



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

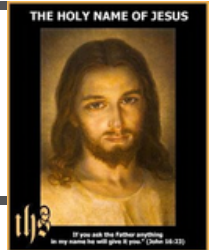


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

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

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

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



20th January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

This week we have particularly focused on our refugee learning in school, continuing our School of Sanctuary work and Catholic Social Action. Thank you so much for the amount of donations we had for St. Chad's sanctuary - your generosity was staggering. At the start of the week, we launched our House Saints: - St. John Paul II, St. Alphonsa, St. Vincent, St. Teresa of Avila and St. Gianna and our week concluded with our first house retreat. We'll be doing so much more work in houses in the future. Maybe ask your children which house they are in and find out about their Saint at home. This week, our School Councillors also visited Parliament and spoke with MP Preet Gill - how wonderful for our young voices to be asking questions about the decisions being made around them! Many of you will have seen that NEU Teachers Union has set four dates to strike in February and March. Please read the 'other news' section of this newsletter to find out a little bit more about this. I know that some households have been affected by the sickness bug that is in our local community at present. We have sent a separate email about what school is doing about this and how you can help at home. I hope that you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Yorke

### *This week's Gospel and Prayer*

John 1: 29-34

*"Yes, I have seen, and I am the witness that He is the chosen one of God."*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- John the Baptist didn't know in advance who 'the chosen one of God' would be, but Jesus' true identity was revealed at His Baptism.
- When we recognise Jesus as God, we come to know our true identity as God's children and can be witnesses for Him in the world.

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us that Jesus is your Son, the chosen one.

Help us to look to Him as a model for all we say and do today. Amen

### Catholic Life in School

#### Year 5 Mass for Refugees - 18.1.23

Year 5 dedicated their Mass to refugees on Wednesday. We found out what it means to be a refugee and the importance of prayer. How nice would it be to live in a world one day where everybody feels valued and safe.



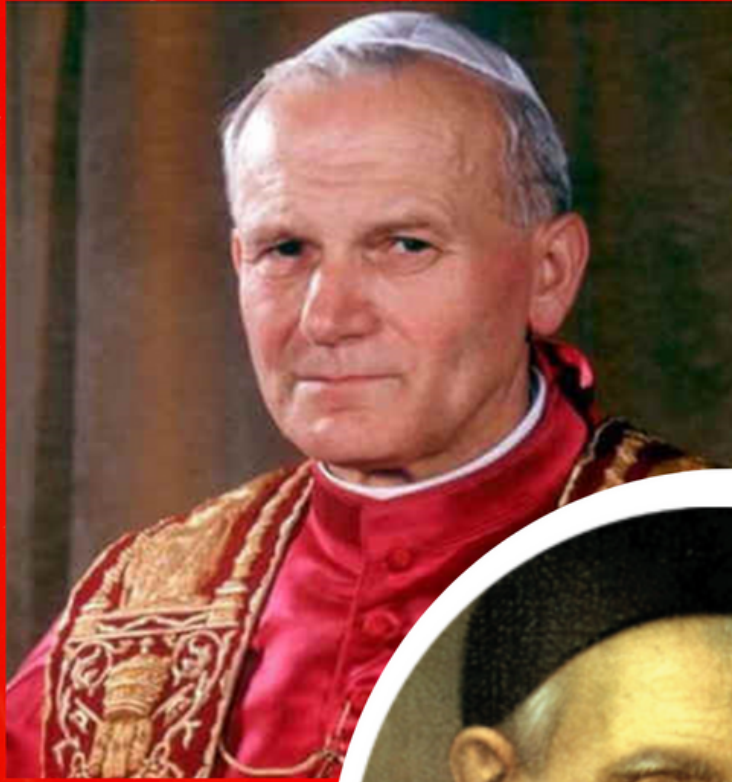
#### Y3 Mass in Church - 25.1.23 at 9:15am - St. Paul the Apostle

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 25th January 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 children will be leading our Mass and Year 6 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



