



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.

March is dedicated to St. Joseph

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Dignity of Work'
Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Learned and Wise'



Dear parents and carers,

10th March 2023

Thank you to all our visitors this week, who came in to talk to the children about the range of careers available to them. The children really enjoyed their talks and had fantastic questions to ask. I am sorry that the snow disruption stopped our Mothers' day visits from happening today. We will reschedule this for the Summer term now.

Next week, it is likely that *strike action will take place on Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March.*

School will be open on those days for Year 6 children only. School will be closed to all other children due to limited numbers of teaching staff available. As school is open for Year 6, they do need to attend school and we will be open normal times for them. Their tutors are in on Wednesday and we will be teaching lessons to support them in their preparation for their SATs (WB 8th May 2023). If you have children in receipt of Free School Meals and require lunch on the strike days, please let the office know on Monday. Thank you to those supporting our Lent work. Our CAFOD Big Walk is up to £60. We have set a £200 target but would like to get even more than that if we can.

Hope the children have enjoyed the snow today - looking forward to seeing your snowy pics - if you post on twitter, remember to tag us in @StMaryB17. We will see you all on Monday.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer *Matthew 17 : 1-2*

"His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light."

Jesus, be my light.

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus revealed His glorious identity as the Beloved Son of God.
- God the Father wants us to listen to Jesus and shine with the light of His love.
- We can shine during Lent by making time to GIVE, ACT and PRAY.

As I continue my journey through Lent, help me to know that you love me. Be my guide as I GIVE to others, Be my strength as I ACT by making good choices, Be my friend as I PRAY and get to know you more.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Reception Mass - 2nd week of Lent - 8.3.23

Reception children read beautifully in their Mass to parents on Wednesday. We learnt about how giving up something small can help us grow closer to God.



There will be no Mass on Wednesday 15th March

Y5 Mass - 4th Week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 22nd March 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 children will be leading our Mass and Year 3 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



This week's news

Reception news: -

Reception class have been acting out farm stories using our new technology 'Now Press Play'.



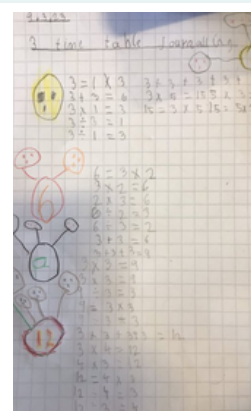
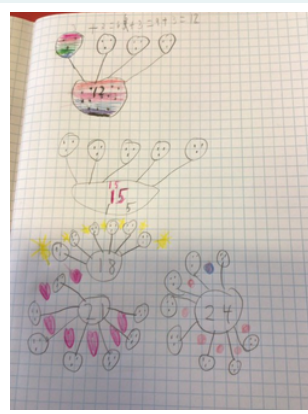
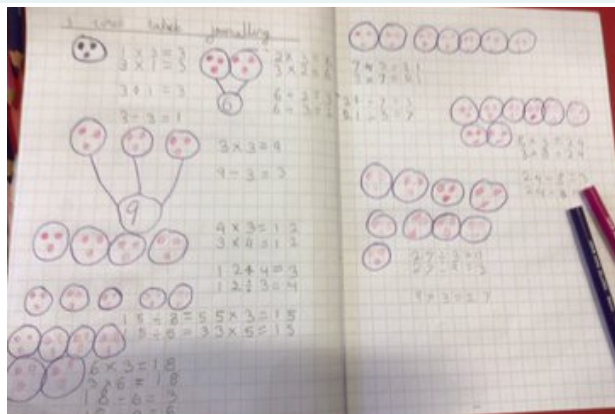
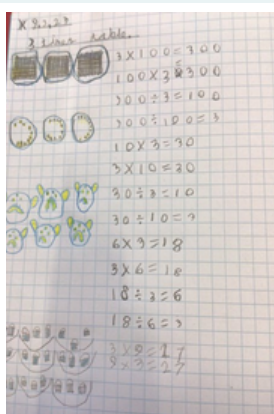
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 really enjoyed their Royal Ballet lessons this week.



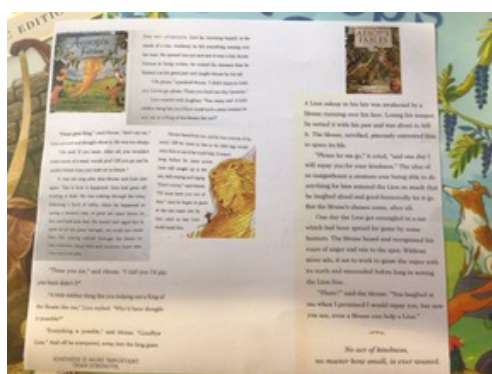
Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been exploring the 3x tables in their maths lessons.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning about fables this week - comparing characteristics to write their own.



