



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.

September is dedicated to Mary.

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - Curious and Grateful



25th September 2025

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a truly uplifting week at school, filled with inspiring moments of leadership, creativity, and joy. Our children continue to shine in their responsibilities, and we are so proud of their confidence and care.

Pupil leadership, roles and responsibilities

- Our prefects met with me to discuss their first agenda items, showing maturity and thoughtful leadership – they have lots of ideas for how to contribute towards our school priorities.
- Several children spoke confidently with an external auditor about our Rights Respecting School journey, as we work towards the Silver Award. The auditor commented upon how wonderful it is to see pupil voice at the heart of our school's decision-making.
- Across classrooms, child-led prayer has enriched our spiritual life with reverence and reflection. Leadership is thriving not just in formal roles, but in the quiet moments of faith and community, which we see every day.

School Council Fundraising and Macmillan Coffee morning

Our newly elected School Council have been extraordinary in their fundraising efforts for Macmillan, supporting both our Parish and school community. The coffee morning was a joyful success, with generous cake donations and a lovely turnout of parents. Many children enjoyed the extra treat of buying a cake today. A heartfelt thank you to our PTA, Mrs Tame and School Council for organising the event, and to all staff who supported it.

PTA fundraising

Thank you to our PTA and everyone who helped run the film clubs this week. An incredible £661.50 was raised, and these funds will go directly towards future projects benefiting our children. Our PTA Annual General Meeting will be on Monday 29th September at 8am in the school hall – you're all very welcome to attend.

Wider opportunities – a special treat for KS2

Today was especially memorable for our KS2 pupils, who were treated to a stunning performance of 'The Secret Garden' by Theatrical Productions. The talent, props, and lighting were exceptional, and we're already looking forward to future collaborations.



St. Vincent De Paul House Retreat

Today, we celebrated St. Vincent De Paul's feast day with great joy. Our house captains led a thoughtful retreat exploring the life and legacy of their house saint. Children in St. Vincent De Paul house marked the occasion by wearing white (their house colours) and receiving a commemorative bookmark to take home.

Winter Uniform

As the mornings grow chillier and summer fades, we kindly ask that all children now transition into their winter uniform:

- Gold shirt or blouse
- Striped tie
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Grey school trousers, skirt, or pinafore
- Plain black shoes (trainers and boots are not permitted)

We are incredibly proud of our school identity, and the winter uniform helps our children look smart, confident, and ready to learn. Please ensure all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name. If you need support sourcing uniform items, don't hesitate to contact the school office.

School Photos – Thursday 16th October



Winter Uniform – includes tie



PE uniform – still in school colours

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. It's a joy to see our children flourish in so many ways, through our work together.

I wish you all a very happy weekend.

Mrs Yorke,
Headteacher



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer



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

- Sometimes we can become distracted by things that are not really important.
- Jesus shows that our priority is to focus on loving God.
- Putting God first in our lives and loving others is the way to true happiness!

Luke 16:13

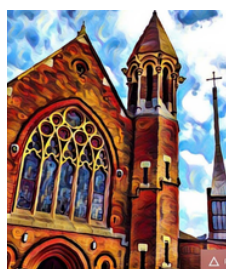
"You cannot serve God and money."



Year 6 Mass - 24.9.24

Our Lady of Walsingham

Year 6 led a wonderful mass on Wednesday celebrating the Feast Day of Our Lady of Walsingham.

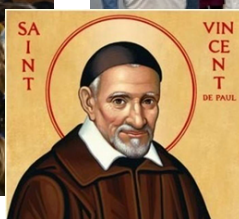


Next week's Mass: - Y3 Mass - St. Therese of Lisieux

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 1st October 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 children will be leading our Mass and Year 4 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



St Vincent de Paul House Retreat - 26.09.25



St Vincent de Paul

"Put your trust in God and following His example, always act humbly, graciously and in good faith."