# We have chosen our new House Saints

**St. John Paul II**



**St. Alphonsa  
Muttathupadathu**



**St.  
Teresa  
of Avila**



**St.  
Vincent  
de Paul**



**St. Gianna  
Beretta Molla**

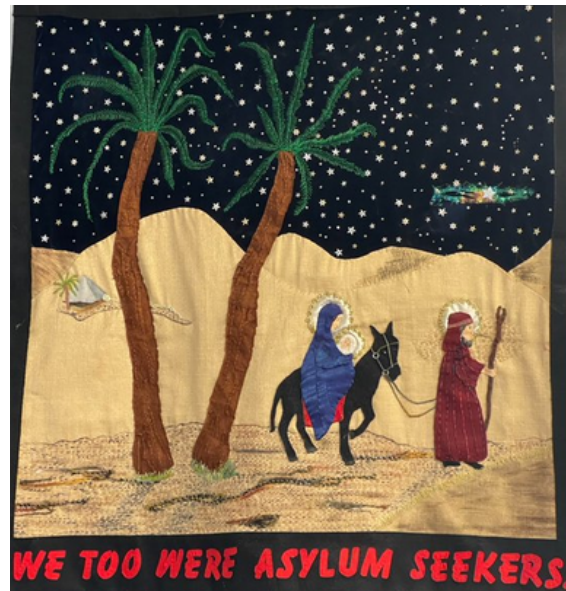




Year 5 wrote prayers for all those who are refugees and asylum seekers. One way we can help refugees is to pray for them.



Year 2 have been enjoying reading books that teach us about the journeys of refugees. They recommend reading 'Azzi in Between' by Sarah Garland.



# Refugee Week



Mrs Russell and Reception children led our refugee assembly following a Ukrainian family who came to Birmingham.



"No hands, no feet, but ours"  
St. Teresa of Avila.



Wonderful writing from Year 5 about the Holy family's journey to Egypt from Bethlehem.



## Visit to St. Chad's Sanctuary

Thank you for your generosity with our appeal for donations for St. Chad's!

*"I feel inspired to help others after my visit. It's amazing that they have helped asylum seekers from all over the world"*

- Remi aged 10

*"It makes me want to volunteer for the charity when I am older. In the meanwhile, I'm going to write cards and welcome notes for the people who use the sanctuary"*

- Nathan aged 8



*"I feel sad that the government only gives asylum seekers £9 per week but pleased that St Chad's Sanctuary exists as they give them clothes, shoes etc. St. Chad's Sanctuary gives asylum seekers their dignity back"*

- Trinidad, aged 7



Reception news: -

Reception class have been creating visual representations of number using different equipment.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been making equal groups using cubes in their maths lessons.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been learning about the Flight to Egypt and how it relates to modern refugees.



Year 3 news: -

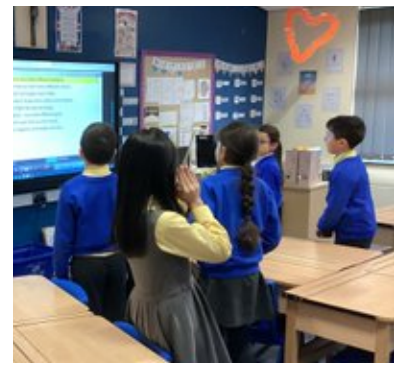
Year 3 have started their reconciliation unit. They discussed different choices they make in their everyday lives and then role-played different scenarios to compare the right and wrong choice.





### Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning to rap this week in music lessons.



### Year 5 news: -

Year 5 tested whether various materials were soluble in their Science Lesson.



### Year 6 news: -

Year 6 wrote songs to inspire those in authority to lead by example.



## Y5 Harborne Library Visit

Our KS2 visits to Harborne Library will continue on a rota every Tuesday in Spring term. Year 5 had a wonderful time and have chosen some books to read at home. Year 4 will be going next week





# Visit to Parliament

The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed their tour of Parliament and question & answer session with Preet Gill. They did a marvellous job at putting across their thoughts on local and national issues. Great writing in Year 6 this week too – need to rap those songs to our Prime Minister!

Our children are change makers!



## SNOW MUCH FUN

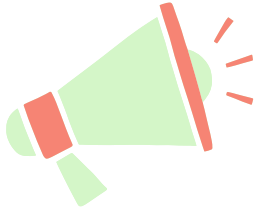


*It's cold outside!*

*We couldn't resist but go out and enjoy the snow when it fell this week!*



Announcements have been made that the National Education Union (NEU) will be going ahead with national and regional strike action for teachers in England on the following dates-



Wednesday 1st February 2023  
Wednesday 1st March 2023  
Wednesday 15th March 2023  
Thursday 16th March 2023



We are in the process of assessing the impact strike action may have on staffing levels in school and await further guidance from a range of external sources, so that correct and proper contingency plans can be put in place. Every effort will be made to ensure that school remains open or partially open, if it is safe to do so, on the above dates. Any changes will be clearly communicated as soon as we are able to do so.

Please be reminded that if school is open for your child you have a legal duty to ensure that they attend.

