



Archdiocese of Birmingham

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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



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

### October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Families and Community'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Curious and Active'



11th October 2024

Dear parents and carers,

We've had a wonderful week in school, and I include some of the learning that has taken place in today's newsletter. We've focused on mental health awareness and how to regulate our emotions and behaviours and we've learnt more about what it is like have dyslexia as this week has been dyslexia awareness week. Well done Cecile, in Year 6, for creating your fabulous presentation about Dyslexia and sharing this with the children.

I have noticed an increase of the very large water bottles (particularly the metal ones) being brought in to school. Sometimes these water bottles are swung around in the play ground and pose a risk that another child could be hurt. Your child only needs a light-weight reusable plastic water bottle in school, as I need to put the safety of children first. We do not want any of these expensive water bottles in school either please.

**After half-term, all water bottles in school must be light-weight and practical (no metal bottles).**

I would also like to remind everybody about the acceptable use of social media. All parents sign a home school agreement when their children join St. Mary's. Within this agreement is the term: -

**"Use social media respectfully and never to put in to disrepute the reputation of the school or any staff member"**.

I am sometimes made aware of grumbles that are aired in WhatsApp groups. The year group WhatsApp groups are great for sharing information and should be run by the PTA reps. This is not the forum to be complaining about school and I would like to ask that any issues about school comes through the correct channels and is made known by phoning or emailing school; or by speaking to the SLT member on the gate. Governors and staff are incredibly proud of all that takes place at St. Mary's and I ask for your support in continuing to celebrate what the school offers for the education and personal development of the children. We are full as a school with a very long waiting list, which is testament to the great reputation the school has.

Going forward - we're trying to use one channel of communication with parents... we're exploring how we can use School Gateway for most methods of communication i.e. parents' evening appointments, newsletters, paying for school meals and trips, and so forth... on Monday, we will be opening up the parents' evening tab so that you can book your appointment. If you are finding it difficult to log on, please phone the school office so that we can assist you. We will not be renewing e-schools as we are moving to one line of communication going forward.

Thank you to those of you who have donated to our harvest collection so far. We have a harvest Mass on Wednesday 23rd October where we would like to have all donations on display. Please donate at least one item. If every child brought in one thing, we would have 420 items to send to SIFA Fireside.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that you have a great weekend.

**Mrs Yorke**



# Catholic Life



*This week's Gospel and Prayer*  
Mark 10:14

*'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.'*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

- Jesus loves and values everyone, especially children
- Jesus calls us to have child-like faith, which means loving and trusting in God.



Dear God,  
 Give us hunger to seek your face in paths through fields, along roads trod by many seeking the blessing of your presence.  
 Nurture our fellowship.  
 Help us to see each other as a brother or sister; sharing the journey to your blessed kingdom.  
 Amen



## Year 4 Mass - 9.10.24 - St. John Henry Newman

Year 4 led us in our Mass to Birmingham Saint and scholar St. John Henry Newman.  
 "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another."



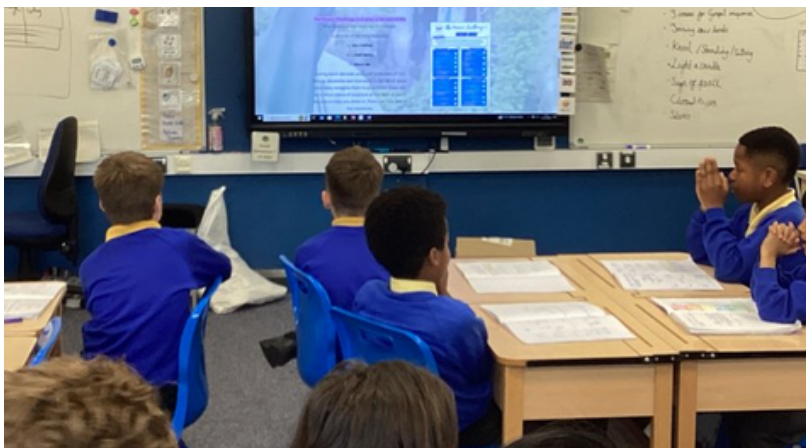
## Next week's Mass: - Y1 Mass - St. Luke

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 16th October 2024**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 children will be leading our Mass and Year 2 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



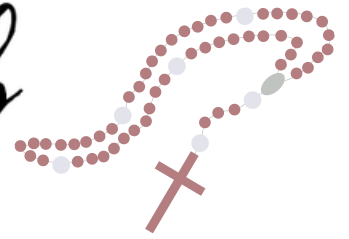
## *Prayer Life:*

*We pray a decade of the rosary every day during the month of October in classes.*



Thank you Harper, who has kindly brought in her prayer book from home to use in class. It is a lovely addition to the Year 3 prayer table and will be used by so many of the children.

