



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: 'Dignity of the Human Person'

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



8th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to all of our children and a particular welcome to our new Reception children and their families, who have joined our St. Mary's family. It is wonderful to welcome the children back to school and to hear all about their holidays. We do hope that you all had a lovely Summer and managed to get some rest over the break, as well as spending time with families and friends, making memories. Within this newsletter, I include all the dates that are so far in the diary for the first part of the Autumn term. Dates can always be found on the penultimate page of the newsletter. I would like to thank you for ensuring that children have returned to school looking smart and in correct school uniform. This does include **PE uniform**... In this newsletter, I have confirmed PE days - children may wear their PE uniform on these days. Please note that we are having daily uniform checks in school this year and parents will be contacted if uniform is not correct. If you need support with uniform, please speak to a member of SLT. Well done children for an excellent first week of learning in school. We look forward to seeing what this year brings. God bless.

Mrs Yorke

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

*Matthew 16 : 21-27*

*"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross and follow me."*

Dear Jesus,

Thank you that you love us and invite us to follow you.  
We don't know all that this year holds, but you do.  
Help us with our schoolwork and our friendships.  
Help us remember that you are with us in the good times and the bad.

Amen

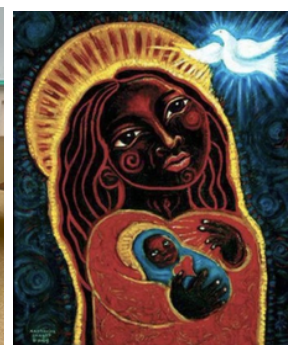
Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

- we are called to follow Jesus in the good times and the bad
- we have the opportunity to decide to follow Jesus throughout the school year
- following Jesus changes how we live

### Catholic Life in School

#### Whole School Mass - 8.9.23 - Nativity of Our Lady

Today, the whole school came together for our first Mass dedicated to the birthday of St Mary. The children sang beautifully - hymns to our Heavenly Mother. It was lovely to see so many parents too.



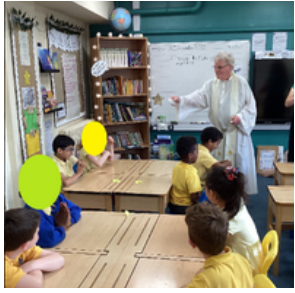
#### Y6 Mass - Holy Name of Mary

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 13th September 2023**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 children will be leading our Mass and Year 5 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



## Blessing of the classrooms, pupils and staff

This week, our school rooms, pupils and staff have been blessed with holy water by Fr. John. May our classrooms be a place of love and harmony as we live out our school mission.



### This week's news

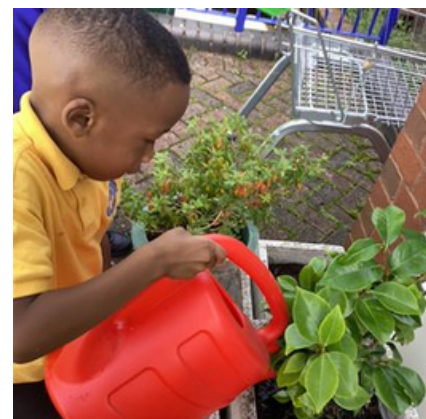
#### Reception news: -

Reception class have settled in to their school journey this week and made birthday cards for Our Mother Mary



#### Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been caring for God's creations, by watering the plants!



#### Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been thinking about how they can live out the mission statement.



**OUR 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.**



*Year 3 news: -*

Year 3 have launched their Stone Age Learning with a Now Press Play Experience



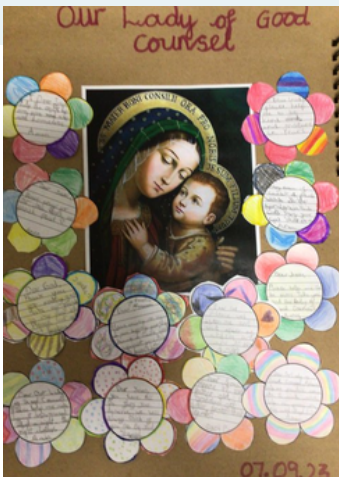
*Year 4 news: -*

Year 4 enjoyed their Victorian Experience using Now Press Play



*Year 5 news: -*

Year 5 went to the Church for their Prayer and Liturgy Service in front of Our Lady of Good Counsel, their Marian devotion.