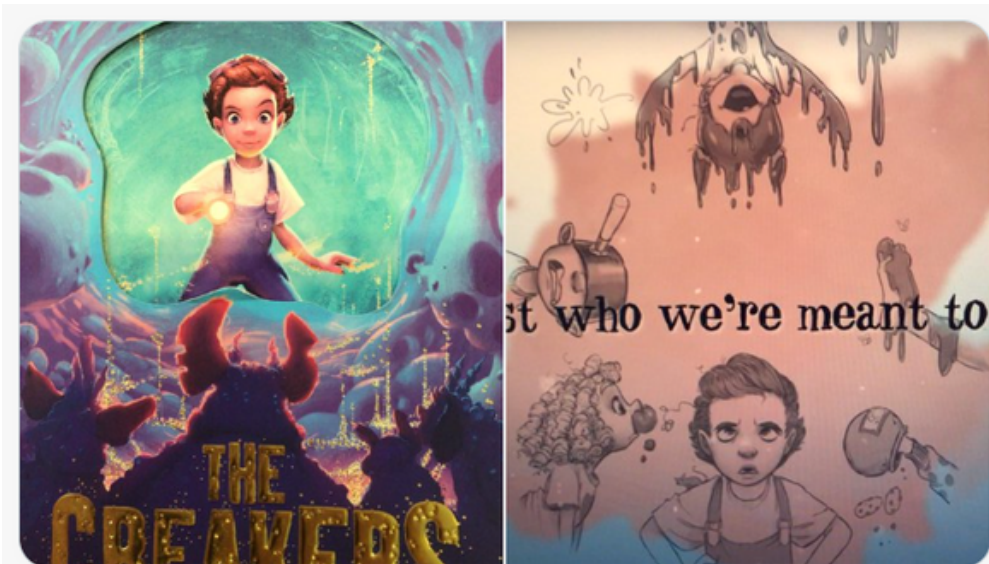
Extra-curricular

Massive congratulations to our undefeated U11 Boys football team for another incredible win last night. 12-1! Go on St. Mary's! ⚽



3L reading recommendation

We have just finished reading *The Creakers* as our class reader. What a fantastic story with a great message about embracing differences!





## KS2 Quidditch day - Monday 23rd January 2023

On **Monday 23rd January**, all KS2 classes will be taking part in a Quidditch Day led by an external company. The children will learn how to play the sport and do other active lessons throughout the day, including reading opportunities.



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



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

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

## Early writing workshop - Tuesday 24th January

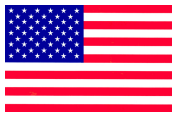
On Tuesday 24th January at 2pm, we are hosting an Early Writing workshop in the school hall. In this workshop, you will be able to work with your Reception children in the school hall to support them in their writing.



## Geography Day - Friday 27th January

On Friday 27th January, we will be celebrating 'Geography Day' in school.

All children will wear the colours of the flag of their given country / or traditional dress from their chosen country:



YR – China (red)

Y1 – USA (red, white and blue)

Y2 – India (orange, white and green)

Y3 – United Arab Emirates (red, green, white and black)

Y4 – Brazil (green and yellow)

Y5 – Peru (red and white)

Y6 – Indonesia (red and white)



If you are from any of the countries listed and wish to visit school to share stories, culture or artefacts, please let Miss Preedy know.

## Parish News



### Baptisms


Parents wanting to have their new-born babies baptised, again email Fr John at the above or speak to him at pick-up or drop-off.

### Blessings

Blessings for those really wanting a baby, again, see Fr John



# CLUBS Before School

	<b>Gymnastics</b>	Mondays 8:00-8:45am	Years 1 - 6
	<b>Dance</b>	Tuesdays 8:00-8:45am	Years 1 - 6
	<b>Karate</b>	Wednesdays 7:45-8:45am	Years 4 - 6
	<b>Karate</b>	Thursdays 7:45-8:45am	Years 1 - 4
	<b>Karate</b>	Fridays 7:45-8:45am	Years 1 - 4

	<b>Boys' Football</b>	Mondays 3:30-4:30pm	Years 5 - 6
	<b>Netball</b>	Mondays 3:30-4:30pm	Years 5 - 6
	<b>Girls' Football</b>	Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm	Years 3 - 6
	<b>Create Club</b>	Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm	Years 1 - 2
	<b>Boys' Football</b>	Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm	Years 3 - 4
	<b>Chess</b>	Wednesdays 3:30-4:45pm	Year 3
	<b>Football</b>	Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm	Years 1 - 2
	<b>Create Club</b>	Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm	Years 3 - 4
	<b>Chess</b>	Thursdays 3:30-4:45pm	Year 4 - 6



## National Careers Week

6th - 10th March 2023



We will be celebrating National Careers Week in school w.b. 6th March 2023. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to be introduced to a variety of exciting and interesting careers. If you would like to come into school and talk about your career during this week, please contact Miss Horton via [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk) or eSchools.