# Rosary Club



Year 2 Spiritual Council Representatives set up our Rosary Club in the prayer garden and invited children from KSI to join them in prayer. They did a wonderful job at leading us in the key prayers of the Rosary.



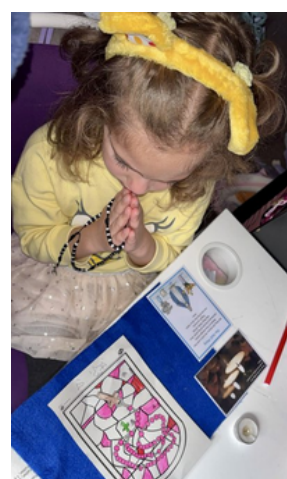
Fr. Hilary joined KS2 for KS2 Rosary Club led by Year 6 Spiritual Council Representatives.

We prayed the Sorrowful Mysteries and thought about Christ's passion and death on the Cross so that our sins may be forgiven.



## Prayer at home

Well done children for praying at home with your families this week...



# Welcome the Stranger



Columban Missionaries co-host the 'Festival of Encounter', a programme that brings together people seeking sanctuary in Britain and Catholic primary school representatives.

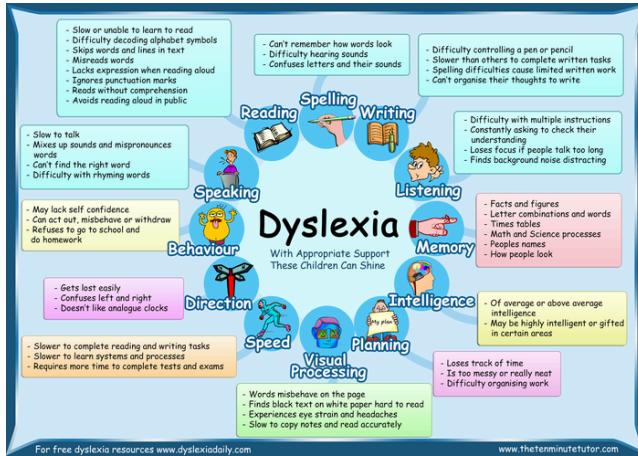


*In partnership with Columban Missionaries, Catholic Head teachers, Stories of Hope and Home and people seeking sanctuary, Mrs Yorke spent time this week learning more about the journeys those seeking refuge take: - in their journey to Britain and once here.*



*We may not always be able to help, but we can walk alongside, we can listen and we can show compassion... We can show we care!*





The children have enjoyed learning all about dyslexia this week and how it might affect somebody.



We have been discussing what it means to have dyslexia as part of their Dyslexia Awareness week learning in school. They also watched a video which talked about the things that people with dyslexia might find difficult as well as how it gives them a superpower.

Cecile in Year 6 created a Powerpoint for KS2 and spoke about what is it like to be dyslexic to her peers. What a wonderful advocate for dyslexia during our dyslexia awareness week.



We read books about famous people with dyslexia...



.. and have also been designing our own book covers.

## Home Learning

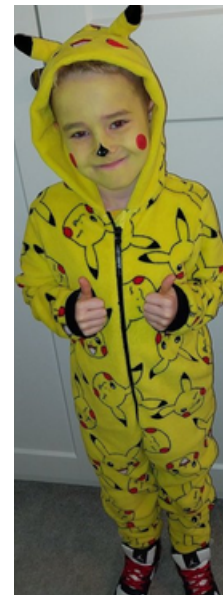
Well done to Joseph and Abi for creating God's creation pieces for our altars in school.



And to Abby for your beautiful piece of art work showing Greek Mythology.



# Mental Health Awareness



#HelloYellow

We can look after our mental health with mindful colouring and writing...



We can look after each other's mental health by checking in with one another, offering a friendly ear and showing that we care for one another...



Looking back at what we have achieved not just what we need to do can support our mental health...



Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently



Understanding our feelings and emotions helps us to manage our mental health. It is okay to feel these emotions...

