers!



Year 6 have been exploring how they play a part as the Body of Christ now and in the future.



Reception class have been pulling up weeds and planting new bulbs and have also tidied up the prayer area.



# Change



Mrs Yorke is working with other Catholic Headteachers to support charity work in Birmingham.



Year 1 have planted bulbs in our prayer garden.



As an alternative to Christmas cards this year, each child will be given a wooden bauble to decorate as a gift to their classmates. The children will hang their baubles on the class tree and bring them home to keep at the end of term.

## TEACHER GIFT!



The cost of living is affecting us all. Rather than buying gifts for each other this year, the staff have each bought a hot water bottle that they will be donating to Hope Projects Charity. We have so many families who buy gifts for staff and we are so thankful for your generosity but this year we would like to ease any pressure families may feel and ask for your prayers as our Christmas gift instead.

## Christmas Charity



For our advent charity donations this year, we will have charity buckets at our Nativities and Carol Services.



We are also collecting items for St. Chad's Sanctuary - they are in desperate need for hats, gloves, scarves, stationary, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shaving gel, deodorant and men's clothing.

## Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas



We need more toys to support families in Birmingham this Christmas.

We are accepting toys - new and unwrapped - and our final collection time is Thursday 8th December.

Thank you for those who have donated so far.

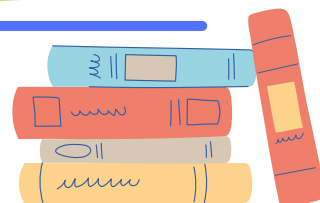


### Tesco Shopping - Quinton

We have applied for a grant to help fund our upcoming Forest School with Tesco. If you would like to help us collect the most blue tokens, you can shop at the Quinton store and use your blue token to vote for us. Spread the word with your families and friends that if they shop in Tesco, Quinton, to use their blue token for St. Mary's.



### Winter Mini Reading Challenge 2022 - Harborne Library



The Winter Mini Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays, with a free-to-access website featuring rewards for reading and reviewing books.

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Children read at least three books of their choice between 1st December 2022 and 20th February and add them to their online profile at [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk)

Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

You'll find loads of other great resources on the website too, including games, book reviews, reading activities and content from the best children's authors and illustrators around. For parents, there is a Home Zone and Library Zone on the website with more information and top tips. Harborne Library also have a Facebook page so that parents can keep up to date with news and opportunities. Look out for special competitions for book bundles and much more!



**It launches on 1st December and runs until 20th February, so sign up now!**

### Extra-Curricular

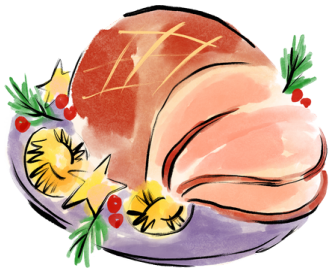
#### Hockey

Our KS2 hockey players participated in their first event as a team this week.





**Penitential Service – Monday 5th December!**  
*Children in years 4, 5 and 6 will be able to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in our Penitential Service.*



**Christmas Dinner will be served on Tuesday 6th December!**  
*If your child normally brings in a packed lunch on a Tuesday and would like to opt in for Christmas Dinner, please confirm this with the school office.*

*Discos...*

The PTA have arranged discos and non-school uniform days for next week

**Wednesday – Reception / Year 1 and Year 2**

**Thursday – Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6**

**Cost for disco and non-school uniform is £3.00**

**If you are just taking part in non-school uniform, the cost is £1.00**



**Christmas Jumper Day**

*Next Friday 9th December children may come to school in festive clothing which may include a Christmas jumper/t-shirt or Christmas colours / head gear. Please ensure the children are dressed appropriately for the weather and wear shoes and a coat suitable for outdoor play. There is no charge.*

