



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.

## February is dedicated to the Holy Family

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the poor and vulnerable'

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



Dear parents and carers,

4th February 2022

We have been reflecting this week on the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. We are reminded of the importance of being open and to present ourselves before God. We strive for Agape love and to show how God works in us. As a staff, we gathered on our INSET day to build upon our vision and our mission to 'in all things love'. We reflected on what this means for us as a staff as we teach and shape the children in our care. The children really enjoyed dressing up in digits for our NSPCC number day today and thank you to all those who donated to the charity. There is lots happening next week as we enter our children's mental health week. Please find details within this newsletter for how to support us and take part. Have a lovely weekend. Miss Price

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

Luke 4:21-30

*"I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country."*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- what a Prophet is and the names of some of the Prophets.
- the story of Jonah and what happened when he did not listen to God.
- that God wants us to listen to Him, because He loves us and knows what is best for us.

Dear God,

Thank you that you love us and want what is best for us.

We want to be like the crowd who listened to Jesus, praised Him and received His miracles.

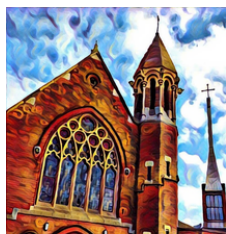
Help us to listen to you better, so we can make good choices which will bless ourselves and others.

Amen

### Catholic Life in School

#### Year R Mass - Presentation of our Lord

Year R offered lights in our Candlemas this Wednesday. We are reminded that Jesus is a light to the gentiles.



#### Y6 Mass in Church - 9.2.22 at 9:15am - Our Lady of Lourdes

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 9th February, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend. (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



# Staff Inset - retreat 'In all things love'

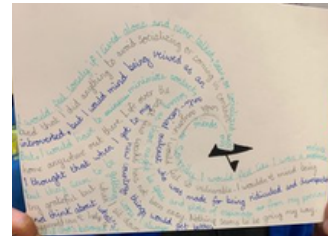
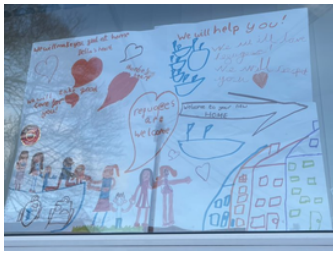
Our staff have a mission to practise Agape love



Thank you to Dan and Emily from one life music for leading us on our retreat day. They will be returning to lead our children in a retreat day during Lent.

## Refugees - school of sanctuary

As a school, we are supporting 'schools of sanctuary' to raise awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system. We are encouraged to challenge and develop social action. We promote the values of Christ in being a welcoming and accepting place of learning for everybody.



This week's news

### Reception news: -

Reception class have been using mathematical vocabulary to describe and compare height



### Year 1 news: -

Year 1 used benches and agility tables to explore and create different balances.





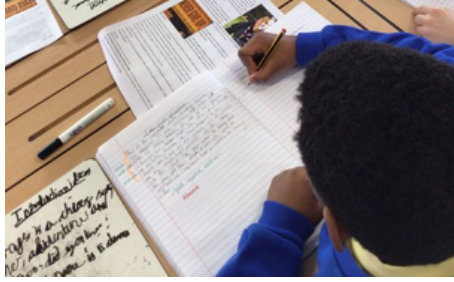
## Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have assembled ships to re-enact the calming of the storm



## Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been researching the famous explorer Bear Grylls.



## Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been busy designing and making their own lunchboxes.



Beginning as one thing,  
then ~~breaking~~ through many  
changes.  
Sleeping,  
sleeping,  
eating,  
repeating.  
As I catch my thumb,  
I look longingly at my  
mum.  
I am a baby.

The world is my playground  
Adventuring, cartwheeling as  
loud as a peashooter,  
Budding precariously.  
I am a toddler. My  
words echo across the  
room as I pronounce  
many new things.  
I am a toddler.

We are wild animals.  
Joking, playing,  
Warning, growling  
Like a bull, I charge  
across the playground,  
laughing with my  
friends.

I'm starting to gain independence now  
and I like playing sport with my friends.  
I also like video games,  
so fun just near ends.  
The school bell starts to ring,  
which makes all our ears go wild,  
I'm real smart, a loving Ben Einstein.  
I am a child.

My mood swings like a metronome  
Even with my biggest foe.  
My place is all that matters to me  
I make myself beautiful from head to toe.  
I have a mountain of friends and I walk up and back up with my besties.  
Socializing is a major.  
My hair becomes more womanly,  
I am a teenage.

