



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

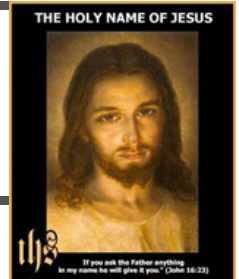


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

## January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'The Dignity of Work'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Eloquent and Truthful



6th January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year. I do hope that you had a lovely break with the children. We have had a fabulous first week back in school. Some tired faces (children and staff) 😊 but most of us are getting back in to routines now and early bedtimes, ready to do our best learning in school. This week, we have continued to celebrate Christmas: devoting our prayers to St. Mary and remembering how she connects us to her son Jesus, reflecting over the messages given by the angels and then finally gathering as a whole school community for our Epiphany Mass. We have planned for an exciting term in school and key dates can always be found at the end of the school newsletter. If you would like to help your children in their learning, our curriculum maps can be found on the school website -

Thank you, Mrs Yorke

### This week's Gospel and Prayer

Luke 2: 16-21

*"As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart."*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Mary connects us to God through Jesus.
- Mary's 'yes' to God connects her to each part of the Christmas story.
- We can call upon Mary's intercession when we pray.

Dear Mary

You are Jesus' Mother and Our Mother too. You connect us to Jesus, and Jesus connects us to God the Father. Help us as we connect with God in our prayers today.

Amen

### Catholic Life in School

#### Whole school Mass for Epiphany - 6.1.23

We gathered as a whole school this week to celebrate the Epiphany. We found out more about the significance of the three kings and we offered gold, frankincense and Myrrh to the baby Jesus.



#### Y2 Mass in Church - 11.1.23 at 9:15am - Baptism of the Lord

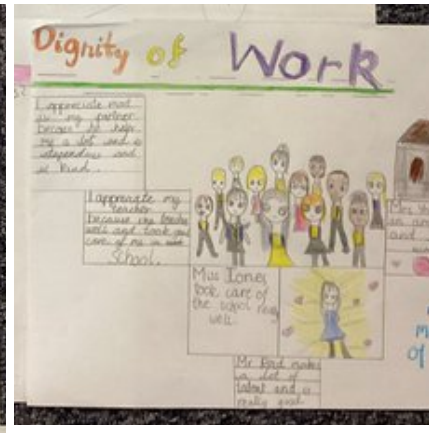
Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 11th January 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 2 children will be leading our Mass and Year 1 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.





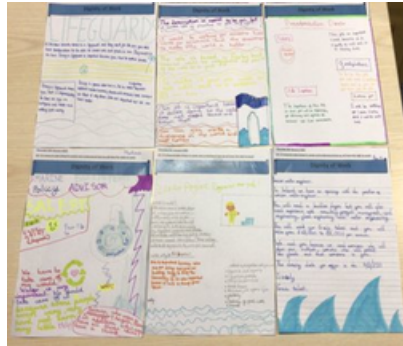
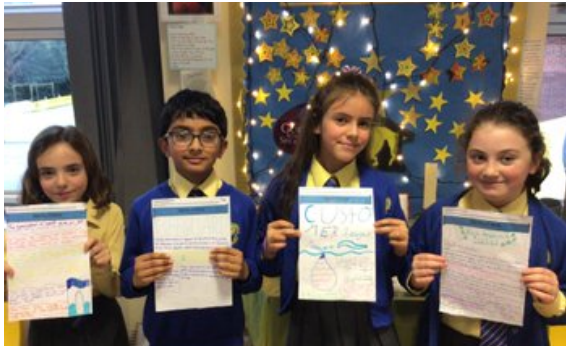
## Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been exploring our new theme for this term – Dignity of Work



## Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have started their new topic, 'Wild Waters' and the theme for this term, 'Dignity of Work.'



## Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been exploring the features of biographical writing.



## Staff INSET - 3.1.2023

Thank you to Mark and Maddie from React Uk for providing our staff training this week.

We are now all up to date with current legislation and guidance relating to behaviour management, de-escalation strategies and creating the right learning environment.

### St. Chad's Sanctuary - Donations required for WB 16.1.2023

As part of our School of Sanctuary Work and our Refugee Week in school WB 16.1.23, we have a visit booked at St. Chad's Sanctuary on **Wednesday 18th January 2023**.

