



Archdiocese of Birmingham
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
 SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price M.Ed.

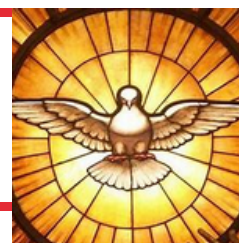


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Intentional and Prophetic'



Dear parents and carers,

1st April 2022

The highlight of this week was our whole school retreat for the children, where through singing, reflection and art work we contemplated the way of the cross and Christ's love for us. It was a perfect opportunity, at this point in our Lenten journey, to reflect on how we can grow closer to Jesus. Over the past couple of weeks, we have been asking for parent feedback. Thank you to those who have completed the RSE parent consultation tool - this is still open for your feedback - and for giving opinions on the parent questionnaire at parents' evening and during our Mothers' Day Inspire Workshops. We take on board your feedback when making future decisions. Please may I remind you that we have an open door policy at school. Myself and the Deputy Head teacher, Mrs. Davis, are available at the start and end of every day if you have any queries or issues. I do hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Miss Price

Pilgrimage to the Cross

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

“celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- God rejoices when we take responsibility for our actions and say sorry for wrong choices we have made.
- God will always love us – no matter what!

Dear Jesus,

You celebrate and rejoice in us.

Help us to think about how our actions affect other people. Give us the courage to say 'sorry' and put it right. Thank you for loving us and always forgiving us.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 1 Mass - 4th Week of Lent

On Wednesday, we learnt that God will always call us back to him when we 'get lost'. Y1 and Y2 sang beautifully.



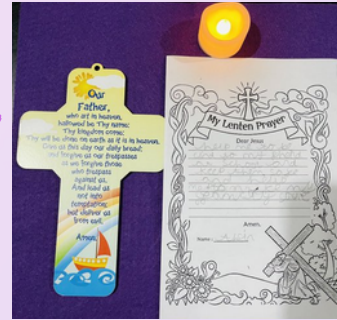
Y6 Mass in Church - 6.4.22 at 9:15am - 5th Week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 6th April 2022, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend. **Other year groups will begin to attend Mass from next week.**

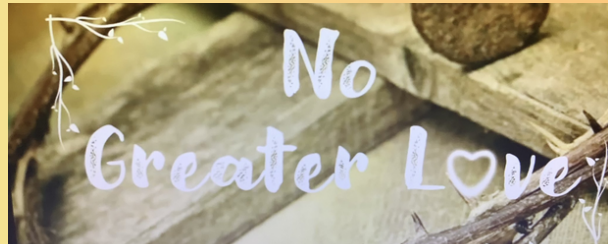
(If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



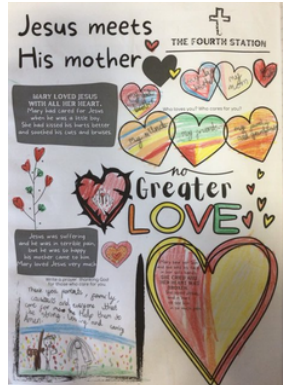
Lent prayer... at home



Pupil Lenten Retreat - Thursday 31st March



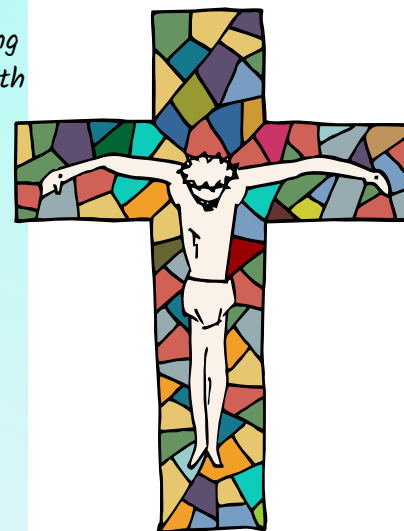
The children really enjoyed their time with Dan and Emily from One Life Music.



Our Year 6 leaders were wonderful in our closing prayer service.



Dan and Emily had such a lovely day with our wonderful children in our fantastic school. They look forward to working with us again in the future and will be returning to work with Year 3 as part of their Holy Communion preparation.