**FREE** **SATURDAY CRAFT**  
at **QUINTON LIBRARY**

**Dinosaur Crafts**

**DROP IN SESSIONS:**  
**10.30AM - 12 NOON**  
**2.00PM - 3.30PM**

**SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY**  
**No need to book**

**FOR CHILDREN aged 4-11 years**  
**ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED**

### Reminders

#### NO PARKING!



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

Many of our residents are elderly and this is not acceptable. Your information / car registrations are being passed on to the police and city council. Please report any illegal parking on: [https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report\\_an\\_illegally\\_parked\\_vehicle](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle)

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

### SATs Week for Year 6

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

#### Winter sickness

Remind your children about correct handwashing to try and reduce illnesses spreading this winter.

#### The 6 Steps of Hand Washing



**CATCH IT**   
Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.

**BIN IT**   
Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.

**KILL IT**   
Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



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



## kids safe online



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

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

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

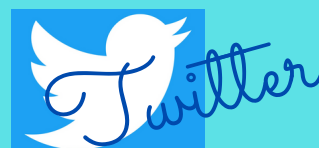
empower you to guide them in their journey.

Date: Monday 27th February 2023

Time: 4:45-5:45pm

Location: St Mary's Catholic Primary

**NSPCC**



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!!!

Join us at St. Mary's School for online safety coffee evening. Monday 27th February 2023

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Jan**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	94.1%	93.7%	97.7%	89.7%	98.7%	98.7%	99%	96.3%	99.7%	95.7%	96.7%	99%	94.3%	90%
Lates	9	3	6	10	9	8	10	11	8	5	10	6	2	6
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.3%		School Target				97%		

Well done Y3L and Y5F: - our Attendance Champions



# Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

23rd January 2023 - all day

24th January 2023 - am

24th January 2023 - 2:00pm

25th January 2023 - 9:15am

27th January 2023 - all day

31st January 2023 - am

1st February 2023 - all day

1st February 2023 - 9:15am

3rd February 2023 - all day

3rd February 2023 - 9:15am

WB 6.2.23

7th February 2023 - all day

7th February 2023 - am

7th February 2023 - am

8th February 2023 - 9:15am

WB 13.2.23

14th February 2023 - am

15th February 2023 - 9:15am

16th February 2023

17th February 2023 - 9:15am

17th February 2023

27th February 2023 - all day

28th February 2023 - am

1st March 2023 - all day

1st March 2023 - 9:15am

2nd March 2023 - all day

WB 6.3.23

7th March 2023 - am

7th March 2023 - 9:15am

WB 13.3.23

14th March 2023 - am

15th March 2023 - all day

16th March 2023 - all day

The Dignity of Work

Eloquent and Truthful

KS2 Quidditch day

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Reception Writing Workshop

Y3 Mass in Church and Y4 children attend - parents welcome

Geography Day

Y3 visit to Harborne Library

STRIKE Action

Reception Mass and Y6 buddies attend - parents welcome

World Maths Day

Y4 Year Group Assembly for parents

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Coffee Morning in school for parents

Y6 visit to Harborne Library

Y1 Mass in Church and Y2 children attend - parents welcome

Acts of Kindness Week

Y5 visit to Harborne Library

Y6 Mass in Church and Y5 children attend - parents welcome

Y6 trip to St. Chad's

Y3 Year Group Assembly for parents

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

Children return to school

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

STRIKE Action

Y4 Mass in Church and Y2 children attend - parents welcome

World Book Day

Careers Week

Y3 visit to Harborne Library

Reception Mass and Y6 buddies attend - parents welcome

British Science Week

Y6 visit to Harborne Library

Potential STRIKE Action

Potential STRIKE Action



# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Ian	learning some new sounds this week and using them in his reading.
Year RT	Nathan	working so hard at all his learning and always helping when we tidy up.
Year IF	Aurora	super effort in all of her learning.
Year IL	Pistis	showing kindness towards others.
Year 2E	Danny	being a kind, considerate and thoughtful member of the class.
Year 2G	Miguel	excellent Exciting Writing.
Year 3L	Rudi	perfect all week and being a fantastic role model on our trip to Parliament.
Year 3T	Raman	superb measuring efforts during maths and his positive attitude to everything.
Year 4J	Katy	being an exemplary pupil in everything she does in all aspects of school life.
Year 4M	Kaiden	super maths work on fractions.
Year 5F	Iris	positive attitude in the classroom and big improvement in handwriting.
Year 5M	Yumi	fabulous piece of artwork which depicts the difficult journey of refugees.
Year 6O	Edward	being a fantastic ambassador for school during our visit to St. Chad's sanctuary.
Year 6R	Martha	being a wonderful role model when attending the Parliament trip this week.