*Actions for Happiness: - Support your mental health with one action each day!*

**Optimistic October 2024**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month	2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)	3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you	4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list	5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good	6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better	
7 Look for the good in people around you today	8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding	9 Share an important goal with someone you trust	10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently	11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward	12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing
14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation	15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted	16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting	17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society	18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead	19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future	20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time
21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you	22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague	23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise	24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently	25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?	26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face	27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time
 28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?	29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to	30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future	31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month			

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**      **Happier · Kinder · Together**

## Year 6 Assembly

*Year 6 led assembly today on the CST theme, 'Family and Community.' They reflected on their work on WWI and St Paul's letter to the Corinthians- "There is one body. But it has many parts."*



*It was lovely to see so many parents, who came and joined us.*

## October - Pray the Rosary

As we are in the month of October, we are praying the rosary in school. This is a good time to pray and meditate on our Lord's life, faithfully witnessed by Our Blessed Mother. The rosary is the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the 'Glory Be'.



## Black History Month

In October we learn about black role models and inspiring people. We celebrate all races and cultures and the children will have the opportunity to celebrate their own families, cultures, traditions and backgrounds - please send in anything your children could show and talk about to support our learning.



*On Tuesday 15th October, we will be celebrating Saint Teresa of Avila, the Spanish Carmelite nun - who is one of only four women to be named doctor of the Church because of her writings about how to live a Christian life.*

**Children who are in St. Teresa of Avila House Group**  
**- can come in to school wearing blue on this day!**



## Year 5 Harborne Library Visit - 15.10.24

Year 5 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

5M will leave at 9:00am

5F will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 5 staff know.



## Year 3 visit to Lapworth Museum of Geology

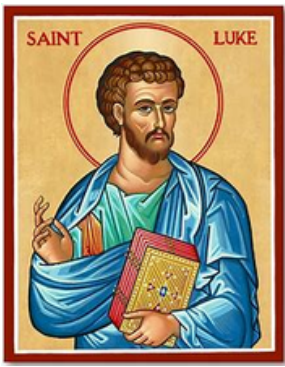
**Year 3L - 15.10.24**

**Year 3T - 16.10.24**

Year 3 have been learning all about rocks in their Science lessons and so they're off to find out more with an educational visit. Children will wear school uniform as normal and should also have a waterproof coat and water bottle with them. They will eat their lunch when they return to school as normal. Children must be on time for school this day as they are leaving at 8:50am.







**1L non-school uniform day - 18.10.24**  
Class 1L will be celebrating the life of their class saint - St. Luke - with a non-school uniform day and a special day in school on Friday 18th October 2024.



St.Mary's School PTA are hosting our autumn

# PUMPKIN PARTY

ST.MARY'S PARISH CENTRE



**FRIDAY OCTOBER 18TH 2024, 6.30-8.30PM**  
**DRESS UP, COME ALONG & HAVE LOTS OF FUN WITH YOUR FRIENDS!**

**Tickets-CHILD £4 ADULT £2**  
**DISCO, TOYS, FOOD, CRAFTS, SWEETS & LOTS OF FUN!**

## ***First Communion / Confirmation programmes***

*Anyone with a child in Year 3 or above wishing to make their First Communion or in Year 6 or above wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2025, are now able to collect a pack from the Parish Office. Packs can be collected at drop-off (8:30am-9:00am) and at the end of the school day (3:00-3:30pm). Please return completed forms by **6th November**.*

Don't forget  
Parents'  
Evening!

## Parents' evening consultations can now be booked for your child using School Gateway

On Monday, you will receive a message of School Gateway regarding parents evening appointments.

We no longer have e-schools so booking for Parents' Evening this October will take place using School Gateway. You can log in on Monday using your personal information i.e. Parent name and child's Date of Birth.

*Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days -  
Tuesday 22nd October 2024 and Thursday 24th October 2024.*

All appointments 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 with numbers in the school hall.

It is better if you do not bring your children (including pre school children and babies) to your appointment so that you can focus on the information given to you. We do realise that this is not always possible. Children of St. Mary's will be taken down to the Year 2 classroom if you do bring them, where they will be taken care of by the staff.

We will be asking all parents to complete a parent questionnaire on the night. Please look out for this. We always take feedback on board to constantly improve and we love to hear all the things that you think are going well too.

There will also be the opportunity to visit our book fair.

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## Photo day

### Wednesday 23rd October

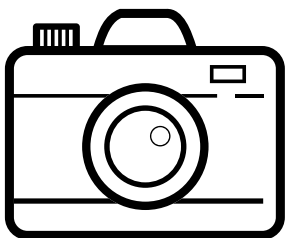
Group and sibling photos will now take place on the 23rd October. Please log into your gateway to consent for sibling photos. Consent is open until the 17/10/24 at midnight.

Any responses after this will not be counted and your children will not have a sibling photo taken.

Please make sure on the 23/10/24 that all children are in full uniform.