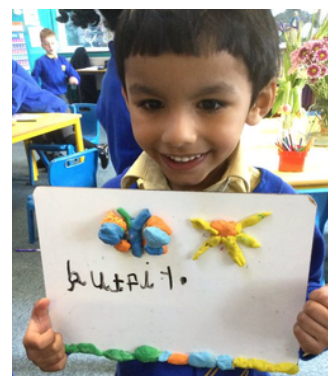


The staff worked really hard on our INSET day. We have all received up to date training and spent time planning lots of lovely things for the Summer time.



Reception news: -

Reception have been learning all about the life cycle of a butterfly this week. They have real caterpillars to take care of and have used plasticine to make their own butterfly artwork.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 are enjoying the new range of lunchtime activities.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been product analysing pop-up books before making their own



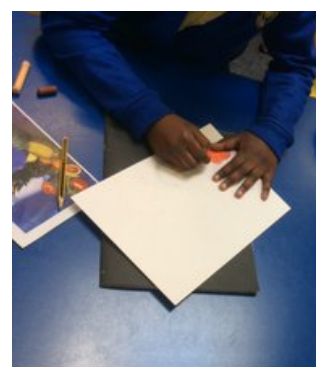
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been applying their new learning about perimeter.



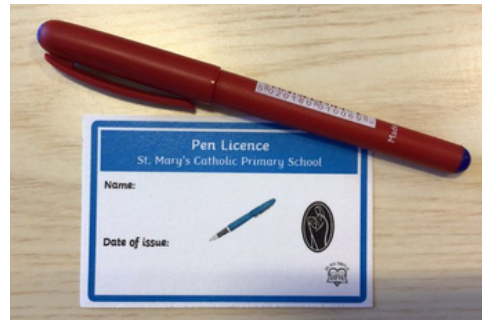
Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been sketching and using oil pastels for their still life fruit compositions.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have been celebrating those children who have received their pen licence. Well done to 5L - every child in 5L now has a pen.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been meditating and 'raising each other up'. Each person had a speech bubble on their back and their classmates wrote down what makes them wonderful





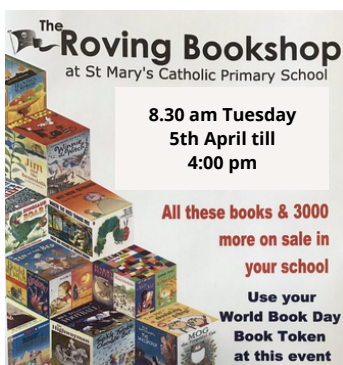
Parents with children in Reception are invited to work with their children in their learning environment next week and to gain an insight in to the teaching of early writing and how you can support your child at home. The workshop run over 3 days: **Tuesday 5th April, Wednesday 6th April and Thursday 7th April** - they all begin at 8:45 and will be finished by 10am.

Birmingham Catholic Sports Netball tournament

Some of our children will be playing in the Birmingham Catholic Sports Netball tournament on Tuesday 5th April.

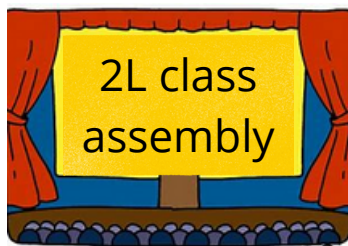
Individual letters have been sent.

Please pick up your child, from the venue, at 4pm.



Tuesday 5th April 2022

The roving bookshop will be in school on Tuesday and the children will have a chance to use their world book day token at this event. Any parents who would like to purchase books will be able to after school.



On Friday 8th April 2022, 2L parents are invited to attend school to watch their children in their class assembly exploring our Lenten theme 'almsgiving' Covid restrictions have lessened, but please do not come in to school if you are feeling unwell, and follow PPE advice if vulnerable. Thank you.



Friday 8th April 2022 – Y3 Swap Shop

As part of their Lenten charity work, Y3 will be hosting a clothes swap shop in the hall on **Friday at 2:45**. This is for everybody. The idea behind the swap shop is to bring any item of clothes that are still good quality and can be used by others and in return to take any items that could be used by yourself. So that good items are recycled and reused in our school community. If this is a success, we are hoping to continue with this and do something similar once a month.