*Year 6 news: -*

Year 6 have been getting their steps in this week with the daily mile.



Staff news

*Congratulations to three members of our staff who got married over the Summer - please note their change of names...*

*Miss Hill (SENDCo) will now be known as Mrs. Fowler.*

*Miss Leacey (Y2 TA) will now be known as Mrs. Gall*

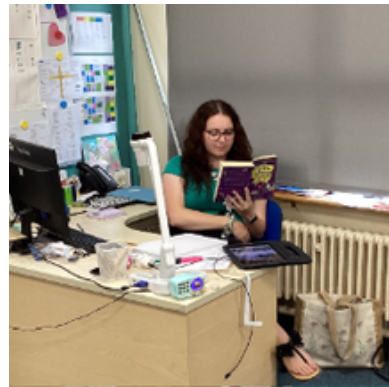
*And our new teacher was married too - Mrs. Gidley (Y5 teacher).*



May you always put each other first  
and seek your love's greatest good  
May your lives be filled with joy and  
hope that can't be understood



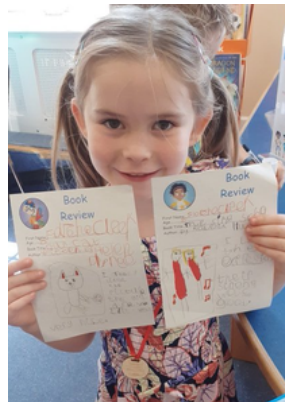
# Read Hour



Reading for pleasure is so important... the children (and staff) have really enjoyed having the opportunity to just sit back and read today. Mrs Yorke is re-reading 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' - what are you reading with your children at home? Post on twitter!

# Summer Reading Challenge

We are extremely proud of all the children who took part in the Summer reading challenge over the holidays. It was fantastic to see your posts and how much you love reading!



# EDUCATION SUNDAY

2023: The Armour of Light



This Sunday, 10th September, is Education Sunday. Education Sunday is always celebrated on the second Sunday in September. This year's theme is 'The Armour of Light' and the children will learn more about this next week.

"The mission of schools and teachers is to develop an understanding of all that is true, good and beautiful."  
Pope Francis

Thank you for our pupils. May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them. We pray that through their time at school they will flourish and grow to discover who you have called them to be.

We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord,



## Year 6 prefects applications

Applications for Year 6 Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl are due in to school on Monday 11th September.  
Good luck!



## Year 6 Harborne Library Visit - 12.9.23

Year 6 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.  
6O will leave at 9:00am  
6R will leave at 10:45am  
If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 6 staff know.



The first Annual General Meeting of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of the New school year will be on **Thursday 21st September at 3:30pm**. 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.

### Technical issues



*We apologise that since returning to school, we have had a few technical issues which has affected Gateway payments and sending out of some information.*

*We are solving these issues and our communication systems should be running as normal very soon.*

*If you need to give an urgent message, please phone school.*

*If you need an e-schools password, please let Mrs. Davis know.*

### Healthy Snacks

Please may we remind all parents that only healthy snacks are permitted in school – your child may have a piece of fruit at break time. Do not send your child in with crisps, sweets or chocolate as they will not be able to consume this on site. Please also be aware that we do not allow nuts, in order to reduce the chance of children with allergies from having a reaction.



## General school consent

*As part of our continuing efforts to enrich the curriculum and serve our community, we arrange trips and activities off the school site. We have therefore prepared a General School Consent for this purpose i.e.: so you do not have to complete multiple consent forms throughout the year. This is not intended to replace consent forms for class trips or residentials but rather trips and activities in our local area e.g.: Harborne Library, a local care home or park. A link will be sent to you by email and we would be grateful if a form could be completed for each child.*

## St Mary's Catholic Primary School General School Consent

From time to time, the school organises additional trips and activities to enrich your child's learning or to fulfil our responsibilities to our community in carrying out our Mission, and to ensure the safety and security of your child, we require your consent for your child to participate.