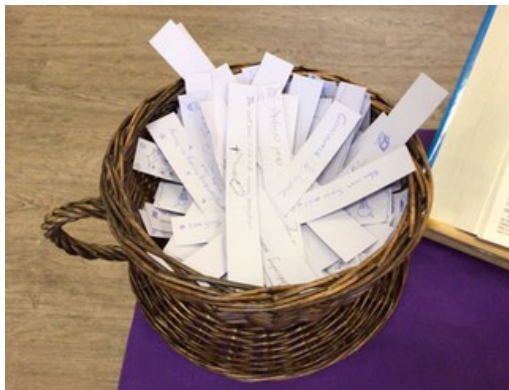
Year 4 news: -

Year 4 enjoyed a Roman Experience using Now Press Play



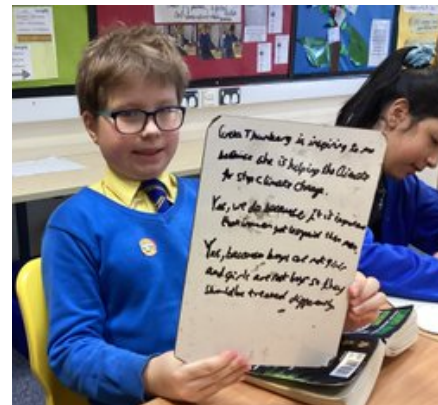
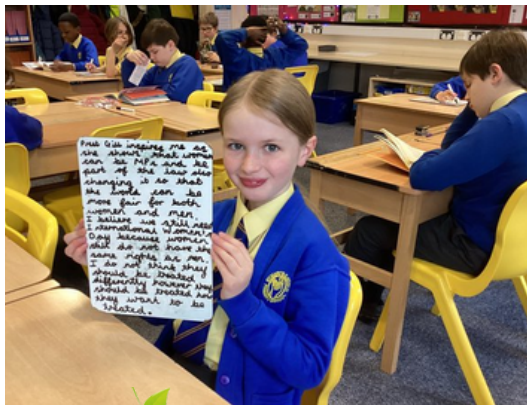
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been leading prayer this week.

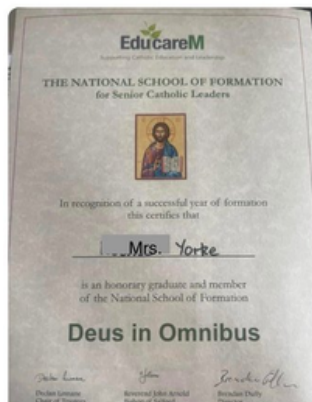


Year 6 news: -

Year 6 learnt about motivating and empowering women for International Women's Day.



EducareM Supporting Catholic Education and Leadership



Mrs Yorke has spent two learning from a range of guest speakers and networking with Catholic Headteachers from across the UK as part of her development as a Catholic Senior Leader.

Careers Week

The staff and children would like to say a massive thank you to all our visitors, volunteers and parents who gave up their time to talk to us this careers week.

We have learnt so much in such a short amount of time.

Thank you Miss Horton for all of your hard work in organising our Careers Week.



Thank you Ms Delgado for explaining your career of civil engineering to us.

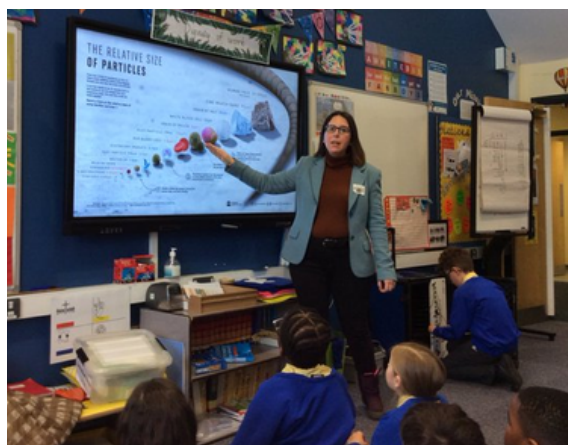


Mr Noone inspired us to be accountants when we grow up.



Thank you Mr Price for speaking with our younger children about being a firefighter. We have learnt what it is like to be a firefighter and how to prevent fires at home and stay safe.

Real life Chemist Professor, Elena, taught the children about testing antibiotics and growing bacteria!



Ms Delgado Saborit, an air quality scientist, taught Year 5 and Year 6 all about her job.



Snowy fun



*It has been lovely to see the joy that the snow has brought to the children.
Here are a few pictures from this week*





Another amazing Power Project about Extreme Survival from Year 3. Great work Emily. Your teachers and Mrs Yorke were very impressed with all of your hard work.

Other News



We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Reeson to our admin and office team. Mrs. Reeson works Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I am sure that you will all support us in welcoming her to our St. Mary's team.