100 *live simply* award ideas

The *livesimply* award is open to any Catholic community – including parishes, schools and chaplaincies – that wants to respond to Pope Francis' call to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor communities.

At St. Mary's, we have applied for the CAFOD live simply award – help us by making changes in your life to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity – tag us in to any twitter posts [@StMaryB17](https://twitter.com/StMaryB17)

Our challenge this week is: – **No. 54 Make a live simply pledge – post your pledge on our twitter feed!**



MAKING YOUR OWN -Promise Box-

Reception are taking part in CAFOD's 'Walk Against Hunger' during Lent. The children are challenged to walk 40,000 steps (as 40,000 km is the distance around the world) to fight hunger in solidarity with the 200 million children whose lives are at risk because of malnutrition. This is the equivalent of walking 32km, which is a lot for little legs! You can sponsor them online...

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-harborne-reception>

Year 1 have made Lenten promises e.g. helping to do the washing up, making their beds, tidying toys etc. The children will make their own charity boxes for their family members to sponsor them with a coin every time that they complete their promise.

Year 2 have made a promise for Lent as a year group to give up their time to those in need. As part of this, they will be visiting a residential home on Vivian Road. The children will take their favourite story books to read with the residents.



On Friday 8th April, Year 3 will be holding a 'swap shop' in the hall after school where parents can find clothes, shoes and uniforms that are looking for a new home. We would love it if children (from any year group) can bring in any 'good-quality' clothes, shoes and uniform that they no longer wear or have grown out of so it can have a new home! We'll have donation buckets too for anybody who would like to give a donation for our charities.



During Lent, Year 4 will be asking the children to help to collect food for St Chad's Sanctuary, SIFA Fireside and the Trussell Trust. These charities urgently require donations as the demand for food banks has sadly increased considerably. We are collecting packets of food each week to send to our local foodbanks. Any donations welcome.



As part of their work to build God's Kingdom on Earth, the children in Year 5 have learnt about the world water crisis and have explored the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' The children have learnt that 1 in 10 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water - something that we often take for granted. The children are passionate about tackling this injustice and have been inspired to complete a sponsored bucket walk around the playground as part of the school's Lenten charity work - sponsorship forms have been sent out.



Year 6 are becoming People of Change by trying to reduce food wastage in school. Today, they launched their campaign to the rest of the school: 'Eat for your need, not for your greed'. We are hoping that by reducing food waste, only taking what we will eat and not taking food for granted, we will reduce what is cooked and then wasted in school. Any money saved will go towards our charities.



The Spiritual Council have pledged to organise a litter picking walk on the school grounds and within the local community - we will adopt a road each Friday and go out with Mrs Davis and Miss Price and our litter pickers to clean up any litter.

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

Our Reception class continue to 'walk against hunger' and this week their Year 6 buddies joined them in order to encourage and support them. They are £80 away from their target.

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-harborne-reception>



200km this Lent to stamp out hunger

Raised **£520** Target **£600**

Distance **14.6 km** Distance Goal **32 km**



Our Spiritual Council continue to litter pick on a Friday – keeping our local community clean.



Other News

There is opportunity to attend a football club during the Easter break, led by Ben Markall, the football coach, who has been leading our lunchtime and after-school clubs. Please note that the club is not being run by the school and this is an external club.

