



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: 'Solidarity and the Common good'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Faith-filled and Hopeful'



11th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final week of the academic year, there is so much to celebrate and be thankful for... First, a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful school community for your enthusiastic support at the Parish Summer Fair on Sunday. It was a truly joyful event, filled with laughter, connection, and community spirit — your presence made all the difference. We're especially grateful to our fantastic PTA for their continued dedication and tireless fundraising efforts, which benefit both our school and parish in so many meaningful ways. Looking ahead, we hope to welcome more parents into our PTA team next year. We are currently looking for a new Treasurer — if you're interested in getting involved and have a flair for finances, please do get in touch. Your contribution would be greatly valued.

This week has brought great excitement, particularly for our Year 6 pupils, who captivated us all with their outstanding end-of-year production of *We'll Meet Again*. It was a remarkable showcase of their talent, teamwork and confidence — congratulations to every child involved, as well as the staff who helped bring the production to life. Our talented musicians also wowed us with two music concerts, showing off their fantastic guitar, violin and piano playing.

We also received our KS2 SATs results this week, and we are once again proud to see outcomes that are significantly above national averages. These excellent results are a testament to the hard work of our pupils, supported by the unwavering dedication of our teaching staff. Individual results will be shared with Year 6 families alongside end-of-year reports early next week.

With just one week to go, staff continue to support children in completing their learning journeys with focus and care, ahead of a well-deserved summer break. A reminder that school will finish early on Friday:

- 1:40pm for Reception
- 1:45pm for KS1
- 1:50pm for siblings
- 1:55pm for KS2

All leavers — including Year 6 pupils, staff and other children moving on — will make a special exit at 2:00pm through our St Mary's farewell archway. It's always a moving moment, and a lovely way to end the year together.

Wishing you a very happy weekend in the sunshine, and thank you once again for your continued support. Mrs Yorke

CATHOLIC LIFE

This week's Gospel

Luke 10:20

"Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in Heaven."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel, we learn that: –

- our reward in Heaven is greater than any reward on Earth.
- God calls us by name – we are His children.
- We can be inspired to do incredible things in the name of Jesus.



This week's Mass – Y1 Mass – St. Benedict

On Wednesday, Year 1 led a reverent and joyful Mass to celebrate the feast day of St Benedict. They listened to Father Hilary sharing the gospel, where they learnt about the important values of prayer, study and work – central to St Benedict's life and teachings. They really impressed us all with their beautiful singing and confident reading. Well done Year 1!



Our next Mass – Y6 Leavers Mass

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 17th July 2025, starting promptly at 9:30am. **Year 6 children** will be leading our Mass for the whole school one last time before they move on to the next phase of their Education... We welcome Year 6 family members to join us. Please sit in the old part of the Church during the Mass. After the final blessing, you can move to sit next to your child to watch a special slideshow of their time at St. Mary's.

Parish Fundraising

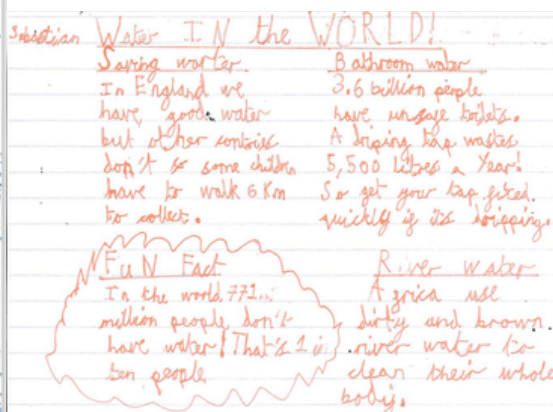
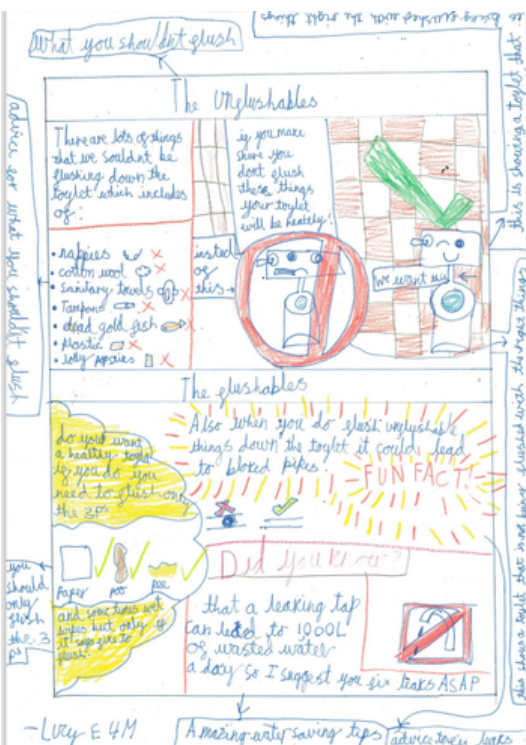


