



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

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.

July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Stewardship'
Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Learned and Wise'



5th July 2024

Dear parents and carers,

There has been a buzz of excitement in the air this week as we have been thinking about transition. The children met the teachers that they will be having in September and we welcomed 60 new faces in to our St. Mary's family - children who will be joining our Reception classes in September. We also welcomed our new teachers, who will be joining us. Within this newsletter, I include the names of the teachers for each class and an introduction to the new members of staff who are joining our team. We are also saying goodbye to three teachers who have made a massive impact on the school and given so much to the children. We wish Mrs Detheridge-Whitehouse, Miss Heneghan and Miss Horton the best of luck as they move on to their new schools and ventures.

We are in the process of preparing reports to be sent out by email and you should receive your child's school report, alongside their attendance and any statutory results early next week. We apologise for the delay, but the office was closed for transition on Wednesday and on polling day on Thursday, so more time is needed to format the reports.

We are still awaiting the Year 6 SATs results, which are due next week, and we will send out the Year 6 reports at the end of next week with this information. If for any reason, you do not receive your child's school report, by the end of next week, please speak to the school office. In our lessons this week, the children have been enjoying their Sports week in school, which concluded with Sports Day today. Thank you to parents who led some of our marvellous workshops. Thank you for your donations of bottles for the Parish Fair **this Sunday** and to the PTA for their support.

We have two more weeks in school before the Summer break and still so much to learn and enjoy before a well earned rest. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Matthew 16:13

'When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus' names and titles like 'the Son of Man' reveal who He really is.
- Through prayer, Jesus' titles help us to understand and connect more closely with Him.



*Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of Man,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Send your Holy Spirit into my heart.
Amen*

Catholic Life in School

Y3 Mass in school - St. Benedict

Our next Mass will be in **school** on Wednesday 10th July 2024, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 children will be leading our Mass and all Year 3 parents are welcome to attend.



Catholic Life

Child-led prayer

This week our children have led prayer services to St. Alphonsa.



They chose the prayer garden as a perfect place for prayer and reflection.



And they have been thinking about 'Moving On' and their time of transition.



Staff Formation



CPDF this term!

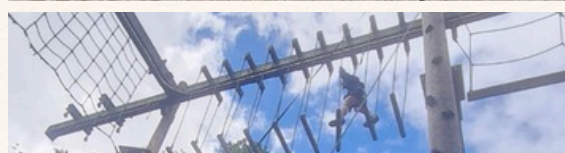


RE moderation



Working together as a staff and as a united team is central to our Catholic Life. Whether moderating children's work or building on our own team-work, trust, resilience and faith, we have had a great term learning about how to 'get results' for the benefit of the children and our whole school community.

Team-building at Baggeridge Country Park



This week's news

Reception news: -

Mathematicians in Reception class, balanced scales.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 enjoyed their visit to Harborne Library this week.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have enjoyed their Athletics lessons this week.



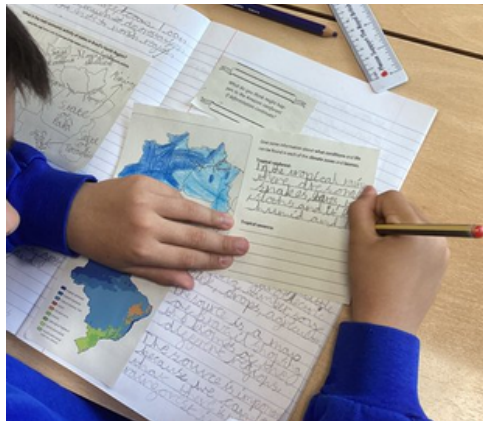
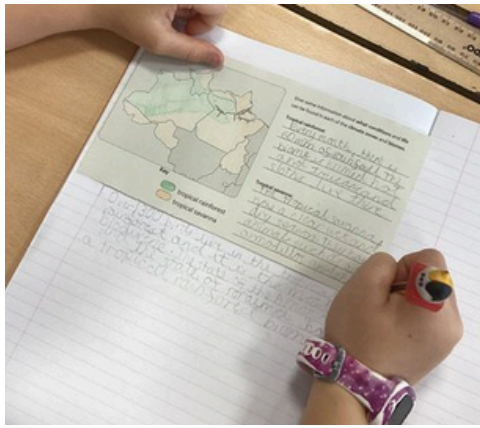
Year 3 news: -

Our marvellous writers in Year 3 have been writing newspaper articles based on 'The Explorer'.