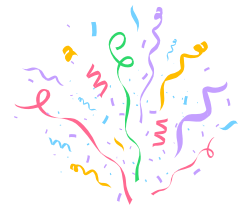
Please speak to Mrs Thomas if you have any questions.

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# The Book Fair is Coming!



We're excited to announce that the Book Fair is coming to St Mary's! The Scholastic Book Fair is a fantastic opportunity for children to buy quality books while raising money for the school at the same time. We were able to buy >70 books for the school after the last Book Fair!

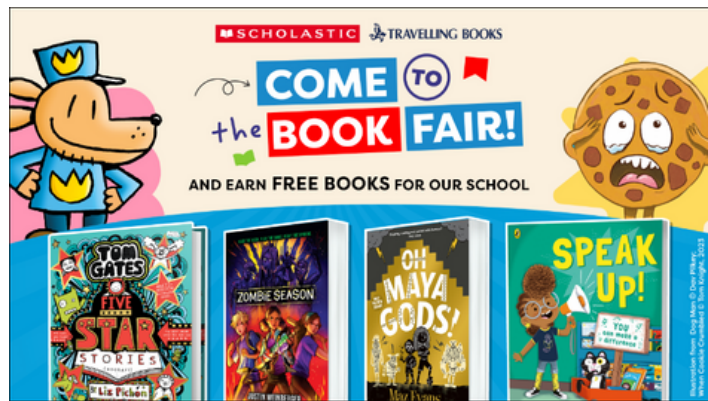


The Book Fair will be open on the following dates/times:

- Friday 18th October - 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)
- Monday 21st October - 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)
- Tuesday 22nd October - At Parent Consultations
- Wednesday 23rd October - 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)



Children will have the opportunity to browse the Book Fair during the school day but purchases will only be possible on the above dates/times. The Book Fair will be cashless, as before, and we will have a card reader available too



## St Mary's Catholic Primary School Reception 2025

### Open Day

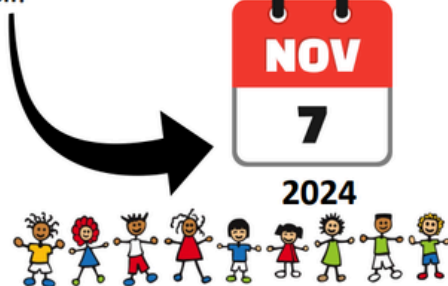


Reception 2025 Parents -  
Would you like to come and see  
our school in action?

**Please contact us to book a slot:**

Morning Tour— 10:30—11:30

Afternoon Tour—13:45—14:45



# Reception

Contact Email:

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

Call: 0121 464 2141



## October half-term

This wonderful club is being run on Thursday of half-term week.  
Best suited for KS2 children. Details below: -



**Success EDUCATION**  
TURNING THE IMPOSSIBLE INTO POSSIBLE

# LEGO CODING SESSION

**In partnership with  
F1 Arcade Birmingham**



**2.5 hours of fun filled activities with a Formula 1 theme.**

**All attendees will get to create and code fantastic F1 themed builds whilst also getting to race in the state of the art simulators at F1 Arcade**



Sign up  
using link



## SESSION INFORMATION



10:00am - 12:30pm



Thurs 31st  
October



2 Chamberlain Sq,  
Birmingham B3 3AX

For further information  
[johnpaul@successeducation.org](mailto:johnpaul@successeducation.org)

## *October collection for harvest - SIFA Fireside*

Throughout October, we will be collecting for our harvest festival and supporting SIFA fireside. Here are the items to donate to school if you are able to support our charity work.



### *Feminine Hygiene Products*

### *Socks and other Foot-care Items*

### *Person Hygiene Items such as:*

*Shower gel, soap, deodorant, combs, hairbrushes, baby wipes, hand cream, chap sticks, tooth brushes, tooth paste*

### *New and unopened long life items such as:*

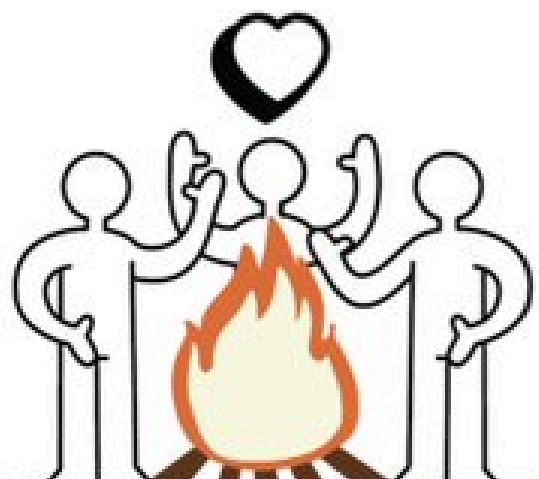
*Granola bars/snack bars, easy open cans (with pull tabs), bottles of water, ready to eat meals, biscuits, crackers*