Charity coffee morning



Our charity coffee morning was very well attended and the School Council were wonderful at planning the event, selling the cakes and mingling with the adults. Thank you to everyone for helping our morning be such a big success.



Prayer and Liturgy

Our theme this week is 'Dignity Of The Human Person' . Year 1's prayer service reflected upon: just like a crumpled £10 note- we never lose our value. Each of us is wonderfully made and deeply loved by God, our families, our teachers and friends.



Year 4 thought about how we should respect others, no matter who they are, as God created us all equal.



School Representatives 2025-2026

Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl



What do our Head boy (Matthias) and Head girl (Azucena) have to say, in their first letters to the children...?

Hello my name is Matthias,

I am the current Headboy of S.T Mary's and I am excited to tell you all my ideas as Head-boy.

I would like to get more Opal equipment. I believe this would help children to have more fun in breaktime and lunch. As well as this I would make & take extra care that no children are left out in games. This would result to all children returning to their classrooms with smiles on their faces.

I intend to guide all students spiritually and promote all children to speak up in RE and all lessons taught in our classrooms. I believe this would deepen children's understanding about G.O.U. and the love he shows to us in our daily life.

Thank-you for reading and I hope you enjoyed my letter.

From: Matthias



Hello! My name is Azucena, and I am incredibly proud to be your Head Girl this year.

Being chosen for this role is a huge honour, and I want to use it to make a real difference in our school. I believe every child deserves to feel happy, safe, and respected every single day. My goal is to help create a school environment where everyone feels included, supported, and excited to learn and grow.

As Head Girl, I will always stand up for the rights of every student. I will listen to your ideas, your worries, and your dreams, and do my best to make sure your voices are heard. Whether you're in Year 1 or Year 6, I want you to know that you matter—and that this school is a place where you belong.

I promise to be a positive role model, someone you can look up to and trust. I will lead with kindness, fairness, and courage, and I will work hard to make sure our school is a fun and inspiring place to be. I want every day to feel amazing for everyone, filled with laughter, learning, and friendship.

Together, we can all help each other to be our very best.

I'm excited to make this year one we'll always remember.

Azucena



And in their first item of business, the prefects have met with Mrs Yorke to discuss how we can further improve our lunchtime offer and play times.

"I am a St. Mary's child, and I strive for Excellence"



Play leaders



Rights Respecting School Monitors





The first Annual General Meeting of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of the New school year will be on **Monday 29th September 8am**. Children of St. Mary's can be looked after in school if you need this option. We look forward to welcoming new parents who would like to join the PTA in supporting the school run events throughout the school year.

October - Pray the Rosary

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



Black History Month

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



As part of Year 3T's feast day celebration...

Year 3 Mass for parents – 1.10.25 9:15am

Year 3 are inviting parents, grandparents, family members to join them in a special Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux – 3T's class Saint.

CENSUS DAY CELEBRATION MENU!

Join us for 'Favourites Day' Thursday 2nd October 2025

We would encourage you to send your children for a school dinner on this day. The number of meals taken relates to the funding we receive in school for our children. Please help us 🍕

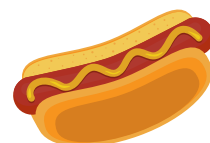
MAIN DISHES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese & Tomato Pizza • Pork Sausage Hot Dog with Relish • Quorn Sausage Hot Dog with Relish • Crispy Potato Waffles 	SIDES & SALADS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baked Beans • Sweetcorn • Fresh Salad Bar
DESSERTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pancakes with your choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strawberry Sauce • Toffee Sauce • Chocolate Sauce • Fresh Fruit Salad 	

Come hungry, leave happy! Let's celebrate Census Day with flavour and fun!

If your child is listed as packed lunch and does NOT already have school dinners and would like to be added on to this special meal day, please give consent on gateway.