I have a home, belonging to me  
and wonderful loving kids.  
I remember when I was a child,  
and now they're in the mistle.  
I'm always working hard,  
but it's no one's fault.  
No time to complain.  
I am an adult.

## Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been analysing the 'Water Dance' poem about the water cycle and created their own poems about the human lifecycle.

## Year 6 news: -

Year 6 worked collaboratively to create a circuit for a set of traffic lights

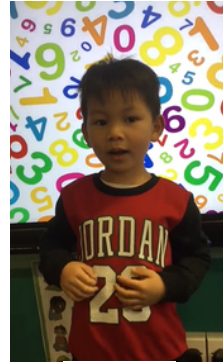




# NSPCC Number Day

Friday 4th February 2022

Number Day 'dress up for digits', in order to promote a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards maths, went extremely well today. It was lovely to see children having so much fun in their maths lessons. Thank you to those who gave a contribution - your money will be given to the NSPCC.



## Raising money for Birmingham Children's Hospital

Joseph and Florence are cleaning up friends and families gardens and litter around neighbouring areas to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

We are incredibly proud of them for their work for the community and charity.

A just giving page has been set up and details can also be found on our twitter page if you would like to support this great cause.





# Children's Mental Health Week



We're taking part in Children's Mental Health Week next week. With different activities planned throughout the week to support the children's (and staff) well-being. We'll be looking at all the ways we keep safe and healthy and why it is important to look after ourselves. Some activities will include - relaxation (reading books, drawing, games), spiritual (meditation, prayer), physical (a walk, playing sports), online (the benefits of online technology, whilst keeping safe) and relationships (spending time with others / talking).



## COFFEE MORNINGS

**Monday 7th February - parents of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

**Tuesday 8th February - parents of Year 3, 4, 5 and 6**

As part of our mental health week, we would like to invite parents in to school for an opportunity to meet with each other and have a coffee 9am - 10am.

We will link the morning to our online safety section of mental health week and how to keep your children safe online. It will be a good opportunity to discuss with other parents what boundaries they put in place to safeguard their children. Mrs Thompson will lead us throughout the mornings and we will explain what we do from our school's perspective. We can also answer any questions.

### Reusable coffee mugs

Help save the planet and bring your own reusable coffee cup from home (if you have one available)!

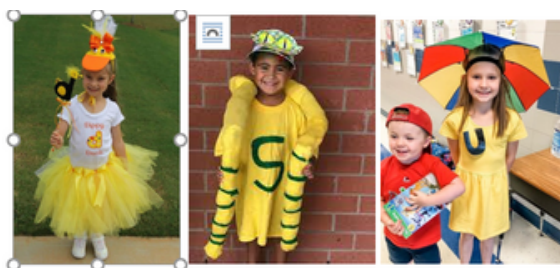
If attending the coffee morning, we ask that you make suitable arrangements for child care if you have pre-school children. We can not accommodate a large amount of people / prams / pushchairs in the hall. However, if this is not possible, please speak to Miss Price.

# Fantastic phonics day

**Thursday 10th February - Dress up as your favourite grapheme**

To launch our exciting new phonics scheme in school - Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised - we are having an exciting day of reading activities in school, next Thursday 10th February 2022.

On this day, children will learn about how essential it is to learn to read. Children will also have lots of opportunities to learn about the new phonics and reading program and how it supports us to read, write and spell. Children can come into school dressed as their favourite grapheme (see examples below).



Please could you take a photo of your child reading in different places and send them into your child's class teacher for a display in school? Or post them on twitter for us to use!

Grow the code grapheme mat Phase 2, 3 and 5

S	t	p	n	m	d	g	c	r	h
ss	tt	pp	nn	mm	dd	gg	ck	rr	rr
se	ce	st	gn	mb			cc	ch	
sc									
b	f	l	j	v	w	x	y	z	qu
bb	ff	ll	jj	vv	ww			zz	ss
	ph	al	dge	ve	wh			se	ze
			ge					ze	
ch	sh	th	ng	nk	a	e	i	o	u
ch	ch	ti	ssi	si	ci	ea	y	a	o-e
ture								ou	

Grow the code grapheme mat Phase 2, 3 and 5

ai	ee	igh	oa	oo	yoo	oo	ar
ay	ea	ie	o	ue	ue	u'	a'
a	e	i	o-e	u-e	u	oul	al'
a-e	e-e	i-e	ou	ew	u-e		
eigh	ie	y	oe	ou	ew		
aigh	y	ey	ow	ou	oy	ear	air
ey	ea		er	ou	oy	ere	are
ea			ir	or	or	eer	ere
			or	ur	ow	oi	ear
			or	er	ou	oy	ere
			or	ir	or	or	ere
oor	al	a	oar	ore			zh
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# Sporting success

Congratulations to two of our year 5 boys. Edward in SF and Ayomide in SL represent Harborne District Primary Schools Under 10s in the Birmingham Primary Schools Football League. Last Saturday, the team won their league and were presented with a cup and individual medals. The boys have played extremely well all season, winning 14 of their 18 games, and are very proud of their achievement

## Parish News

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



### *Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation programme*

If your child is preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, please ensure that your child attends the Saturday classes.