Year 4 news: -

Geographers in Year 4 have been exploring different biomes in the North of Brazil.



Year 5 news: -

In Computing lessons, Year 5 have planned and recorded excellent stop motion animations.



Year 6 news:-

Year 6 enjoyed learning new skills in an archery workshop with Mrs Lay as part of our Sports Week.



General Election



This week, the children have been learning about the General Election. Year 5 discussed the importance of checking if the parties work in the best interest of the child and what have they got to say about children's rights when making voting decisions e.g. from healthcare to education. They then created their own manifestos.

Sports Day

Our children really enjoyed their Sports Day event, scoring points for their House Team. It has been wonderful to see the team work shown by many of the children and well done to , who were the winning house.



Reception Class

Reception had so much fun running relays and throwing javelins in their Sports Day today.



KS1 Sports Day

Excellent participation and support for our KS1 Sports Day today. A massive well done to all the children for competing and showing resilience. It was wonderful to see so many parents.



KS2 Sports Day

We had great fun in our afternoon events also!

Thank you

Thank you PTA for our special treat following Sports Day! We loved our ice-lollies!



GAME AWARDS

We are very proud to achieve the Gold Award for our commitment to PE, Physical Activity and School Sports, for the third year in a row.

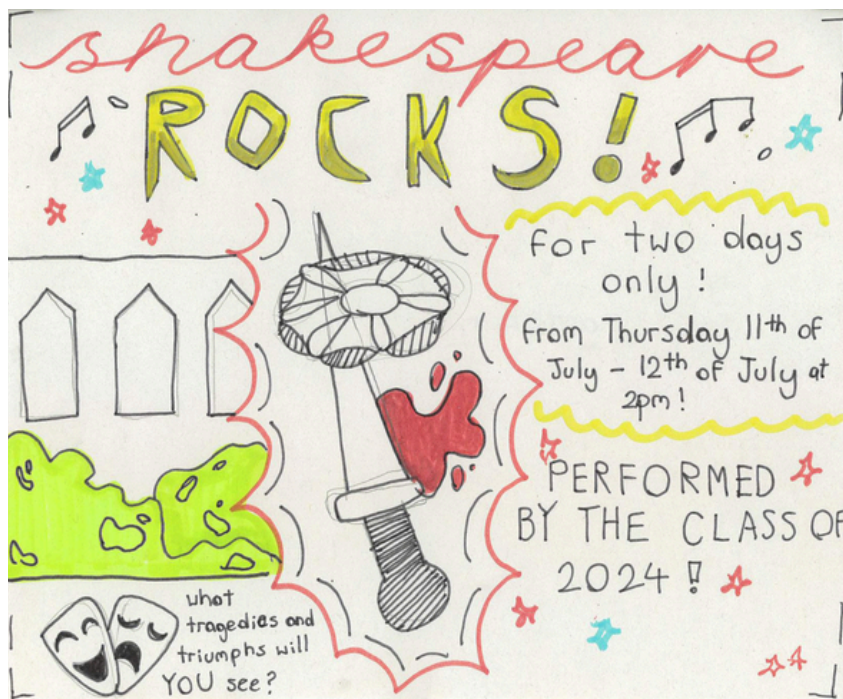


Next week - WB 8.7.24



Year 2 trip to Botanical Gardens - Monday 8th July

To support their learning on Stewardship and how to look after plants and micro habitats, Year 2 will be going to the Botanical Gardens on Monday 8th July. Children will need to wear their school PE uniform and trainers. They may need sun cream and a sun hat too. Children will be back before the end of the school day. We use our twitter to send photos which allows parents to see that children have arrived safely and are having a wonderful time.



Shakespeare Rocks

Not long now to our Year 6's perform one last time at St. Mary's in their show - Shakespeare Rocks

Year 6 are putting on two performances of Shakespeare Rocks for Y6 parents only.