Census Day Celebration Menu – 02.10.25

On Thursday 2nd October, we are having a special celebration lunch for Census Day. If you would like your child to have school dinner on this day – log in to your gateway and consent. If they normally have school dinner – you don't need to do this. It's going to be a yummy occasion!





As part of Year 1F's feast day celebration...

Year 1 prayer service for parents - 3.10.25 9:00am

Year 1 are inviting parents, grandparents, family members to join them in a special prayer service in school.

Dedicated to St. Francis.

October collection for harvest - SIFA Fireside

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



Feminine Hygiene Products

Socks and other Foot-care Items



Person Hygiene Items such as:

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

New and unopened long life items such as:

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

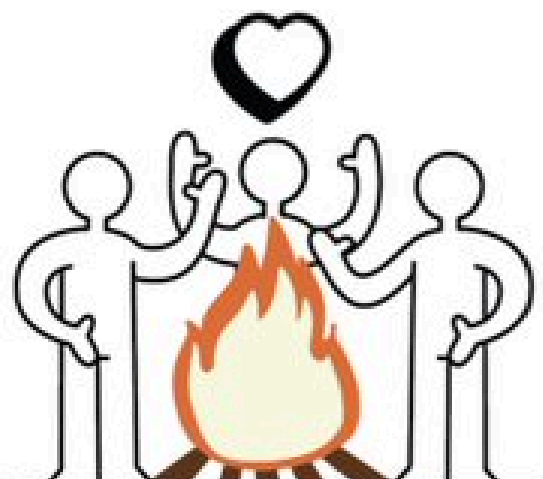
Good quality used clothing such as:

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



Birmingham, you're not alone

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



We are an operation encompass school. Therefore school is working alongside the police to ensure support for any child who has been involved in or witness to domestic abuse. Please find more information about this on our website or contact the school office.

Pastoral Team

If you require any support from school please speak to a member of our pastoral team

If you have a concern that a child is being harmed, is at risk of harm, or you receive a disclosure (intentionally or unintentionally) you must contact one of the following staff members as quickly as possible:



Laura Noone
Lead DSL
DHT



Louise Yorke
Headteacher



Jade Preedy
AHT



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Shania Birchenall
SENDCo

SAFEGUARDING

God made
me special
– my body
belongs
to me!



Jesus loves
children –
He wants us
to be safe



God gives us
grown-ups
we can trust
– talking helps
us stay safe



We are all
children of
God – our
bodies are gifts
to look after



God wants us to feel safe,
happy and loved



MESSAGES

ATTENDANCE



Did you know that missing just 10 days of school a year (equivalent to one day every two weeks) can reduce a child's chances of meeting expected standards in reading, writing, and maths by 30%?

Every day at school counts!

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for a child's success in primary school. Being present and on time each day helps children build strong learning habits, stay on track with lessons, and develop a sense of responsibility. It also supports social development, as children form friendships and learn teamwork through consistent classroom interaction. Missing school or arriving late can lead to gaps in learning and make it harder for children to catch up. Encouraging good attendance and punctuality from an early age sets the foundation for lifelong learning and success. If you need any support with attendance or punctuality, please speak to Mrs Noone.

Do not book holidays during term time

This is a reminder that holidays during term time are unauthorised. If you intend to take your child out of school during term time, we ask that you complete a holiday request form at least 2 weeks prior to the leave date where possible. Parents may be fined by the Local Authority for taking unauthorised leave of absence. Children need to be in school every day so please ensure holidays are only booked during school holiday time.