We would like to take a group of children to the Sanctuary with some donations. The Sanctuary are in urgent need of toiletries, food, men's clothes, baby items and shoes. Please bring any donations to the school office before Wednesday 18th January, if you are able to help. Thank you.



### Extra-Curricular

#### KS2 Quidditch day - Monday 23rd January 2023

On **Monday 23rd January**, all KS2 classes will be taking part in a Quidditch Day led by an external company. The children will learn how to play the sport and do other active lessons throughout the day. It will be an exciting Sports Related Day for our KS2 children (especially if they like the Harry Potter stories).

**On this day, please can all KS2 children come to school in their PE kit.**

They may also wish to dress up a little for this day i.e. wear the Hogwarts style uniforms / hats / scarves / cape over their PE kit – this is okay too for a bit of fun – but not compulsory.

**\*NB any loose items of clothing will be taken off before taking part in physical activity.**

This is a good opportunity to read the books or watch the films too ahead of the day so that the children know all about Quidditch before the tournament in school.



### Parish News



#### Do you wish to have your child/ren baptised?

For those parents who would like their child already at St Mary's to be baptised, or for those with a pre-School child to be baptised, there is a one-off Baptism Preparation session in

*St Mary's Church this Monday 9th January at 7.00pm.*



#### Holy Communion for Year 3 – is your child baptised?

Still not baptised? – and your child is in Year 3 hoping to attend the Parish First Communion programme this term. Please come with your Year 3 child to the above Baptism Preparation Session this Monday 9th in St Mary's Church at 7.00pm.

# Governor Newpage

I am writing to you as the newly appointed Chair of St. Mary's Governing Body.

The purpose of the 'Governor News' section of the newsletter is to give helpful reminders for parents about the role and function of school governors.

## What is the Governing Body?

St. Mary's Governing Body is made up of willing and committed volunteers from a range of professions and skill bases. It has three core functions defined by the Government and endorsed by the Archbishops of England and Wales.

1) To set and maintain: -

- The Catholic Mission (what our school aspires to be and do),
- the Ethos (values, culture and character) and
- the Strategic Direction.

As a Catholic School, this first function is under the direction of the Archbishop to whom we are accountable.

2) To hold the Head teacher and Senior staff to account for the safety, care and well-being of everyone in school; pupil progress and outcomes and effective operations throughout the school. We support and challenge through discussions, questions and scrutiny of evidence. We are helped to do this by the support of external Senior Education Professionals.

3) To ensure the school's money is well spent in line with correct procedures and priorities in the annual school plan.

Currently, we have a number of parents on our Governing Body. It is important to note that Governors who are parents are not representatives of parents in the same way that an MP represents his/her constituents or a trade union represents members.

They are required only to bring their own, individual, parental perspective to their contribution and work as Governors.

Therefore, any concerns, issues or complaints that parents may have should be directed in the first instance to the relevant staff, then the Headteacher and finally through the written procedures described in our complaints policy -

<https://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk/web/policies/246042>

I hope this brings clarity to the role and purpose of the Governing Body. We have six main meetings per academic year; a similar number of smaller committee meetings to cover Finance, Staffing, Curriculum standards and Premises; plus school visits and training events. I am able to assure you that the Governing Body works with staff in the best interests of every child and we look forward to continued success! Thank you for your support!

Mary Higgins (Chair of St. Mary's School Governing Board)



**Early Reading and Phonics workshop - Tuesday 10th January**  
On Tuesday 10th January at 2pm, we are hosting an Early Reading and Phonics meeting in the school hall. In this meeting, we will be sharing information about our phonics program - Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised and how you can use the resources to support your child with their reading at home.

### Reminders

#### **NO PARKING!**



Thank you to our parents who are being considerate with their parking. Unfortunately, we do have some parents who continue to park illegally on double yellow lines and in no stopping zones. We are also having complaints that parents are blocking / parking in private roads.

Many of our residents are elderly and this is not acceptable.