Performances are:

11th July at 2:00pm

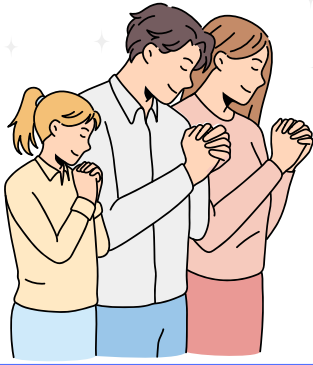
12th July at 2:00pm



Year 1F Harborne Library Visit - 11.7.24

Year 1F will be visiting Harborne Library next Thursday at 1:15pm.

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



**Year 2 prayer service for parents
Monday 15th July at 9:00am**

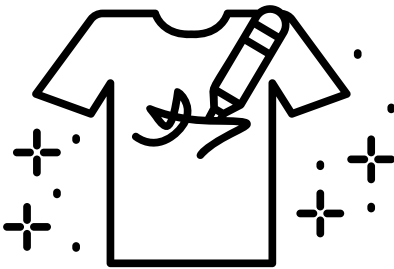
Year 2 will be leading an end of year prayer service for their parents on Monday 15th July at 9am. This is their last prayer service in the infants – before they join the juniors next year. We hope that you can join us.

Year 6 Leavers Mass - Wednesday 17th July 2024 - 9:30am

We will be celebrating Year 6 and their time at St. Mary's with a whole school Leavers Mass on Wednesday 17th July at 9:30am. All parents and family members are able to attend this Mass. For the Mass, we will ask parents to sit in the old part of the Church. After Mass, the rest of the school will leave and return to have break time. Year 6 will remain in the Church and parents will join them to watch their slideshow of memories in the Church.

This will be when we hand out presents too.

The rest of the school / siblings will watch the slideshow in their classrooms.



Friday 19th July - all day

Shirt signing will take place on the final day of term. We also continue to encourage parents, staff and children to join us in the guard of honour as they leave school for the final time as Year 6 pupils. Collection times of all children are in red in 'dates for this term' – all children will need to be collected by 2pm and then Year 6 (and any staff leavers) will come out.

THE STRINGS CLUB

Enter promo code **STMARYS2024** for 10% off

EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY CAMP DISCOUNT FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S

Make your child's Summer Holidays unforgettable!

Join our award-winning Holiday Camps in Birmingham

Secure your place today

WWW.THESTRINGSCLUB.ORG

Childcare Vouchers Accepted

The Strings Club is passionate about creating unforgettable experiences for children aged 4-11 that deliver the very best in childcare and music education, every school holiday.

Since 2012, we've opened our doors to nearly 500,000 children, and we're thrilled that our Ofsted-registered Holiday Camps are at your child's school.

WHY JOIN THE STRINGS CLUB?

- Age specific activities for 4-7s/8-11s
- Morning sessions in guitar, violin or ukulele
- FREE to hire instrument - even to take home
- One trained adult to 8 children - for all ages
- Book from 1 day to the whole experience
- Discounts including 10% sibling discount & tax free childcare
- Different theme every week
- Afternoon workshops, from sport to art to drama
- Daily Diaries and Newsletters - with access to gallery

Celebrate your child's new musical skills at our Grand Concert, where you can see what they've learnt with their new friends!

OUR GRAND CONCERT

Signposting

Strings Club provides our Ukulele lessons and are offering holiday camp discount for any pupils at St. Mary's if you're interested.

The 2024 Summer Challenge opens tomorrow - 6th July. This year's challenge theme is Marvellous Makers and is all about creativity.



#StMarysLovesToRead

Summer Reading Challenge

It is that time of year again - join Harborne Library and St. Mary's to encourage as many children as we can to read over the Summer Holidays.

Step 1: - sign up to the challenge at Harborne Library

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

#library

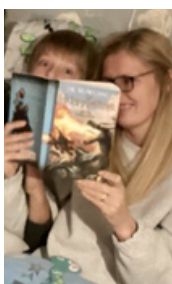
Step 2: Upload your photos on to our school twitter feed. Photos of children reading with siblings, parents, other family members, friends and on their holidays - share your love of reading with the whole school community.