Next week - WB 13.3.23

10-19 March
British
Science
Week
2023



The children will be experiencing really exciting Science lessons next week as we take part in British Science Week.



Reception School Trip - 14th March 2023

As part of this term's topic, Reception are learning all about farms and will be going to Ash End Farm on Tuesday 14th March 2023

Strike Action - Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March 2023

As it stands, it is likely that strikes will go ahead for the two days next week.

The vast amount of teachers at St. Mary's are NEU members and they have made known their intention to strike on Wednesday and Thursday next week, if unions do not come to an agreement.

School will be open for Year 6 pupils only on those two days, if strikes do go ahead.

Religious Education

"During this Lent,
let us all ask the Lord:
Make our hearts like yours."

-Pope Francis



PRAY

The children are leading prayer services for their parents during lent 9:00-9:30 on the following dates

- Year 6 - Friday 3rd March ✓
- Year 5 - Wednesday 8th March ✓
- Year 3 - Tuesday 14th March
- Year 2 - Friday 17th March
- Year 1 - Wednesday 22nd March
- Year 4 - Thursday 23rd March
- Reception - Thursday 30th March



Supporting our Lenten charities: -
CAFOD

At St Mary's, we are working together, to take on the Big Lent Walk! The whole school will be walking 200km in 40 days throughout Lent. Each class will contribute to this total and will walk 9 miles. This will take place throughout this half term.

We are taking part in this walk as part of our Lenten charity work. We will be supporting CAFOD and raising money to fight global poverty. Any donations to this cause will be greatly appreciated.

All donations will go to CAFOD.
If you are happy to donate, you can donate via the link below.

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-marysb17>



This half term, each year group will be supporting our Lent work. Find out what your child will be doing and how you can support them...

**Year
R**

Reception class will be praying for those who need our prayers. They will say prayers for: those within our school, parish and community; those who are in a position of power and making decisions; and those who are affected by poverty and war.



**Year
1**

Year 1 are keen to care for the school environment. They will ensure that any litter is picked up in our playground and that the plants are being watered. Caring for God's planet begins with caring for the school, that we all share, and taking responsibility over looking after it.



**Year
2**

Year 2 are finding out ways that we can look after God's creatures. They are particularly interested in fundraising to 'save the tigers' - they're putting their campaign together during Lent.



**Year
3**

Year 3 want to help the local community and have decided to go litter picking throughout Lent in the local area. The children will be placed on a rota with a small group of children going each week.



**Year
4**

Year 4 will be supporting our food banks during Lent - they will be asking for donations and encouraging the staff to volunteer. More information about who we will be supporting during this time to follow.



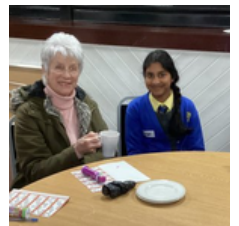
**Year
5**

Year 5 have learnt about the world water crisis and have explored the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' The children would like to complete their CAFOD walk whilst carrying buckets of water to raise awareness of water poverty.



**Year
6**

Year 6 will be attending the Dementia drop-in group at the Parish Centre every Thursday morning in small groups to play games and speak with the residents.



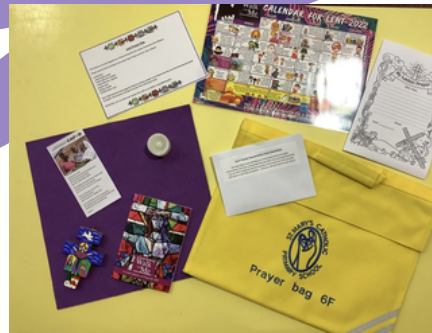
**Individuals
/ groups**

Other groups of children are collecting for charity too and have ideas for how we can change our lives and grow closer to Jesus during Lent - more details to follow.



Our Lenten Journey so far...

Lenten Prayer bags



The Spiritual Council have worked hard preparing our Lent prayer bags which have started going home. We hope you enjoy using them with your children this Lent. Please tweet any pictures of them being used and tag us in @StMaryB17



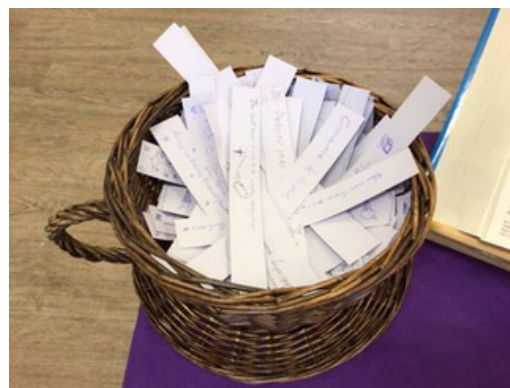
St. Mary's Charity Work for Lent...

