



Archdiocese of Birmingham
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
 SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price M.Ed.

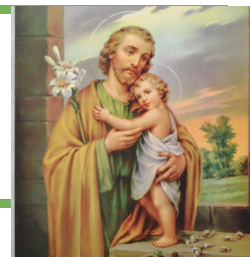


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

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,

25th March 2022

This week, we completed our mothers' day Inspire workshops. Over two weeks, we have welcomed over 300 mums, grandparents, aunts, big sisters, friends and dads in to school to work with their children. The feedback we have received has been greatly positive and I am pleased that so many of you enjoyed the time in school with your children. We will take any suggestions of improvement on board as we plan for future events. I would really like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their support at these events - their efforts and fundraising really help improve the experiences for our children.

We also hosted RSE workshops this week, where 180 parents over 3 sessions joined Miss Horton to find out more about how RSE is taught in our school. Our parent consultation questionnaire is now live for you to share any thoughts and feedback.

Please may I remind you that school is **closed to children** on Monday 28th March as it is a staff INSET day.

Next week, we also host our parent evening consultations, which will take place in the hall again. Please arrive only 5 minutes before your first appointment. I do hope that you enjoy the sunshine this weekend, and we will see you all on Tuesday.

Miss Price

Pilgrimage to the Cross

Luke 13: 1-9

"...leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit..."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- God never gives up on us, but forgives us even when we make wrong choices.
- we can Look to Ourselves and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, make changes to become better followers of Jesus.
- God is full of patience, hopefulness and mercy.

Dear Jesus,

You love us for who we are.

You want us to be the best we can be and give us the chance to grow. Help us to cut back on things that get in the way of our friendship with you. Help us to grow in your love and bear good fruit.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 3 Mass - 3rd Week of Lent

On Wednesday, Year 3 Mass taught us all about the importance of following 'instructions', particularly those given to us by God!



Y1 Mass in Church - 23.3.22 at 9:15am - 4th Week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 30th March, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend.

Other year groups will begin to attend Mass from next week.

(If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



Lent prayer... at home



Today we prayed the Angelus, prayed together on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord for the Act of Consecration for Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

World Down Syndrome Day #LotsOfSocks



On 21st March we took part in #LotsOfSocks for Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

Create Club -
The children explored
the artist George
Rodrigue this week.



Our RSE talks to parents went really well
- our parent consultation questionnaire is
not open for your feedback.



Mothers' Inspire!



"It was enjoyable spending time with my son - enjoyed the coffee and biscuits"

Year Five

"Spending time with my child and being able to talk to other mums and interact with the children"



"Amazing workshop! Our children have missed out on so much in the past 2 years because of restrictions, it's amazing to have these workshops going. Definitely makes up for the missed time."

Year Four



Year Two

"Please, keep organising these workshops ♥"



Year Six

"Children have brilliant ideas when given a chance to express their creativity - craft is encouraged in school"

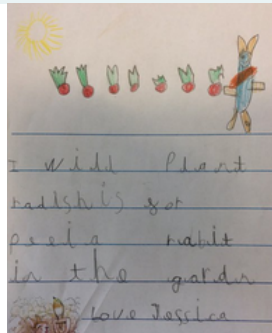
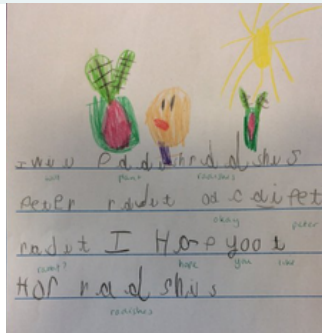
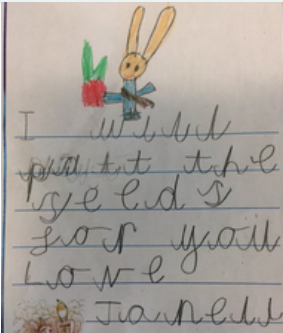


A big thank you and well done to our Year 6 Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl who have welcomed parents to every Inspire workshop and led our bidding prayers. You make us very proud! ☆



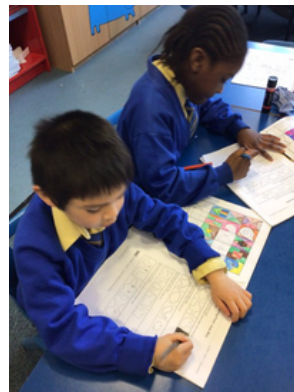
Reception news: -

Reception have been writing letters to Peter Rabbit, telling him about the radishes that they are going to plant.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been drawing shapes and colouring them in the style of Joan Miro