9:30 – 11:00 For Holy Communion (Parish centre)

11:30 – 12:45 for Confirmation (Parish Centre)

**Next session – Saturday 5th February**

### **Parents' Confirmation session:**

8.00pm, Tuesday 8th February, Parish Centre



### *First Confession / Reconciliation*

First Confession/Reconciliation will be on **Saturday 12th February**.

More information will be given by Sr Brenda this Saturday 5th February, when attending the preparation classes.

### **Synodality**

Have you a 'burning concern' about Catholic teaching or practice? There's a chance to get your concern to our Bishop and then on to Pope Francis:

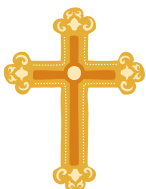
Learn more about this **Wednesday 9th February, 7.30pm**, Parish Centre



### **Requiem Mass for Sylvia Brennan**

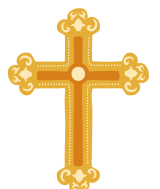
*Sylvia Brennan, Irish Dancing Teacher for generations of children died Saturday 15th January in Good Hope Hospital after a short illness, with her family around her and having received the Last Rites. She is known and loved by thousands.*

*Her Requiem is in St Mary's Church on Wednesday 23rd February at 11am. The only guaranteed way to attend the Requiem is by live-streaming on St Mary's Church, Harborne website.*



### *Eucharistic Ministers needed for School Masses*

Please let school know if you are an Eucharistic Minister who attends the Wednesday morning Masses and is prepared to minister on the days that your child/ren are leading the Mass on the Wednesday – it would be good to have several people who are available for this across the weeks.





**NO Rucksacks**

There is no room for the rucksacks in school. We have two boxes for older children who sometimes need to bring a bigger bag in to school as they are doing PE clubs, but other than that every child needs to bring in a book bag.

This is for health and safety reasons, it is a matter of time before somebody trips over these unnecessary large bags and hurt themselves. It is important that we consider everybody and follow school policies.

**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. Your information / car registration may be passed on to the police / city council, if you continue to park illegally.

Please 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 **Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022**.

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

Books that I have read and shared			
Date	Book	Page No.	Comments

**Reading diaries**

We know that our parents understand the importance of reading with their children every day at home. Research proves that children learn to read best when they read to an adult every day, who can support them with intonation, pronunciation, new words and meaning. Please let us know what books / materials you are reading with your child at home by signing diaries – it supports us to evidence and implement further challenge at school.

**No dogs / smoking in the school grounds**

Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed in the school grounds under any circumstances; whether on a lead or carried. This is due to health and safety reasons, and that some children are scared by dogs no matter the size. Thank you for your understanding with this.

In addition, we do not allow smoking of any sort, including vapes or e-cigarettes on the school grounds.



**NO SMOKING  
NO VAPING**

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

When buying on amazon, you can name 'St Marys Roman Catholic School Pta' as a registered charity. 0.5% of what you spend automatically goes to the PTA pot, which they use to buy things for school (at no extra cost to you) - it's just like ticking gift aid.

**Hair styles**

We can not allow extreme hair styles in school. This is a reminder that long hair must be tied back. All hair should be one colour. Extreme cuts and lines are not allowed. Large bows and coloured beads are not allowed (small bows and head bands are allowed). All hair styles must be neat and sensible and not a distraction to others. Thank you.



## Collecting your children at the end of day

Please take time to re-read the end of day collection plan as we have noticed an increasing amount of people not following it. Teachers will release children to those following the queuing system only.

When queuing, please leave room for over-taking in the lanes. Nobody should bypass the queue and come straight up the middle. The middle is so that a larger amount of people can leave school grounds safely.

This system is to keep us all safe in times of Covid. SLT will approach anybody who is not following it and you will be asked to join the queue correctly.