This form represents a General School Consent (GSC) which will endure for the duration of the school year 2023/2024 e.g.: until 19 July 2024, unless withdrawn in writing.

The trips and activities covered by this GSC include any visit within the UK that is not residential and that does not require transport e.g.: trips to Harborne Library, a local park or care home for carol singing etc.

The school will still send you information about each trip and activity before it takes place. Please note, this information may be communicated electronically by email or through eSchools.

The trips and activities covered by this GSC will only take place with express permission from the Head Teacher (or whomever deputises).

All trips and activities covered by this GSC will adhere to statutory or recommended requirements for supervision.

If your child is involved in any other trips or activities not covered by this GSC e.g.: a residential trip or a trip that requires transport, you will receive further information and additional consent will be required.

You must complete a separate GSC for each of your children at the school.



## PE day

We will continue to wear PE kits on the days that children are doing PE in school, It is important that children are wearing correct PE uniform. PE uniform is the Gold t-shirt, Royal blue shorts, dark navy tracksuit bottoms and plain black (or white) trainers.

*Please see the information below regarding the days each class will have their PE lesson.*

*On PE days - the children come in wearing their PE uniform.*

*Please ensure that any jewellery is taken off for PE days for your child's (and others) safety.*

PE days	
Reception	Tbc
Year 1F and Year 1L	<b>Monday</b> – dance <b>Friday</b> –running
Year 2E Year 2G	<b>Wednesday</b> – dance / <b>Thursday</b> - dodging <b>Monday</b> –dodging / <b>Wednesday</b> – dance
Year 3L and Year 3T	<b>Tuesday</b> – cricket <b>Thursday</b> – gymnastics
Year 4J Year 4M	<b>Monday</b> – rounders / <b>Thursday</b> – dance <b>Tuesday</b> – rounders / <b>Thursday</b> – dance
Year 5F and Year 5M	<b>Monday</b> – netball <b>Friday</b> – health related exercise
Year 6O and Year 6R	<b>Thursday</b> – swimming <b>Friday</b> - orienteering

# CLUBS Before School

	<b>Dance</b>	Tuesdays 7:50-8:45am	Years 1 - 6
	<b>Karate</b>	Wednesdays 7:45-8:45am	Years 1 - 6
	<b>Karate</b>	Thursdays 7:45-8:45am	Years 1 - 6
	<b>Karate</b>	Fridays 7:45-8:45am	Years 1 - 6



# After School

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

**End of day**

Please take note of the end of day timings and where you need to stand to collect your children.

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). Siblings is for when your children are in different key stages i.e. one child in KS1 and one child in KS2. If your child is in the same key stage, they will come out with their class. Siblings 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.*

**Labelling of clothing with child's name and class name**

Please label all belongings for your child (including lunch boxes / water bottles / school bags / clothing...) Items that are labelled are returned to your child's classroom when they are left somewhere else in school. Items that are not labelled are placed in the parent shelter. To ensure that no items are lost, label everything.

**Jewellery**

To ensure the safety of all children, we will only allow children to wear small stud earrings (not dangly earrings) and a watch, on the days that they are not doing PE.

On PE days we are asking that children do not wear any jewellery, so that it is not lost if they are asked to remove it for physical lessons. Thank you for supporting us with this, your child's safety is at the forefront of our uniform decisions. .



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



### Summary of Child Protection Information for Visitors and Volunteers

Our school is committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care.

Our school will support all children by:

- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment
- Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness
- Effectively tackling bullying and harassment

We recognise that some children may be the victims of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Staff working with children are well placed to identify such abuse.