### *Good quality used clothing such as:*

*Gloves, scarves, blankets, hats, sleeping bags, warm clothing (jumpers, trousers, vests, coats etc)*

**Birmingham, you're not alone**

SIFA Fireside, 48-52 Allcock Street, Birmingham B9 4DY  
Registered charity number: 1049728



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 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:



Amy Davis Deputy Headteacher Lead DSL	Louise Yorke Headteacher Deputy DSL	Rachel Jones Senior Teacher DSL	Rachel Richards EYFS Lead DSL	Sharon Tame School Counsellor DSL	Laura Noone AHT DSL	Jade Preedy AHT DSL
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Alternatively, email [DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

## 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. 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 07/10/24-11/10/24**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	98	94.6	94	91	96.6	98	96.6	100	99.3	96.6	97.3	98.3	97.6	99.6
Lates	1	1	1	7	4	5	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%			School Target				97%	

Well done 3T: - Our attendance champions!

# Dates for this term

## Autumn theme -

### Autumn 1 Virtues

15th October 2024 - all day  
 15th October 2024 - am  
 15th October 2024 - am  
 16th October 2024 - am  
 16th October 2024 - 9:15am  
 18th October 2024 - all day  
 18th October 2024 - 6pm  
 WB 21.10.24  
 21.10.24 and 22.10.24  
 21st October 2024 - all day  
 22nd October 2024 - am  
 22nd October 2024 - all day  
 22nd October 2024 - 3:30-6:00  
 23rd October 2024 - 9:15am  
 24th October 2024 - 3:30-6:00  
 24th October 2024 -normal time  
 25th October 2024 - all day

## Families and Communities

### Curious and Active

Children in **St. Teresa of Avila House** - wear blue non-school uniform  
 Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 5M and 11:00 5F)  
 Y3L - Lapworth museum visit  
 Y3T - Lapworth museum visit  
 Year 1 Mass in Church (Y2 to attend) - Parents welcome  
 Y1L Non-school uniform day for St. Luke feast day  
 PTA Fundraising - Children's disco  
 School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair  
 PTA enrichment event in school for all children  
 Year 6 flu vaccination in school  
 Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4J and 11:00 4M)  
 Children in **St. John Paull II House** - wear red non-school uniform  
 Parent Consultation Evening  
 Reception Welcome Mass (with Year 6 buddies) - Parents welcome  
 Parent Consultation Evening  
 Children finish today for October half-term (normal finish time)  
 INSET day - School closed to children

## Open Days

2024  
 Rated **OUTSTANDING** by Ofsted for Quality of Education!



### KEVI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys Open Mornings

If your son sat the 11+ last month and you are still considering your school options, we would like to invite you to our Open Mornings on...

**Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October from 10am!**

if you would like to attend one of our Open Mornings please email:  
[enquiry@handsworth.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@handsworth.bham.sch.uk)  
 Grove Lane, Handsworth, B21 9ET

If your son sat the 11+ last month and you are considering his school options think of HGS!

Last year a score of 215 guaranteed a place at HGS!

On average, a HGS student achieves at least 8 grade 7s at GCSE!

Students from HGS study at the country's top universities: Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, LSE, UoB, Warwick & Imperial

We hope to see you at these events and if there are any questions please get in touch!

**Come and be part of Birmingham's oldest grammar school!**



# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Laiyla	For her great effort in guided reading
Year RT	Florence	For her fantastic independent writing in class and at home
Year IF	Charlotte	For being a fantastic role model who always tries her best!
Year IL	Fifeh	For her excellent writing in English!
Year 2E	Florence	being a kind classmate who likes to help others
Year 2G	Aaliyah	For always being a fabulous role model!
Year 3L	Aryana	For always striving for excellence in everything she does!
Year 3T	William	For showing kindness to all his peers and always offering to help!
Year 4J	Elvis	For settling in so well at St Mary's after starting in September
Year 4M	Abby	For showing virtues of curious and active in her superb home learning
Year 5F	Mustafa	For such a fantastic improvement in his attitude to learning
Year 5M	Noah	For trying super hard in maths this week!
Year 6O	Katy	For her perseverance and subsequent achievement in maths
Year 6R	Marley-Marie	For some very thoughtful responses in English lessons this week