Thank you so much to our PTA of St. Mary's and to our families for your donations. The Parish Fair was a huge success!



Catholic Social Teaching

Our Year 4 children are passionate about water wastage and its impact on our most vulnerable and poor in the World. They have created posters to make others aware giving some poignant statistics. Well done for your research Year 4 and your care for the common good – we must work in solidarity!



Water in the World

In the world, 771 million people don't have water! That's 1 in 10 people!

Did You Know?

*3 billion people lack clean water!

Facts:

*Some people walk 6km to get water.

*1.7 billion people do not have normal toilets.

How You Can Help?

*Use buckets to wash your car.

*Turn taps off

*Have quick showers

*Give water to others

Remarkable RE award



A huge congratulations to our final Remarkable RE Award winners of the year!

☀️ This amazing group of children have shown dedication, creativity, and deep thinking in their RE learning — we're so proud of all you've achieved!



Children showing off their God-given gifts in our music concerts this week. Such talent in the room – fantastic!



Celebrating Success

Congratulations to Lauren-Elise who performed with Elmhurst Ballet School on Sunday, in their Voices & Virtues summer show. Lauren-Elise has been training with the Royal Ballet School and Elmhurst Ballet School for the last three years. Back in March, after several rounds of auditions, including international rounds, we were delighted that Lauren-Elise was awarded a funded full time education place at Elmhurst Ballet School, where she will begin her vocational journey. Lauren-Elise has also secured a place on the Royal Ballet School's Mid Associate programme. What a lovely way to use her God given talents! We are so incredibly proud of her and look forward to see more of her on the stage in the future.



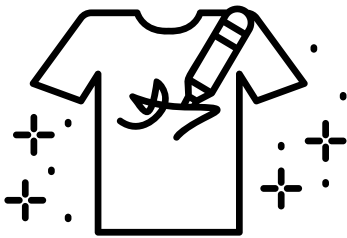
SATs Results

We are so extremely pleased to share with you our outstanding Year 6 SATs results. We are really proud of the children! Their resilience, hard work and effort will ensure that they will continue to achieve incredible things as they move in to Secondary school and beyond.

We would like to thank the parents for their support and our incredible teachers who work so hard for the children. Individual results will be sent home in reports next week. Well done Year 6.

Year 6 SATs results – July 2025							
Reading		EGPS		Writing		Mathematics	
Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth	Expected	Greater Depth
93%	63%	93%	54%	92%	19%	90%	37%

Friday 18th July - all day



Shirt signing will take place on the final day of term for any children (and staff) leaving St. Mary's. We also continue to encourage parents, staff and children to join us in the guard of honour as our leavers exit school for the final time as pupils of St. Mary's. 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 other leavers, will come out.

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.



Sign up for our clubs

Alvechurch Football Club

We are really pleased that Alvechurch Football Club will continue to be running our after-school football clubs again next year! An email was sent out this week with information about how to register your child for September – please check your inbox.