Year 5 have been discussing Lent and have written prayers about how to become closer to God during this time of prayer, fasting and giving



Children have started their Big Lent Walk. Each class have to complete 9 miles this half term to reach their targets of 200km.

Year 5 children led a very prayerful liturgy for their parents and reflected on why fasting is an important part of Lent.





8:30am Mass – St. Mary's

St Mary's Church has now been re-carpeted, so the 8:30am Mass is now back in the Church for the rest of Lent.



Stations of the Cross – every Wednesday in Lent – 7pm

The Stations of the Cross take place each Wednesday in Lent, in St Mary's Church, at 7.00pm, for half an hour.



First Reconciliation / Confession: Year 3

First Reconciliation/Confession for Year 3 takes place Saturday 18th March, 10.00am in St Mary's Church (2 x groups).



St Mary's Church remains open 8:00am – 4:00pm

St Mary's Church remains open from 8.00am until 4.00pm each weekday, - for private prayer, visits to Shrines, private prayer before the Stations of the Cross either in the old Church (graphic 3-D images) or the new Church (abstract, symbolic), or to light candles with your children.

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



Is YouTube safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device – and how long they spend on it.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids editions) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad causes could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case or a screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending more time on their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings or a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, we advise you to turn on screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Over 18 is considered over age for your child to go searching online for content. Some parental controls, apps or information, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that has gone viral and is widely shared – could be suggested by an algorithm – could be seen by your child. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple) allow you to block access to most age-inappropriate content that your child could potentially still access through Siri (Apple's voice-activated assistant) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' settings to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, so that you can share your Apple ID with your child. This allows you to manage your child's app purchases and app usage, and you'll be able to see any apps your child has downloaded. You can also set up Family Sharing to share your child's iPad with other family members.

APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a warning when time limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.

STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something to worry about in the process), you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. This allows your child to download or buy an app, game or in-app purchase, but you'll be notified if you need to approve it. You can also set up a passcode to prevent your child from making purchases if you've set up your own.

SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) and your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.

TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone A.M.I., including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been marked as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.

Meet Our Expert
 @nationalonline_safety | NationalOnlineSafety | @nationalonline_safety | @national_online_safety

NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

Be smart on the internet

Childnet International www.childnet.com

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 MEETING 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 poorly message!

R RELIABLE Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

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. You can report online about to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.kidsmart.org.uk

KidSMART Visit Childnet's Kidsmart website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by joining Hands with people all around the world!

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 27th Feb – 3rd March

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	92.1%	93.7%	100%	92.9%	97.5%	99.6%	94.6%	96.3%	98.3%	92.9%	96.7%	98.3%	96.7%	99.2%
Lates	5	1	2	3	8	3	3	5	1	3	7	3	3	4
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.4%			School Target				97%	

Well done Y1L: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 2 Virtues

WB 13.3.23

14th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

14th March 2023 - am

14th March 2023 - all day

15th March 2023 - all day

16th March 2023 - all day

17th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

21st March 2023 - all day

21st March 2023 - am

22nd March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

23rd March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

24th March 2023 - 9:15am

28th March 2023 - am

28th March 2023 - after school

29th March 2023 - after school

30th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

WB 3.4.23

6th April 2023 - 11:00am

6th April 2023

The Dignity of Work

Eloquent and Truthful

British Science Week

Year 3 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Y6 visit to Harborne Library

Reception trip to Ash End Farm

Potential STRIKE Action

Potential STRIKE Action

Year 2 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

World Down Syndrome Awareness day - wear odd socks to school

Y5 visit to Harborne Library

Year 1 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Year 4 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Y2 Year group assembly

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations

Reception Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Holy Week

Y6 Stations of the Cross in Church

Break up for Easter break!

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Anicet	<i>listening to grown ups and having a fantastic week in school</i>
Year RT	Odran	<i>always trying so hard in reading and writing</i>
Year IF	Aaron G	<i>always doing her best in her work and listening beautifully</i>
Year IL	Belle	<i>continuous effort in everything she does</i>
Year 2E	Lucy E	<i>trying really hard with expression and giving super answers in guided reading</i>
Year 2G	Alvin	<i>being so polite to grown ups at school</i>
Year 3L	Emanuel	<i>showing his amazing knowledge of our Church in RE</i>
Year 3T	Michael	<i>superb efforts in all subjects throughout the week</i>
Year 4J	Chisom	<i>excellent attitude to work and trying really hard in all lessons</i>
Year 4M	Harry	<i>continuous effort in everything he does</i>
Year 5F	Sebastian	<i>attentive, always ready to work and fabulous contribution to class discussion</i>
Year 5M	Mar	<i>brilliant enthusiasm in all her learning and super non-fiction text about rivers</i>
Year 6O	Matilda	<i>consistently being a great role model to her peers</i>
Year 6R	Palia-Elsie	<i>working really hard in Maths lessons this week.</i>