@StMaryBI7

Challenge: - Which year group will upload the most photos?

Winners will be announced in the new school year!

- #MyTeacherReads
- #MyParentReads
- #MyChildReads
- #SchoolCouncil
- #Reading and your year group e.g #YR, #Y2, #Y5,



Open Evening

BISHOP CHALLONER CATHOLIC COLLEGE



OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 18th September 2024

6pm - 8.30pm

**SAVE THE
DATE**

Scan to book your tickets:



Institute Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7EG
Tel: 0121 444 4161 Fax: 0121 441 1552
enquiry@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Harborne Academy Summer Holiday Camp

Multi-Activity Camp

Our Multi-Activity Camp offers a wide range of different sessions (from Archery to Fencing alongside many other sports/team games and enrichment activities) for children to enjoy.

Dates: Tuesday 23rd July To Friday 30th August

Times: 9am- 4pm (4-year olds allowed for half days 9am-1pm)

Price: £18.84 (£12.30 for half day)

Early Bird 30% Discount on offer until 30/06/2024 (Reduced to 20% from 01/07/2024)

Booking Link- [Harborne Academy – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](https://premier-education.com)



Football Camp

Our Football Camp will look to develop children's football skills each day with plenty of opportunities for games and lots of teamwork.

Dates: Monday 12th August To Friday 16th August

Times: 9am- 4pm (4-year olds allowed for half days 9am-1pm)

Price: £18.83 (£12.30 for half day).

Early Bird 30% Discount on offer until 30/06/2024 (Reduced to 20% from 01/07/2024)

Booking Link: [Football Holiday Camp – Premier Education \(premier-education.com\)](https://premier-education.com)



FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

We are able to offer FREE places (12pm – 4pm) for any children who are Free School Meal (FSM) from 23rd July – 9th August 2024 funded by the governments Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF). You must supply your FSM code when booking (the code will be provided by your school). We will provide your child with a free packed lunch, all your child will need is a water bottle and suitable clothing plus lots of energy!

Booking link:

<https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/892512>

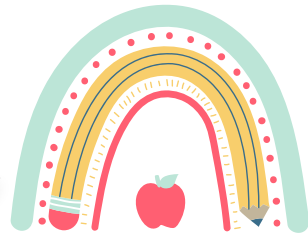


For any queries, please contact our Community
Lead, Evan Heritage:

eheritage@premier-education.com



transition



**Goodbye
&
Good Luck**

We're saying goodbye to these wonderful members of staff who are all moving on to new and exciting opportunities...

At the end of the school year, Miss Horton, Mrs Detheridge-Whitehouse and Miss Heneghan are leaving St. Mary's. Miss Horton and Mrs Detheridge-Whitehouse are moving on to new posts in other Primary Schools. Miss Heneghan is going travelling, an opportunity she missed because of Covid, which she is excited to pursue now. We wish all of them the best of luck in their new adventures. They will be really missed at St. Mary's and we send out a massive thankyou to them for the commitment that they have shown the children and their families during their time at St. Mary's.



**Mrs Detheridge-
Whitehouse**



Miss Heneghan



Miss Horton

Welcome to our St. Mary's team

We would like to give a big St. Mary's welcome to Miss Harris, our new Reception teacher; Miss Flynn, who will be teaching Year 3; and Mrs Downing who will be teaching Year 6.

Miss Harris is newly qualified and excited to join our experienced EYFS team.

Miss Flynn and Mrs Downing are joining us from other schools and will be bringing a wealth of experience and new ideas in to St. Mary's. We look forward to seeing what the new year will bring.



Miss Harris



Miss Flynn



Mrs Downing

"To change isto grow..."