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 compared Christianity and Hinduism by making the symbols of each faith using play doh



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 enjoyed playing basketball in the sunshine.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been collecting for food banks.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 went on a hunt for rectilinear shapes in the school playground. They used metre sticks and rulers to find the area and perimeter of different objects and recorded their findings.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been keeping fit and running the daily mile



Staff INSET Day - Monday 28th March - Closed to children

School will be closed to children on Monday 28th March next week for Staff Inset Day.
School is open to children Tuesday - Friday at the normal start and finish time.

MAR 28

Parents' Consultations

We look forward to welcoming you to our Parent Consultation Evenings next week

*Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days -
Tuesday 29th March 2022 and Thursday 31st March 2022.*

Our consultations ran really well in October, so we will continue to host them in the school hall. After consultation with the teacher, your child's teacher will give you your child's books to look at. You will then have time to look at the books in the Y3 classrooms. There will be a parent questionnaire to complete too.

After looking at your child's books, please leave them with the TA in the classroom and you can either go to your next appointment, or leave the school via the playground and main gate.

The appointment with the class teacher will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please do not arrive any earlier than 5 minutes before your first appointment to help us keep numbers in the hall to a minimum and to allow for a timely well-organised evening.

Your children (those attending the school) will not be allowed to attend the appointment in the hall, if they are with you, we can look after them in one of our classrooms. If you need an interpreter, this should not be your child. It would be preferable if pre-school children, babies and older children do not attend the appointment so that you are able to focus on the consultation. We are unable to look after pre-school children in our classrooms.

We ask that you continue to use hand sanitiser on entry in to our building and wear a mask if you are vulnerable or unvaccinated. If you are feeling unwell, or suspect that you may have COVID, please do not attend your appointment and instead phone school to book an appointment at a different time.



Pupil Lenten Retreat - Thursday 31st March
No Greater Love

Dan and Emily from One Life Music will be leading the children in a retreat focused on the Love of Christ with shared liturgy, prayer, singing and reflective activities.

100 *live simply* award ideas

The *livesimply* award is open to any Catholic community - including parishes, schools and chaplaincies - that wants to respond to Pope Francis' call to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor communities.

At St. Mary's, we have applied for the CAFOD live simply award - help us by making changes in your life to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity - tag us in to any twitter posts [@StMaryB17](https://twitter.com/StMaryB17)

Our challenge this week is: - **No. 97 Use cloth bags instead of plastic bags**



MAKING YOUR OWN —Promise Box—

Reception are taking part in CAFOD's 'Walk Against Hunger' during Lent. The children are challenged to walk 40,000 steps (as 40,000 km is the distance around the world) to fight hunger in solidarity with the 200 million children whose lives are at risk because of malnutrition. This is the equivalent of walking 32km, which is a lot for little legs! You can sponsor them online...

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-harborne-reception>

Year 1 have made Lenten promises e.g. helping to do the washing up, making their beds, tidying toys etc. The children will make their own charity boxes for their family members to sponsor them with a coin every time that they complete their promise.

Year 2 have made a promise for Lent as a year group to give up their time to those in need. As part of this, they will be visiting a residential home on Vivian Road. The children will take their favourite story books to read with the residents.



On Friday 8th April, Year 3 will be holding a 'swap shop' in the hall after school where parents can find clothes, shoes and uniforms that are looking for a new home. We would love it if children (from any year group) can bring in any 'good-quality' clothes, shoes and uniform that they no longer wear or have grown out of so it can have a new home! We'll have donation buckets too for anybody who would like to give a donation for our charities.



During Lent, Year 4 will be asking the children to help to collect food for St Chad's Sanctuary, SIFA Fireside and the Trussell Trust. These charities urgently require donations as the demand for food banks has sadly increased considerably. We are collecting packets of food each week to send to our local foodbanks. Any donations welcome.



As part of their work to build God's Kingdom on Earth, the children in Year 5 have learnt about the world water crisis and have explored the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' The children have learnt that 1 in 10 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water – something that we often take for granted. The children are passionate about tackling this injustice and have been inspired to complete a sponsored bucket walk around the playground as part of the school's Lenten charity work - sponsorship forms have been sent out.