Your information / car registrations are being passed on to the police and city council. Please report any illegal parking on:

[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)

*Put the safety of our children and community first when parking.*

#### **SATs Week for Year 6**

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May 2023. All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

#### **Reception Admissions**

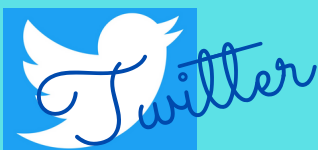
*Online admissions opened on 1st October 2022 for Reception admissions for September 2023. Applications can be made online through the Birmingham City Council website until the final deadline of **15th January 2023**. Please note as 16th April 2023 is a Sunday, offers will be sent on Monday 17th April.*

*Please note if your application is late, it is less likely you will be offered one of your preferred schools. All the information parents need to support with making their preferences is available on the website: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>*

*More advice and support is also available from Children's Services on 0121 303 1888.*

#### **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.*



*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!!!*

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



Let's keep kids safe online



The online world is an important part of kids' lives nowadays. It's an exciting place for them to explore, with all sorts of fun and educational stuff to discover, but there can be some risks too.

'Keeping children safe online' will teach you how to help kids explore their favourite apps, games and sites safely. Our workshop will:

- help you understand how children experience the online world
- show you resources and tools that could help keep them safe

Date: Monday 27th February 2023

Time: 4:45-5:45pm

Location: St Mary's Catholic Primary

empower you to guide them in their journey.

NSPCC



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 of term was -

Week 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Dec

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	81%	86%	80.7%	85%	93%	90.3%	74%	87%	85.7%	79.3%	76.5%	90.3%	86%	75.3%
Lates	9	7	4	8	5	7	12	14	5	3	17	7	6	8
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.2%	School Target					97%		

Well done Y2E: - our Attendance Champions

# Dates for this term

*Spring theme -*

*Spring 1 Virtues*

10th January 2023 - 2:00pm

11th January 2022 - 9:15am

*WB 16.1.23*

16th January 2023

17th January 2023 - am

18th January 2023 - 9:15am

24th January 2023 - am

24th January 2023 - 2:00pm

25th January 2023 - 9:15am

27th January 2023 - all day

31st January 2023 - am

1st February 2023 - 9:15am

3rd February 2023 - all day

3rd February 2023 - 9:15am

*WB 6.2.23*

7th February 2023 - all day

7th February 2023 - am

7th February 2023 - am

8th February 2023 - 9:15am

*WB 13.2.23*

14th February 2023 - am

15th February 2023 - 9:15am

16th February 2023

17th February 2023 - 9:15am

*17th February 2023*

27th February 2023 - all day

28th February 2023 - am

1st March 2023 - 9:15am

2nd March 2023 - all day

*WB 6.3.23*

7th March 2023 - am

*The Dignity of Work*

*Eloquent and Truthful*

Reception Phonics Workshop

Y2 Mass in Church and Y1 children attend - parents welcome

*Refugee week*

KS2 School Council visit to Parliament

Y5 visit to Harborne Library

Y5 Mass in Church and Y6 children attend - parents welcome

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Reception Writing Workshop

Y3 Mass in Church and Y4 children attend - parents welcome

Geography Day

Y3 visit to Harborne Library

Reception Mass and Y6 buddies attend - parents welcome

World Maths Day

Y4 Year Group Assembly for parents

*Online Safety Week*

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Coffee Morning in school for parents

Y6 visit to Harborne Library

Y1 Mass in Church and Y2 children attend - parents welcome

*Acts of Kindness Week*

Y5 visit to Harborne Library

Y6 Mass in Church and Y5 children attend - parents welcome

Y6 trip to St. Chad's

Y3 Year Group Assembly for parents

*Break up for February half-term - finish at normal time*

Children return to school

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Y4 Mass in Church and Y2 children attend - parents welcome

World Book Day

*Careers Week*

Y3 visit to Harborne Library



# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Bronty	brilliant reading this week
Year RT	Josie	adding extra detail to her writing and always doing her best learning
Year IF	Paris	enthusiasm and super participation in lessons
Year IL	Rina	really trying her best with her work
Year 2E	Jian	producing an excellent poster about India
Year 2G	Hannah	amazing gymnastics
Year 3L	Danny	listening attentively and participating well in all class discussions
Year 3T	Safa	always being kind and having a super start to the term
Year 4J	Ivan	excellent contributions to class discussions
Year 4M	Violet	super first week back to school
Year 5F	Layla	great work about the virtues
Year 5M	Chizi	a super and focused start to the new term
Year 6O	Jacob	giving useful and enthusiastic contributions in his English lessons
Year 6R	Markas	excellent enthusiasm in all lessons this week