Good attendance, continues to be a school and government priority. Good attendance is 96% and above

Remember below 95% is a concern and below 90% is classed as persistent absence. If you have any problems with regards to getting your child to school or you are struggling to improve your child's attendance, please speak to Mrs. Yorke or a member of the SLT team. 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 22/09/25-26/09/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96	100	95	96	100	94	95	97	98	100	96	99	98	94
Lates	4	3	3	1	1	2	9	14	1	0	2	0	1	4
Whole School Attendance so far this year						97.8%			School Target			97%		

Well done RT, 2E and 4M: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

29th September 2025 - 8am

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

1st October 2025 - 9:15am

2nd October 2025 - lunch time

3rd October 2025 - 9:00am

7th October 2025 (am)

7th October 2025 - 2:30pm

8th October 2025 - 9:15am

8th October 2025 - 2:30pm

10th October 2025 - 9:15am

14th October 2025 (am)

15th October 2025 - 9:15am

16th October 2025 - all day

17th October 2025 - all day

17th October 2025 - 6pm

WB 20.10.25

21st October 2025 - all day

21st October 2025 - 3:30-6:00

22nd October 2025 - 9:15am

23rd October 2025 - all day

23rd October 2025 - 3:30-6:00

23rd October 2025 - normal time

24th October 2025 - all day

3rd November 2025 - all day

3rd November 2025 - 9:30am

6th November 2025

7th November 2025 - 9:00am

WB 10th November 2025

WB 10th November 2025

12th November 2025 - 9:15am

17th November 2025 - all day

19th November 2025 - 9:15am

21st November 2025 - 9:15am

22nd November 2025 - 12:00pm

Dignity of the Human Person

Eloquent and truthful

PTA Annual General Meeting in school hall

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

Collection for Harvest - please send food and self-care items in for our harvest

Year 3 Mass in Church (Y4 to attend) - Parents welcome

Themed Lunch in the canteen

Year 1 Prayer Service for parents

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

RHE talk for parents - KS1

Year 5 Mass in Church (Y6 to attend) - Parents welcome

RHE talk for parents - KS2

Year 6 Year Group Assembly

Year 3 library visit - 3T (8:45) and 3L (10:15)

Year 1 Mass in Church (Y2 to attend) - parents welcome

Photo Day - Children in full winter uniform please

Children in **St. Teresa of Avila** House - **wear blue** non-school uniform

PTA Fundraising - Children's disco in Parish Centre

School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair

Flu vaccinations in school

Parent Consultation Evening

Reception Welcome Mass (with Year 6 buddies) - Parents welcome

Children in **St. John Paul II House** - **wear red** non-school uniform

Parent Consultation Evening

Children finish today for October half-term (normal finish time)

INSET day - School closed to children

Children return to school at normal time

Whole School All Saints and Holy Souls Mass in Church (Parents welcome)

St. Mary's Open Day for Reception class 2024 (10:30) or (1:45)

Year 4 Prayer Service for all Year 4 parents

Other faiths Week

Remembrance Week

Year 4 Mass in Church (and Year 3 classes attend) - parents welcome

PTA non-uniform day in support of Parish Fete - bring sweets/bottles

Year 6 Mass in Church (and Year 5 classes attend) - parents welcome

Year 5 Year group Assembly

Parish Fete

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Bowo	For doing excellent blending in phonics!
Year RT	Sean	For being such a positive and happy member of our class!
Year IF	Billy	For being a wonderful role model - living out St. Mary's mission in everything that he does.
Year IL	Pheobe	For always following the class rules and to be a fantastic role model to everyone!
Year 2E	Anna	For trying hard in everything she does and being a polite and helpful member of our class.
Year 2G	Nandi	For a wonderful piece of writing in English!
Year 3L	Joshua	For writing a fantastic innovated narrative.
Year 3T	Perla	For showing exemplary behaviour and trying so hard in all her work
Year 4J	Joseph	For working very hard every day this week to be a brilliant role model to others!
Year 4M	Raina	For working hard in her lessons
Year 5F	Sienna	For a wonderful first 'exciting write' in Year 5.
Year 5M	Alex	For consistently helping others and being a brilliant, respectful role model.
Year 6O	Oscar	Being a wonderfully helpful member of the class and brightening my day with his smile
Year 6R	Charlie	For writing a wonderful setting description, using lots of beautiful vocabulary.