Year 6 are becoming People of Change by trying to reduce food wastage in school. Today, they launched their campaign to the rest of the school: 'Eat for your need, not for your greed'. We are hoping that by reducing food waste, only taking what we will eat and not taking food for granted, we will reduce what is cooked and then wasted in school. Any money saved will go towards our charities.



The Spiritual Council have pledged to organise a litter picking walk on the school grounds and within the local community - we will adopt a road each Friday and go out with Mrs Davis and Miss Price and our litter pickers to clean up any litter.

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

Sebastian and Joshua were exemplary representatives of St Mary's delivering Year 4 donations to the Birmingham Central Foodbank. Thank you once again for your generosity



Our Spiritual Council continue to litter pick on a Friday – keeping our local community clean.



Other News

Congratulation to Aleks, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday in her Polish parish, St Michael's. Aleks sang the responsorial psalm beautifully.



There is opportunity to attend a football club during the Easter break, led by Ben Markall, the football coach, who has been leading our lunchtime and after-school clubs. Please note that the club is not being run by the school and this is an external club.

Our teachers have been meeting up with teachers from local schools to share good practice and moderate writing... we're really impressed with the progress that the children are making.



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PREMIER PROGRESS
HEALTH, SMART AND FITNESS




ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, VIVIAN ROAD, HARBORNE, B17 0DN

RECEPTION – YEAR 6
25TH – 29TH APRIL

10:00AM – 3:00PM
£20 PER DAY

EARLY DROP OFFS – 9:15AM
£5 PER DAY

40 SPACES MAXIMUM
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

FA LEVEL 1 & 2 COACHES
UEFA QUALIFIED COACH
EX PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER
LINKS TO PRO CLUBS

PRO PLAYER – SPECIAL GUEST
2 PRO CLUBS LEAD SESSIONS
RETURN FORM BY 1ST APRIL
07734 938963

INFO@PREMIERPROGRESS.COM

Please return reply slips to Miss Adams, Year 5





Maths Enrichment Winners

We are so proud of our fantastic mathematicians: Aleksandra, Benjamin and Tom who represented our school at the Primary Maths Enrichment at Bishop Challoner with the Tolkien Primary Schools. They really enjoyed it and finished top of the leader board.

Changes to staffing – Y3F



Miss Ruhan



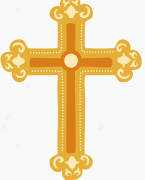
Miss Heneghan

Miss Ruhan (Y3F teacher), will soon begin her maternity leave. We are currently in a time of a transition, where the children are getting to know Miss Heneghan who will be Y3F class teacher after Easter.

Parish News


St Mary's Church will retain all its Covid precautions for the foreseeable future, despite widespread relaxations.

Children's Liturgy Mass




St Mary's Children's Liturgy/Church is on for all the Sundays of Lent: pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children can go straight into the Parish Centre at 9.30am with a parent - prior to joining the rest of the family and the congregation at about 9.45. Children of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, should remain in Church for the whole of the Mass. This is especially important for Years 3 and 6, as the part of their Sacramental preparation.

Mass during Lent




There will be an 8:30 weekday Mass, which lasts for 25 minutes: drop in daily after drop off, for all or part of the Mass. Or simply light a candle, say a prayer and leave.

Wednesday 7:00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross




Join us for Mass (half-hour) and 7:30 Stations of the Cross (half-hour), each Wednesday.

Friday Mass



There is a Mass every Friday at 7:00pm.



St. Mary's Church is open 8:00am – 4:00pm every day

The Church is open for private prayer, candles at Shrines and personal Stations of the Cross.

Standard Assessment Tests (SAT's)

Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 9th May - Thursday 12th May**
- Year 2 SATs take place during the month of **May**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **6th June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning from **6th June (3 week period)**



Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates. Further details will be given out nearer the time.



School dinners

From 1st April 2022, the cost of school dinners will increase to **£2.50**



Water bottles

Please make sure that your child brings their water bottle in to school every day. This is particularly important as the weather gets warmer.

Summer uniform

Children should still be wearing their winter uniform, as the weather is still unpredictable and can be cold. Children may begin wearing their Summer uniform when we return after Easter...

