



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.

November is dedicated to the Holy Souls.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Dignity of the Human Person'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Attentive and Discerning



24th November 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your kind donations to our PTA on Friday - our Parish and PTA fair is tomorrow at 12:00 and we look forward to seeing so many of our families there. Well done to all the children who led prayer and liturgy this week. It has been lovely to sit and pray with the children and begin to think about Christ the King and the beginning of Advent.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Yorke

Matthew 25 : 23

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things; I will trust you with greater."



During the month of November, we continue to pray for the dead. We have dedicated sacred spaces around school.

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- God give us all great gifts
- God wants us to know His love for us
- We can love God back by using our gifts and showing love to others

Father God,

Thank you for the gifts and talents that you have given to me. Help me to know your love. Help me to make the most of my gifts by loving, praying and doing my best.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

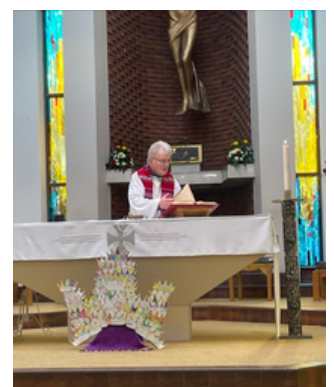
Year 2 Mass - 22.11.23 -
St. Andrew

Year 2 have started thinking about St. Andrew ahead of his feast day next week.



Year 2 Mass - 24.11.23 -
Christ the King

Year 3 led a fantastic Mass ahead of the Celebration of Christ the King this Sunday.





There is no Mass next week. Our next Mass will be: -

Whole School Mass in Church - 8.12.23 at 9:30am -

Feast of Immaculate Conception

Our next Mass in Church will be on Friday 8th December 2023, starting promptly at 9:30am. **All children** will be attending our Mass and all parents are welcome to attend. Please sit in the old part of the church for this Mass.



Mrs Snios and Katy wore red to remember Christians and all those who are persecuted for their faith.



Thank you Year 5 for leading us in a beautiful Prayer and Liturgy service in the hall, all about Christ the King as well as Dignity of the Human Person and how we can find strength in adversity.

This week's news

Reception news: -

Reception class have been comparing height in maths lessons. They used giant blocks to build towers shorter and taller than themselves and their friends.



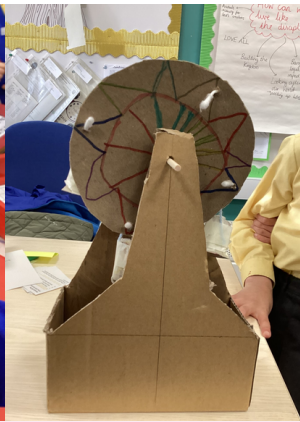
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 are enjoying their new book, 'The Barnabus Project' by The Fan Brothers. So far, they have sequenced and retold the story.



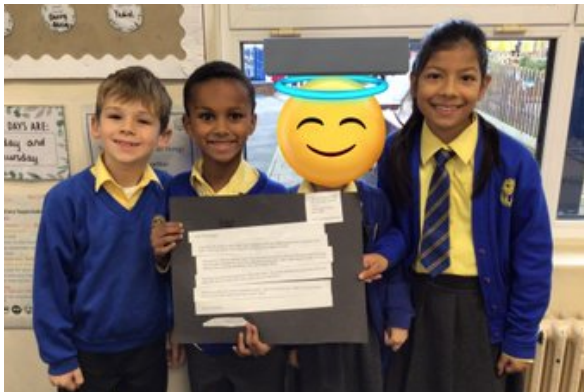
Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been making models of the London eye in DT this week!



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning about the features of letters and how they are structured.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been developing their cricket skills in PE lessons.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 experimented with friction. They performed a fair test and measured the speed and distance of a toy car. They predicted which material would cause the most/least amount of friction.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 investigated how exercise affects their heart rates, recording their pulses before/after exercise.



Other Learning

Road Safety Week

We have been learning all about Road Safety this week...



Our School Council have been deterring illegal and irresponsible parking outside of our school.



Year 6 modelled excellent road safety by using zebra crossings safely and wearing high-vis jackets on their way to swimming.



The Police came in to talk about 2 Road Safety with Year 2.