At our school in order to protect our children, we aim to:

- Create an atmosphere where all our children feel secure, valued and listened to
- Recognise signs and symptoms of abuse
- Respond quickly, appropriately and effectively to cases of suspected abuse



## 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 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sept – 8<sup>th</sup> Sept

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96.5%	87.8%	97.1%	94.9%	97.1%	99.2%	95%	96.7%	91.7%	94.2%	84.6%	97%	97.2%	95.7%
Lates	0	0	6	5	3	6	1	2	2	5	0	4	3	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						94.8%	School Target					97%		

Well done Y2G: - our Attendance Champions

# Dates for next term

*Autumn theme -*

*Autumn 1 Virtues*

*5th September 2023 - all day*

*8th September 2023 - 9:30am*

*11th September 2023*

*12th September 2023 - am*

*13th September 2023 - 9:15am*

*WB 18th September 2023*

*18th September 2023*

*19th September - am*

*20th September 2023 - 9:15am*

*21st September 2023 - 3:30pm*

*22nd September 2023*

*WB 25th September 2023*

*26th September 2023 - am*

*27th September 2023 - 9:15am*

*28th September 2023 - 4:00pm*

*29th September 2023 - all day*

*October 2023*

*October 2023*

*2nd October 2023 - all day*

*3rd October 2023 - am*

*3rd October 2023*

*3rd October 2023 - after school*

*4th October 2023 - all day*

*4th October 2023 - 9:15am*

*5th October 2023 - all day*

*5th October 2023 - all day*

*5th October 2023 - after school*

*6th October 2023 - 9:15am*

*10th October 2023 - all day*

*10th October 2023 - am*

**11th October 2023**

*11th October 2023 - 9:15am*

*12th October 2023 - 4:00pm*

*13th October 2023 - 9:15am*

*Dignity of the Human Person*

*Curious and Active*

*Children return to school on Tuesday at normal at no*

*Whole School Mass in Church for Our Lady's birthday*

*Applications for Year 6 prefects, Head Boy, Head Girl due*

*Year 6 visit to Harborne library (9:15 6O and 11:00 6R)*

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

*Super Science Week in school*

*Spiritual Council Elections*

*Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 5F and 11:00 5M)*

*Year 2 Mass in Church (and Year 1 classes attend) - parents welcome*

*PTA annual meeting*

*School Council Elections*

*Mission Week*

*Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4J and 11:00 4M)*

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

*U11s boys' football match*

*Children in **St. Vincent de Paul House** - wear **white** non-school uniform*

*Pray the Rosary*

*Black History Month*

*Year 3T non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Therese*

*Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3T and 11:00 3I)*

*Play leaders at Bishop Challoner school*

*KS2 film club - PTA*

*Year 1F non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Francis of Assisi*

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

*National Poetry Day*

*Year 5F non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Faustina*

*Reception and KS1 film club - PTA*

*Year 1 Prayer Service for all Year 1 parents*

*Mental Health Awareness Day*

*Year 6 visit to Harborne library (9:15 6O and 11:00 6R)*

**School Photo day**

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

*U11s boys' football match*

*Year 6 Year group Assembly*

WB 16th October - all week

16th October 2023 - all day

17th October 2023 - am

18th October - all day

18th October - 9:15am

24th October 2023 - all day

24th October 2023 - am

24th October 2023 - 3:30-6:00

25th October 2023 - am

25th October 2023 - 3:30-6:00

27th October 2023 - all day

Please send in donations for our Harvest Collection

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

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 SF and 11:00 SM)

Year 1L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Luke

Year 1 Mass in Church (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

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

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4J and 11:00 4M)

Parent Consultation Evening

Flu immunisations

Parent Consultation Evening

**INSET Day** - school closed to children



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

Year RB	Azrael	having a fantastic start to Reception and being a brilliant role model
Year RT	Kori	a wonderful start to Reception and having lovely manners
Year IF	Nathan	excellent behaviour and following class rules
Year 1L	Joshua	being a fantastic role model and for a fabulous piece of RE work
Year 2E	Aryana	following our class rules and working hard all week
Year 2G	Mieke	fantastic attitude to learning all week
Year 3L	Keira	beautiful discussion and ideas during RE lessons
Year 3T	Yadiel	super role model for others and using beautiful manners
Year 4J	Michael	super behaviour and participation in all activities this week
Year 4M	Eliza-Rose	excellent behaviour and hard working attitude on the first week back to school
Year 5F	Noah	excellent work ethic
Year 5M	Jayne	brilliant writing and helping her new teacher
Year 6O	Joanna	exemplary behaviour during Mass
Year 6R	Martha	being kind and helpful in class this week