Class teachers and Support staff for September 2024

Year group	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
RB RT	Miss Harris Mrs Russell / Mrs McConnell Mrs Richards	Mrs Pitt Miss Lawlor Mrs Shipman
1F 1L	Miss Dawe Miss Price / Mrs Birchenall (Miss Thompson's married name)	Mrs Kopera Mrs Campbell
2G 2E	Miss Bennett Miss Busby	Mrs Gall Miss Robinson
3L 3T	Miss Heath Miss Flynn	Mrs Whittingham
4M 4J	Mrs Snios Mrs James	Ms Parmar
5F 5M	Mrs Noone / Miss Preedy Mrs Gidley	Mrs Lassey
6R 6O	Mrs Downing Mrs Tibbatts Mrs Jones	Mrs Nguyen
Cover	Madame Baille (art / French) Mrs Davis (Deputy Headteacher) Mrs Yorke (Headteacher)	Mrs Tame



The children met their new teachers on Wednesday and went to their new classes. It was a lovely day in school. Most of our Year 6 children were at their new schools too and came back excited about the next step of their learning journey. We also met our new Reception children who will be joining us in September. Transition is about change, which we appreciate comes with worry sometimes - we support all children through any periods of change and transition, but if you have any questions ahead of September, please do speak to a member of SLT.



The staff had a wonderful day meeting their new classes for September. We hope that the children did too!

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



SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS

What is an influencer?

An influencer is somebody prominent on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account. Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share their own opinions, which may not be in line with your family values. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact. It is important to talk to your child about the spread of misinformation online and how we should fact check and critically analyse what we see and hear online. What we see on social media platforms is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, so we don't see a balanced picture.

You can find out more here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

Further Information:

The NSPCC have created an article detailing what you need to know about online influencers. You can read it here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>

Worried about a child?

Contact our Helpline by calling 0808 800 5000 or emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk.

stay safe online

Remember the 5 SMART rules when using the internet and mobile phones.

- S SAFE:** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.
- M MEET:** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.
- A ACCEPTING:** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- R RELIABLE:** Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are. Make sure you check information before you believe it.
- T TELL:** Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Find out more at Childnet's website ...

End of year donation**Further Information:**

We have been asked by parents whether there is any way online to place a donation back in to school as an end of year gift, particularly from families who are leaving St. Mary's and wish to make a donation. Of course you are not obliged to do this but we have set up a gateway payment for this reason for anybody who wishes to give the school a donation. We will also have buckets out next week following our Year 6 performances.

**Eschools**

Eschools is a platform that teachers use to communicate with parents and set homework.

This is checked regularly by teachers but not necessarily daily. Eschools is not the most efficient way to communicate with the Leadership team - please contact enquiry email or phone school for more urgent matters.

If your child needs a new password for Eschools, please contact the class teacher. If a parent needs a new password, please email school on

enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Again, this may take a few days to reset.

We encourage parents to keep their passwords safe so that they do not miss any key information.

**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 the last week of term was -

Week 01/07/24-05/07/24

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	94.5	99.1	95.4	95	91.6	100	93.7	97.9	98.3	87.5	98.3	99.5	94.3	84
Lates	3	6	3	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	4	1	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.3%		School Target				97%		

Well done 2G: - Our attendance champions!

Term Dates for next year 2024-2025

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3rd September - Thursday 24th October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 4th November - Friday 20th December
Spring Term	Monday 6th January - Friday 14th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 24th February - Thursday 17th April
Summer Term	Tuesday 6th May - Friday 23rd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 2nd June - Friday 18th July

School Closed:

- Monday 5th May 2025 - Early May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Friday 25th October 2024
- Monday 21st July 2025

2 more INSET days to be confirmed

Star of the week

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

- Year RB Emily For being so brave and brilliant when she went to her new class this week!
- Year RT Sparkle For always being such a good girl in school!
- Year 1F Nalan For having an excellent transition day in year 2
- Year 1F Massimo For working hard in all areas.
- Year 1F Michelle For her excellent work in all subjects.
- Year 1L Zikora For always been a wonderful role model!
- Year 2E Raina For trying hard to be a kind friend
- Year 2G Mieke For always being a good role model and kind learning partner
- Year 3L Ella For always trying her best in her learning and never giving up!
- Year 3T James For his exceptional kindness, consideration and determination.
- Year 4J Noah For using his resilience to overcome his worries about transition day
- Year 4M Georgia For always being compassionate and helpful to her peers
- Year 5F John For hard work to improve his handwriting this week.
- Year 5M Jayne For amazing attitude to school life in general, being an amazing role model to peers
- Year 6O Daniel For his exceptional display of resilience and active participation over the past year.
- Year 6R Jay For always being a helpful and thoughtful member of the class