Year 5 thought about how to be vigilant and safe when going to the library. They wore Hi-Vis to be seen, adults obstructed the road and they walked with their walking partners to keep each other safe and together.

Story Time at Waterstones Harborne

Sunday 26 November 11am



Children's bookseller Rosa will be reading the magical story *Lost and Found* from award-winning international bestselling picture book creator Oliver Jeffers

Enjoy a story at Waterstones in Harborne this Sunday!

This week, the wonderful story of *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers is going to be read by Rosa.

This is set to be a regular event so keep a look out for future sessions.

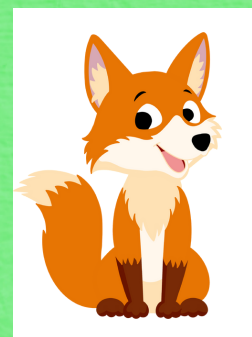
Reading Update!



Year 5 enjoyed a trip to Harborne Library this week. They not only had the opportunity to browse and borrow books but they also enjoyed a story from one of the Librarians.

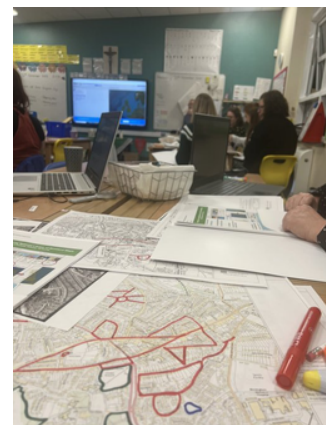
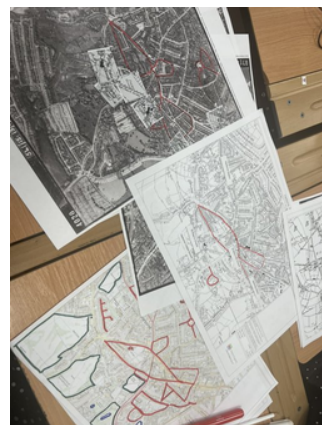
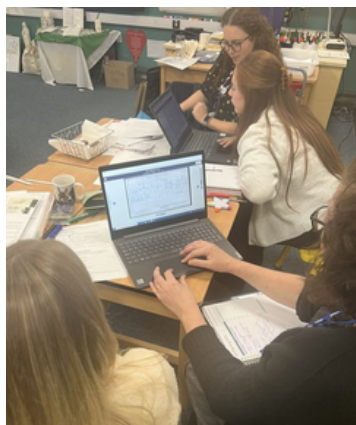


Look at all the happy faces of Year 2 who have just started their new book - *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl!



Staff training

Staff CPDF this week focused upon the up-skilling of their locational knowledge of Harborne and exploring historic sources. We can not wait to share this in our teaching of the local area...





Gemma from School Games presented us with our Gold School Games Mark for the second year in a row. Well done, everyone - let's get gold again this year!



Congratulations to our chess players who competed in the Warwickshire Primary Schools Championships on Monday. We ended up in a three-way tie, but alas we finished 3rd on tie-break. The children all won bronze medals and have qualified for the final in February!

Parish News



St Mary's Parish / PTA Christmas Fair

**Saturday 25 November
12.00-3.00pm
St Mary's Parish Halls
Vivian Road, Harborne**

- Santa's Grotto
- Bottle Tombola
- Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
- Raffle
- Children's Games
- Stalls: Books, Jewellery, Toys, Fancy Goods

...and much more

**Free Admission
(£3 for Santa's Grotto)**

The Parish are looking forward to welcoming you to the Christmas fair this Saturday and hope you enjoy the festivities.

*The Friars are all on Retreat this Monday to Friday (27th - 1st December), with Fr Tony Flynn OSA as stand-in Parish Priest for those days. Fr John will not be available.



Year 4 Harborne Library Visit - 28.11.23

Year 4 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

4J will leave at 9:00am

4M 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 4 staff know.



Remember, Wednesday the 29th of November is a school inset day!