### End of day

Please take note of the new end of day timings... following a review of end of day routines: -

At 3:10pm, Reception parents (once children are in full time) are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

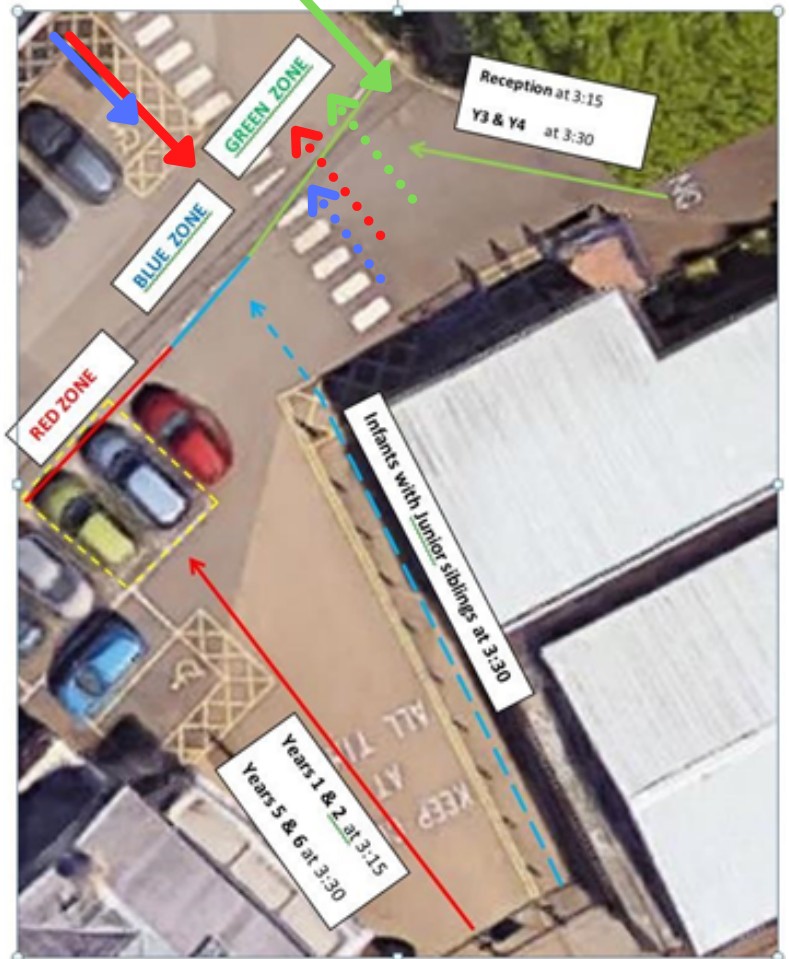
At 3:15pm, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:20pm, siblings will be released to parents, who will walk down on the **right** hand side (as shown by the blue arrows). Your children will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 3 and Year 4 parents are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 5 and Year 6 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

### END OF DAY COLLECTION POINTS AND TIMES –



Please note: -

The school has a walking home policy that states that children should be picked up by the parents.

We encourage children to only walk home by themselves in the Summer term of Year 6.

**Positions available on the PTA - The PTA are in need of a treasurer, secretary and office bearer. If you would like to fulfil this position, please speak to Chair of PTA or Miss Price.**

#### Role of the Treasurer-

The Treasurer ensures accurate financial records are kept and best practice procedures are followed for counting money, banking and making payments. He or she should keep the committee updated with regular reports, and ensure end of year reports are completed for the association's AGM and the Charity Commission annual return.

#### The Secretary role-

The Secretary supports the Chair to build effective communication links between the school and the association and maintains accurate records. They take the minutes at the meetings and keep an update on actions.

#### The Office Bearer role-

The office bearers ensure that the committee fulfils its responsibilities. They advocate for the PTA and act in accordance with the PTA's constitution and financial matters. They work as a team member through support and assisting with projects.

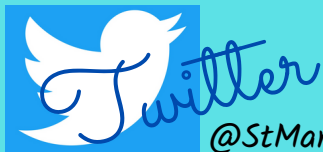


## Fidget spinners / toys / card games - Not in school



We are seeing an increase in children bringing their own toys / fidget spinners in to school and unfortunately this is causing arguments and upset in school. Please keep all toys at home. The school are working with the PTA to provide more equipment for children to play with when they are outside - so these things will not be necessary. Thank you.