PREMIER PROGRESS
FOOTBALL CLUB

PREMIER PROGRESS
LIFE OF A PRO CAMP

PREMIER PROGRESS
FOOTBALL CLUB

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, VIVIAN ROAD, HARBORNE, B17 0DN

RECEPTION – YEAR 6
25TH – 29TH APRIL

10:00AM – 3:00PM
£20 PER DAY

EARLY DROP OFFS – 9:15AM
£5 PER DAY

40 SPACES MAXIMUM
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

FA LEVEL 1 & 2 COACHES
UEFA QUALIFIED COACH
EX PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER
LINKS TO PRO CLUBS

PRO PLAYER – SPECIAL GUEST
2 PRO CLUBS LEAD SESSIONS
RETURN FORM BY 1ST APRIL
07734 938963
INFO@PREMIERPROGRESS.COM

Please return reply slips to Miss Adams, Year 5

Parent Consultations

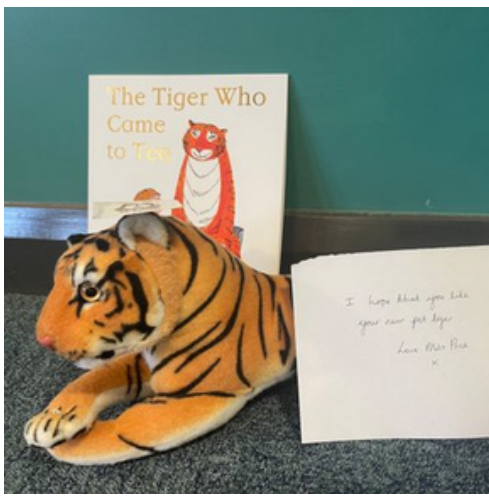
Our parent consultations were so well attended both on Tuesday and Thursday of this week. Thank you for completing the questionnaire.



We will be analysing the questionnaire and sharing the results in the upcoming weeks.

We take any feedback on board.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you to speak to a member of SLT if you have any issues – we are here to help!



Y2 persuasive writing

*Miss Price thought that the writing in Year 2 was so good and very persuasive so she got them the pet tiger that they asked for. Unfortunately, it wasn't quite what they had in mind!
Keep up all the good work Year 2.*

Changes to staffing - YRF



Mrs Cook (YRF teacher), will soon begin her maternity leave. When Mrs Cook leaves, the class will be taught by two teachers who already work with Reception class - Mrs Russell and Mrs Woulfe.

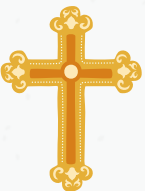
Mrs Richards

Mrs Richards

Parish News


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

Children's Liturgy Mass



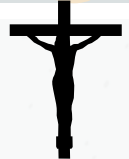
St Mary's Children's Liturgy/Church is on for all the Sundays of Lent: pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children can go straight into the Parish Centre at 9.30am with a parent - prior to joining the rest of the family and the congregation at about 9.45. Children of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, should remain in Church for the whole of the Mass. This is especially important for Years 3 and 6, as the part of their Sacramental preparation.

Mass during Lent




There will be an 8:30 weekday Mass, which lasts for 25 minutes: drop in daily after drop off, for all or part of the Mass. Or simply light a candle, say a prayer and leave.

Wednesday 7:00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross




Join us for Mass (half-hour) and 7:30 Stations of the Cross (half-hour), each Wednesday.

Friday Mass



There is a Mass every Friday at 7:00pm.



St. Mary's Church is open 8:00am – 4:00pm every day
The Church is open for private prayer, candles at Shrines and personal Stations of the Cross.

Standard Assessment Tests (SAT's)

Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 9th May - Thursday 12th May**
- Year 2 SATs take place during the month of **May**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **6th June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning from **6th June (3 week period)**



Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates. Further details will be given out nearer the time.



School dinners

From 1st April 2022, the cost of school dinners will increase to **£2.50**



Water bottles

Please make sure that your child brings their water bottle in to school every day. This is particularly important as the weather gets warmer.

Summer uniform

Children should still be wearing their winter uniform, as the weather is still unpredictable and can be cold. Children may begin wearing their Summer uniform when we return after Easter...

Girls' Summer Uniform

- Yellow summer dress
- Black shoes



Boys' Summer Uniform

- Grey shorts
- Yellow polo shirt
- Black shoes

PE

- Blue shorts
- Yellow t-shirt
- Black, blue or white trainers / black indoor pumps



This is an Operation Encompass School

KEEPING SAFE

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



Online Safety

Key messages for parents to support healthy use of technology are:

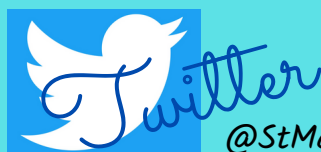
Enforce age limits for online games

Keep screen devices in shared areas of the house (not the bedroom)

Report any incidents to school and helplines

Spend time away from technology

Socialise outside online games



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!!!