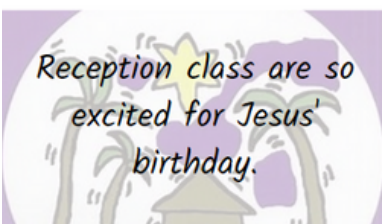


**Nativities – WB 12.12.22**

**Year Reception**

12.12.22 at 9:30am  
in the Church

**RECEPTION  
CHRISTMAS  
STORY**

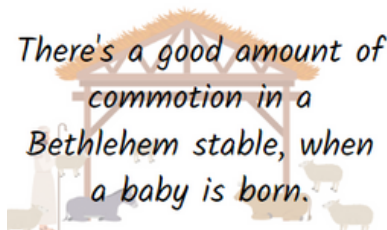


*Reception class are so excited for Jesus' birthday.*

**Years 1 and 2**

13.12.22 at 9:15am  
and at 2:15pm  
in the School hall

**BORN IN A  
BARN**



*There's a good amount of commotion in a Bethlehem stable, when a baby is born.*

**Years 3 and 4**

14.12.22 at 9:15am  
and at 2:15pm  
in the School hall

**SUPER STAR**

*Who is the true super star of Christmas?*

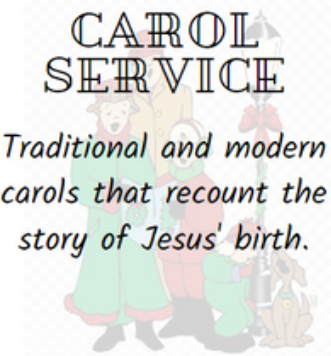


**Years 5 and 6**

15.12.22 at 1:45pm  
in the Church

**CAROL  
SERVICE**

*Traditional and modern carols that recount the story of Jesus' birth.*



*Nativities are limited to two tickets per family due to space in the hall. Next week we will send a letter for you to choose which Nativity you will be attending so that we can monitor numbers in the hall. Tickets will then be issued.*





Raymond Briggs ©1994 and published by Penguin Random House

EYFS/KS1 Theatre trip  
**'The Bear' – Midland Arts Centre (MAC)**  
**Thursday 15th December 2022**  
*On Thursday 15th December, Reception class, Year 1 and Year 2 are off to the MAC to watch 'The Bear'.*



**Christmas Mass**  
**Friday 16th December 2022 – 9:30am**  
*On the final day of the term, all children and staff will go to Church for Christmas Mass before we break up.*  
*What a wonderful end to the term!*  
*Parents are welcome to attend - please sit in the old church.*

**This is an Operation Encompass School**

# KEEPING SAFE

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**



**Keep our children safe – park responsibly**

*We must once again remind you of the need to park safely and not on the yellow lines outside of school. Irresponsible parking is worrying many of our parents and children. I received a letter from the School Council this week and they have asked to directly talk to you as parents and ask for you to park safely from now on.*

*Report any illegal parking to the Council, using the below link:-*

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report\\_an\\_illegally\\_parked\\_vehicle](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle)



*Dear Parents,*

*The children at St. Mary's would like you to stop parking outside school. You can not park in the bays with the single yellow line between 8~9am and 3~4pm. It is illegal.*

*We do not want any of our friends hurt because you are parking where you shouldn't. Over the road from school is double yellow lines. It is illegal to park there too. You can park around school on some of the other roads and walk to school.*

*We are very upset that we have to write to parents to keep each other safe. Please stop parking outside school. Thank you*

*The School Council*

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O	
%	95.2%	95.2%	91%	95.3%	94.7%	98%	97.7%	91.7%	97.7%	98.3%	96.5%	98.3%	93.3%	97.3%	
Lates	8	6	3	6	4	4	5	5	3	2	7	4	3	6	
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.6%		School Target				97%			

## Well done Y4M and Y5F: - our Attendance Champions

Autumn theme -

Autumn 2 Virtues

5th December 2022 - 3:45-4:45

6th December 2022 - lunch

6th December 2022 - 3:45-4:45

7th December 2022 - 9:30am

7th December 2022 - 3:30-4:30

8th December 2022 - 3:45-4:45

8th December 2022 - 4:30pm

9th December 2022 - all day

12th December 2022 - 9:30am

13th December 2022 - 9:15 2:15

14th December 2022 - 9:15 2:15

15th December 2022

15th December 2022 - 1:45pm

15th December 2022 - 4:15pm

16th December - EARLY FINISH

Families and Communities

Faith-filled and Hopeful

Piano and Choir Concert

Christmas Dinner day in school

Piano, Guitar and Violin Concert

Whole School Mass for the Immaculate Conception

Reception and KSI Christmas disco

KS2 Christmas disco

Football Match - Lordswood boys

Christmas jumper or festive clothing day in school

Reception Nativity in Church

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity

Year 3 and Year 4 Nativity

Reception and KSI theatre trip

Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service

Y5/6 Basketball at Lordswood

Break up for the Christmas holidays - Early Finish

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KSI classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Dates for this term

# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Elizabeth	being able to explain the importance of the Advent wreath
Year RT	Cara	always trying her best
Year 1F	Raika	always being polite and trying her best
Year 1L	Danaya	being a kind member of the class
Year 2E	Peonya-Rose	having a super attitude and always taking pride in her work
Year 2G	Keira	having a brilliant attitude to all her learning and never giving up
Year 3L	Nathan	working really hard and listening so well in lessons
Year 3T	Scarlett-Rose	super learning and using ambitious vocabulary
Year 4J	Maya	having a wonderful, positive attitude to all aspects of school life
Year 4M	Thomas	being an excellent role model and for always being positive
Year 5F	Martina	being kind to her classmates and always working hard in class
Year 5M	Emily	fantastic effort in all areas of learning
Year 6O	Ethan	being such a helpful and polite member of our class
Year 6R	Gabe	an excellent explanation text in Science about how nutrients are absorbed in to the body.