Mini Athletics

If your child is in Reception up to Year 4 next year, links will soon be sent out to sign up to our popular Monday or Tuesday breakfast club – look out for the link.



Netball

Netball club will commence for children in Years 5 and 6 next year on Monday 8th September 2025 – letters have been sent out today. Sign up quick to avoid disappointment as we only have 21 spaces.



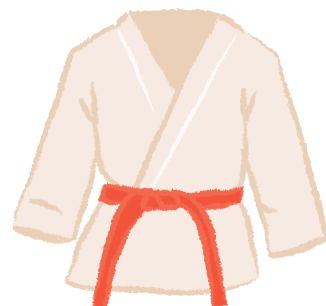
Chess

St. Mary's will continue to run chess coaching sessions during the 2025–26 academic year. Our Chess coach Alex has coached chess at St. Mary's for 14 years, and the school have been increasingly successful in schools tournaments, reaching the Finals of the Warwickshire Primary Schools Team Championship for the last two years, and winning the Birmingham Catholic Schools Tournament for five years in a row. In addition, we have had a number of players represent Warwickshire's county team at Under 9 and Under 11 level. There is opportunity now for Year 3 to learn how to play chess with Alex on a Monday after school.



Karate

USKO Karate will again be offering breakfast Karate Clubs in September. The clubs will run on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mornings 7:45 – 8:45 and is open to students in years 1 and above (Josh will be there from 7:40 for drop off). There is a limited number of spaces available so please book in early to avoid disappointment.



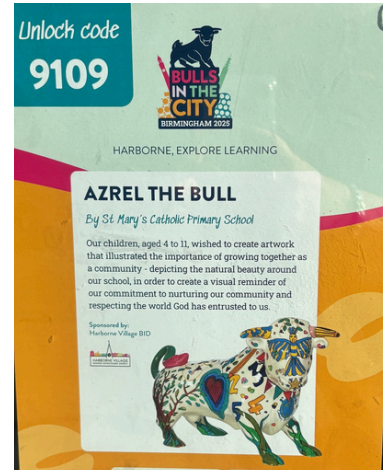
Stay in touch this Summer by getting involved in the following projects and tweeting us...

1. Bulls in the City



Azrel the bull
is hiding somewhere on Harborne High St.
Can you find him?

**Designed and painted by the children,
this is what our bull looks like: -**



Raise money for Birmingham Hospice.

Read more about the charity and how you can donate by visiting the Bulls in the City website. Leave a message of encouragement and words of acknowledgement to our children for getting involved. This Summer, if you find the bull, take a photograph with him, and donate!

Tweet @StMaryB17 #bullsinthecity



<https://www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/donate-bullsinthecity/>