### 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!!!

Follow this link to find out more about how to keep your children safe when they play online games: -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE**

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content - including sports, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a hugely popular platform for parents to choose content that they're interested in. As a result, this astonishingly popular platform has had a huge social impact, influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
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**CONNECT WITH STRANGERS**  
YouTube is a social media platform, which allows people to connect, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content - including sports, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a hugely popular platform for parents to choose content that they're interested in. As a result, this astonishingly popular platform has had a huge social impact, influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

**SUGGESTED CONTENT**  
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**HIGH VISIBILITY**  
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**TRENDS AND CHALLENGES**  
YouTube is a social media platform, which allows people to connect, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content - including sports, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a hugely popular platform for parents to choose content that they're interested in. As a result, this astonishingly popular platform has had a huge social impact, influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

**SNEAKY SCAMMERS**  
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**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**APPLY RESTRICTED MODE**  
Restricted Mode is an optional setting that helps to filter out content that may be inappropriate for children. It's a great way to help protect your child from content that may be inappropriate for them.

**TRY GOOGLE FAMILY**  
Creating a Google Family account allows you to manage your child's account and control what they can see and do on YouTube. It's a great way to help protect your child from content that may be inappropriate for them.

**CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS**  
YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos publicly, unlisted or private. Public videos can be shared with anyone on YouTube, unlisted videos can only be shared with people you choose, and private videos can only be shared with people you choose.

**CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS**  
YouTube is a social media platform, which allows people to connect, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content - including sports, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a hugely popular platform for parents to choose content that they're interested in. As a result, this astonishingly popular platform has had a huge social impact, influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

**MONITOR ENGAGEMENT**  
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**LIMIT SPENDING**  
Although YouTube is free, it does offer some premium services, such as YouTube Premium. Parents should be aware of the cost of these services and ensure that their child is not spending more than they can afford.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr. Sarah-Jane Hill is a senior research fellow at the Centre for Applied Child Psychology, University of Exeter. She has worked in the field of child psychology for over 20 years and has published numerous papers on child psychology. She is also a frequent speaker at conferences and has been involved in a number of public engagement activities.

**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

### Safer Internet Coffee Morning

Join us on 7th February (if your child is in YR, Y1, Y2) or on 8th February (if your child is in Y3-6) for a coffee morning, where we will discuss Safer Internet Issues and offer advice. It is also a great opportunity to meet other parents from your child's year group.



## 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.

# Term Dates

### Spring 1

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

### Half-Term:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### Spring 2

Starts: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Easter Holiday:

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Summer 1

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Children return to school

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Closed for Local Election Day

Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May

### Half-Term:

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

### Summer 2

Starts: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee

### Summer Holidays:

Start Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022



# Dates for next term

7th February 2022 - 9:00am -

8th February 2022 - 9:00am -

9th February 2022 - 9:15am -

11th February 2022 - 9:15am -

16th February 2022 - 9:15am -

**18th February 2022**

28th February 2022 - all day -

2nd March 2022 - 9:30am -

4th March 2022 - all day -

9th March 2022 - 9:15am -

11th March 2022 - 9:15am -

15th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

15th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

16th March 2022 - 9:15am -

16th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

16th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

17th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

17th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

18th March 2022 - 9:15am -

21st March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

21st March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

22nd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

22nd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

23rd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

23rd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

25th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

25th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

29th March 2022 - after school -

31st March 2022 - after school -

Safer Internet and Online Safety coffee morning for Reception / KS1 parents

Safer Internet and Online Safety coffee morning for KS2 parents

Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome)

Year 3L Class Assembly in school (3L parents welcome)

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome)

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

Children return to school

Whole school Mass for Ash Wednesday (children only)

World Book Day

Y2 Mass in Church

Year 3F Class Assembly in school (3F parents welcome)

YRF Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

YRL Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y5 Mass in Church

YIF Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

YIL Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y3F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y3L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2F Class Assembly in school (2F parents welcome)

Y5F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y5L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y4F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y4L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y6F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y6L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Parent consultations

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# Star of the week

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

Year RL	Erin	excellent independent writing
Year RF	Raika	fantastic reading, with excellent expression and enthusiasm
Year 1L	Henry	working well independently
Year 1F	Lucy	super effort in all of her work
Year 2L	Pariza	great effort in maths
Year 2F	Ted	a fantastic re-enactment of the calming of the storm
Year 3L	Claire	brilliant effort and resilience towards learning
Year 3F	Catherine	super maths work all week
Year 4L	Harry	trying his hardest to apply himself in all lessons
Year 4F	Joshua	being a good role model to his peers
Year 5L	Austin	excellent poem about life cycles
Year 5F	Samuel	consistently asking for help when he needs it and producing great work
Year 6L	Maksymilian	consistently putting lots of effort in to his maths work
Year 6F	Michaela	putting in lots of effort this week and contributing well in lessons