Girls' Summer Uniform

- Yellow summer dress
- Black shoes



Boys' Summer Uniform

- Grey shorts
- Yellow polo shirt
- Black shoes

PE

- Blue shorts
- Yellow t-shirt
- Black, blue or white trainers / black indoor pumps



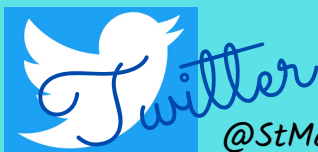
This is an Operation Encompass School

KEEPING SAFE

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



Online Safety



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!!!

Key messages for parents to support healthy use of technology are:

- Enforce age limits for online games
- Keep screen devices in shared areas of the house (not the bedroom)
- Report any incidents to school and helplines
- Spend time away from technology
- Socialise outside online games

Dates for next term

28th March 2022 - all day -

29th March 2022 - after school -

30th March 2022 - 9:15am -

31st March 2022 - all day -

31st March 2022 - after school -

5th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -

6th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -

6th April 2022 - 9:15am -

7th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -

7th April - 10:30am -

8th April 2022 - 9:15am -

8th April 2022 - 2:00pm -

WB 11.4.22 - all week -

14th April 2022 -

3rd May 2022 - all day -

5th May 2022 - all day -

WB 9.5.22 - all week -

WB 16.5.22 - all week -

INSET DAY - School closed to children

Parent consultations

Y1 Mass in Church (Y1 parents welcome)

Retreat day for children in school

Parent consultations

EYFS parents work with their children in class

EYFS parents work with their children in class

Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome)

EYFS parents work with their children in class

EYFS Easter Bonnet parade (EYFS parents welcome)

Y2L Class Assembly in school (2L parents welcome)

Year 3 swap shop for their Lenten charity work

Holy Week

Break up for Easter break!

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KSI classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Children return to school

School closed for Local Election Day

Y6 SATs Week

Y2 SATs Week

Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Starts: Monday 28 th February	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2 nd May	Starts: Monday 6 th June
Monday 28th March - INSET - Children NOT in School	Tuesday 3 rd May – Children return to school	Tuesday 5th July - INSET - Children NOT in School
Ends: Thursday 14 th April 2022	Thursday 5th May - Closed for Local Election Day	Ends: Thursday 21 st July 2022
	Ends: Friday 27 th May	Friday 22nd July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee
Easter Holiday: Monday 18 th April to Friday 29 th April 2022	Half-Term: Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June 2022	Summer Holidays: Start Monday 25 th July 2022

Attendance and Punctuality: -

Good attendance, after the disruptions of the last two years, continues to be a school and government priority. During Parent consultations, staff will be giving out your child's attendance this term and discussing any concerns. 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 Miss Price or Mrs. Davis.

Attendance

Week 14th March – 18th March

Class	YRF	YRL	Y1F	Y1L	Y2F	Y2L	Y3F	Y3L	Y4F	Y4L	Y5F	Y5L	Y6F	Y6L
%	89.7%	95.3%	99%	98.3%	96.3%	100%	93%	97.7%	100%	100%	97.7%	92%	98%	93.3%
Lates	6	3	4	3	9	3	3	1	6	6	5	2	2	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.5%	School Target					97%		

Well done Y2L, Y4F and Y4L: - our Attendance Champions



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

Year RL Margaret	<i>her excellent observational drawing in the garden</i>
Year RF Paris	<i>independent instruction writing about how to plant a seed</i>
Year 1L Savannah	<i>setting a wonderful example of behaviour</i>
Year 1F Shangchu	<i>super effort in reading lessons and reading with great expression</i>
Year 2L Abigail	<i>writing a fantastic persuasive letter</i>
Year 2F Joshua	<i>producing a very persuasive letter about having a tiger as a class pet</i>
Year 3L Jack	<i>working hard in English and for completing his reading diary</i>
Year 3F Thomas	<i>fabulous fable writing this week</i>
Year 4L Jahzi	<i>excellent and thoughtful contributions during our go forth discussion</i>
Year 4F Joshua	<i>being a thoughtful and spiritual prayer leader</i>
Year 5L Kesanat	<i>excellent perseverance in Maths this week</i>
Year 5F Tallulah	<i>making a great effort to include more ambitious sentence types in her writing</i>
Year 6L Joseph	<i>excellent story writing in English this week</i>
Year 6F Hope	<i>being an excellent role model in class and leading spirituality</i>