Thanks for being part of our herd

2. Pilgrims of Hope

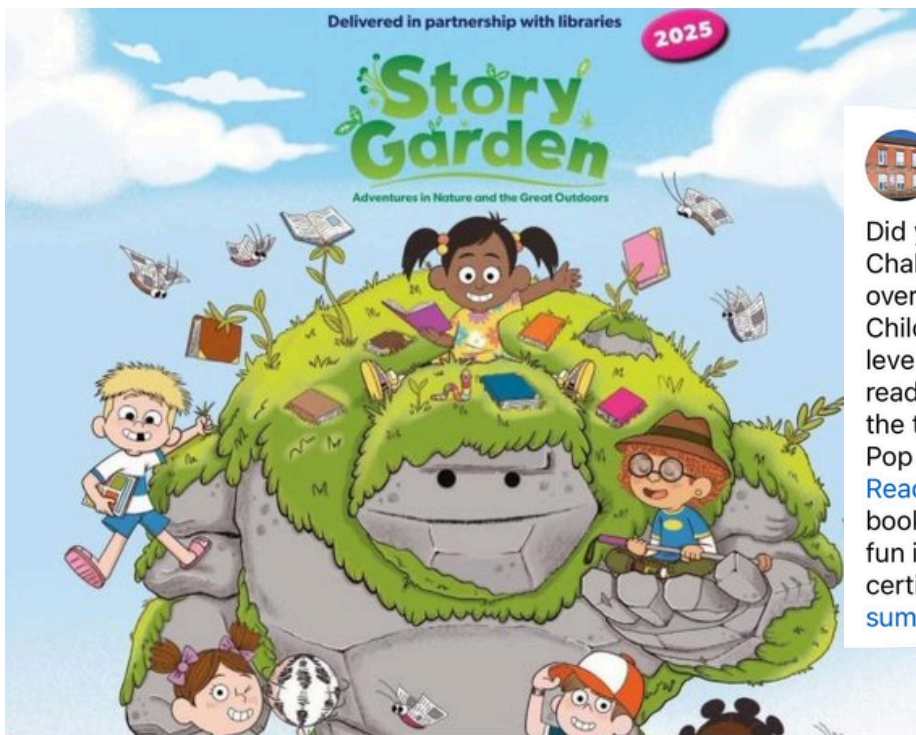
Journey this Summer with hope

If you're going on a journey this Summer, completing a charity event, or visiting holy sites – let us know about it with: –

**Tweet @StMaryB17 #Jubilee2025
#Pilgrimsofhope**



3. Summer Reading Challenge



Harborne Library

4d · 🌐

Did you know that taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge helps prevent the 'dip' in children's reading over the long summer break?

Children who take part maintain reading confidence levels & are more enthusiastic about books and reading. It keeps children actively reading, supporting the transition between year groups and stages.

Pop into the library to register for the [Summer Reading Challenge](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/) or take part online. Read 6 library books over the summer collecting stickers and other fun incentives along the way and get a medal & certificate at the end! <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

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 #Stmarysreads

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.

@StMaryB17

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

Winners will be announced in the new school year!



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:



Louise Yorke
Headteacher



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor



Laura Noone
AHT



Jade Preedy
AHT

Alternatively, email DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

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.

Celebrating our fantastic attendance:-

Our attendance for last week was -

Week 07/07/25-11/7/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	94.3	96.3	96.3	97.6	99	99	94.3	98.6	97.3	95.8	96.6	94.6	97.2	99
Lates	3	4	4	2	3	8	2	3	0	2	4	4	1	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%	School Target						97%	

Well done 2E, 2G and 6O: - Our attendance champions!



Term Dates for next year

Autumn Term	Tuesday 2 nd September - Thursday 23 rd October
	Half-term
	Monday 3 rd November - Friday 19 th December
Spring Term	Monday 5 th January - Friday 13 th February
	Half-term
	Monday 23 rd February - Thursday 2 nd April
Summer Term	Monday 20 th April - Friday 22 nd May
	Half-term
	Monday 1 st June - Friday 17 th July

Star of the week

Year RB	Phoebe	For doing excellent writing in literacy!
Year RT	Sakura	For always being an attentive learner who tries her best.
Year IF	Rogan	For his excellent focus and strong understanding of place value within 100 in Maths!
Year IL	Nathan	For making a great effort to make good choices this week.
Year 2E	Alex	For a huge improvement in behaviour. Well done Alex! We're really proud of you.
Year 2G	Elizabeth	For being a wonderful role model!
Year 3L	Aaron	For working really hard, particularly in spelling. Well done, Aaron!
Year 3T	Janelle	For her excellent focus, engagement and behaviour across ALL subjects! A true role model.
Year 4J	Sofia	For her super focus on her Exciting write this week
Year 4M	Milo	For working hard on his narrative and being great behaviour role model throughout the year
Year 5F	Maya	Always trying her very best and being a fantastic role model.
Year 5M	Sam	For really trying hard in all of his lessons and for working hard on his social skills
Year 6O	Jack	For his wonderful singing in the Y6 performance
Year 6R	Jayne	For her wonderful effort in the performance and taking on not one, but two roles