Dates for next term

5th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -	EYFS parents work with their children in class
6th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -	EYFS parents work with their children in class
6th April 2022 - 9:15am -	Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome)
7th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -	EYFS parents work with their children in class
8th April 2022 - 9:15am -	Y2L Class Assembly in school (2L parents welcome)
8th April 2022 - 2:00pm -	Year 3 swap shop for their Lenten charity work
WB 11.4.22 - all week -	Holy Week
13th April 2022 - 2:00pm -	EYFS Easter Bonnet parade (EYFS parents welcome)
14th April 2022 -	Break up for Easter break!
	1:40 finish time - Reception classes
	1:45 finish time - KSI classes
	1:50 finish time - sibling group
	2:00 finish time - KS2 classes
3rd May 2022 - all day -	Children return to school
4th May 2022 - 3:00pm -	x-table check information for Y4 parents
5th May 2022 - all day -	School closed for Local Election Day
WB 9.5.22 - all week -	Y6 SATs Week
13th May 2022 - all day -	School Council fundraiser - Freaky Friday - dress as a teacher (details to follow)
WB 16.5.22 - all week -	Y2 SATs Week
24th May -	Y6 children make their Confirmation
27th May 2022 -	Break up for Whitsun week

Do not book holidays during term time

This is a reminder that 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. Term dates are on this newsletter and on the website.

Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Starts: Monday 28 th February	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2 nd May	Starts: Monday 6 th June
Monday 28th March - INSET - Children NOT in School	Tuesday 3 rd May – Children return to school	Tuesday 5th July - INSET - Children NOT in School
Ends: Thursday 14 th April 2022	Thursday 5th May - Closed for Local Election Day	Ends: Thursday 21 st July 2022
	Ends: Friday 27 th May	Friday 22nd July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee
Easter Holiday: Monday 18 th April to Friday 29 th April 2022	Half-Term: Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June 2022	Summer Holidays: Start Monday 25 th July 2022

Attendance and Punctuality: –

Good attendance, after the disruptions of the last two years, continues to be a school and government priority. During Parent consultations, staff will be giving out your child's attendance this term and discussing any concerns. 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 Miss Price or Mrs. Davis.

Week 21st March – 25th March

Class	YRF	YRL	Y1F	Y1L	Y2F	Y2L	Y3F	Y3L	Y4F	Y4L	Y5F	Y5L	Y6F	Y6L
%	93%	94%	96.3%	99.3%	96.3%	99.3%	97.3%	99%	98.7%	98.4%	99.3%	93.3%	97.7%	81.9%
Lates	7	3	6	4	8	0	0	4	7	7	3	2	4	4
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.6%			School Target			97%		

Well done Y1L, Y2L and Y5F: - our Attendance Champions



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

Year RL	Maya	<i>brilliant independent writing about planting radishes</i>
Year RF	Aryana	<i>beautiful observational drawing and model of a symmetrical butterfly</i>
Year 1L	Adel	<i>having a very good attitude to her learning</i>
Year 1F	Maeve	<i>always being a kind and thoughtful member of the class</i>
Year 2L	Joseph	<i>his fantastic contributions in lessons</i>
Year 2F	Azucena	<i>always trying her best in maths</i>
Year 3L	Maya	<i>her kindness and resilience towards her learning</i>
Year 3F	Amelia	<i>her perseverance and always being a good role model</i>
Year 4L	Jotham	<i>showing real enthusiasm for learning</i>
Year 4F	Tamilore	<i>trying very hard to improve handwriting and presentation</i>
Year 5L	Gaspard	<i>improving effort across the different areas of learning</i>
Year 5F	Edward	<i>always being happy to help those around him</i>
Year 6L	Lucia	<i>always having a positive attitude to learning</i>
Year 6F	Noah	<i>demonstrating excellent manners</i>