REMINDER

DON'T FORGET

St. Mary's PTA Annual
Christmas
Wreath making Workshop

Join us in St. Mary's Parish Hall from 7PM
on Wednesday 29th Nov
£25- EVERYTHING INCLUDED, just come along and create
your own wreath,
Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

This year, we will be dressing up to mark the candle colour represented by each week on the Advent wreath:

Monday 4th December 2023 - Purple

Monday 11th December 2023 - Purple

Monday 18th December 2023 - Pink

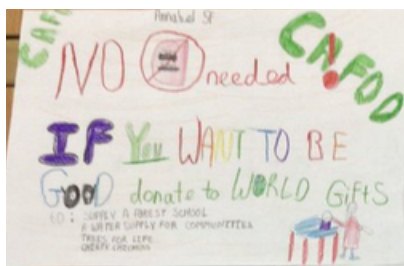


The Christmas Discos on 5.12.23 (KS1); 6.12.23 (Reception class) and 7.12.23 (KS2) will be held in the school for an hour straight after school. Tickets are priced at £3 and parents can pay for this via School Gateway. The PTA will be supporting the event by providing drinks and a snack for the pupils. All money raised will go towards the purchase of an additional, outdoor classroom. An exciting project that we hope lots of families support us in fundraising for! The cost of the disco includes wearing non-school Christmas clothing on the day that your child is attending their disco. If your child is not attending the disco, they can still wear Christmas non-school uniform on that day and we ask for £1 please towards our fundraising. Thank you.



Our CAFOD club have chosen to support 'World Gifts' for their charity work this year. They have designed posters and written to parents. We're not sending cards this year, opting for a more sustainable approach instead - and donating any money saved on School Gateway. So far, we have made:-

£130.50



West Midlands Children's Theatre

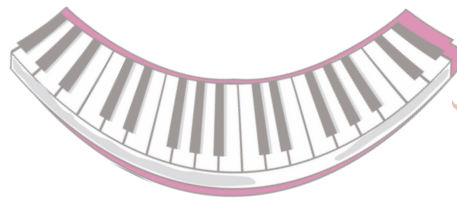
On **18th December**, all children from YR-Y6 will enjoy the action packed pantomime, "Sinbad the Sailor", an adventure loosely based on the tales from 1001 Arabian Nights. The children will join Sinbad as he journeys across the seven seas to find his fame and fortune. To make the experience financially accessible for all this Christmas, we are bringing the theatre to St Mary's! A payment of £1.50 per child has been set up on School Gateway. Payment is due in advance of the performance date by 30th November please. Thank you.



Music Concert

Monday 11th December and Tuesday 12th December

We have some very talented musicians in school who are learning to play an instrument. We have two after-school concerts lined up so please make a note of the dates.



**Friday 8th December
10:30-11:30**

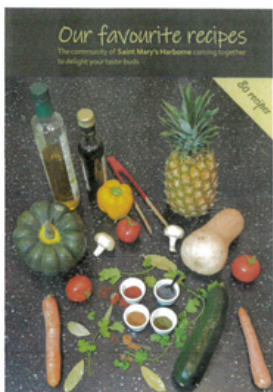


Dear Parents and Carers,
Following on from the success of 'Tea and Talk' in October, and as a result of parent feedback, we would like to welcome parents and preschools to the school hall on **Friday 8th December from 10:30-11:30**. This time coincides with our whole school mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception and we hope families will be able to attend mass and join us in the school hall afterwards for some much needed socialising.

'Tea and Talk' is a place where parents, grandparents and younger siblings can come and have a chat over a cup of tea/coffee with other parents and pastoral staff every half term. There will be games and toys for pre-schoolers too! We will offer a friendly ear, advice and signposting to agencies/clubs should you need it.

We look forward to seeing you then!

Many thanks, Mrs Tame



£12 per book



3 books for £33



6 books for £60

This half term, we will be joined by members of the St Mary's Community who are selling their recipe books to raise funds for the Parish Hall (see poster). We look forward to trying some of their tasty treats! If you would like to bring along something you have made to share, please feel free to do so.

Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas

Toy Appeal

Christmas 2023



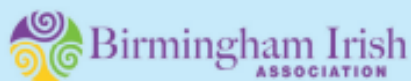
Scan to donate

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years



COLLECTION DATES:
Monday 6th November - Thursday 14th December

Irish TV are visiting St Anne's Parish Centre,
B12 OPA on Thursday 14th December



KEEPING SAFE

This is an Operation Encompass School

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



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 20/11/2023-24/11/2023

| Class | YRB | YRT | Y1L | Y1F | Y2E | Y2G | Y3L | Y3T | Y4J | Y4M | Y5M | Y5F | Y6R | Y6O |
|--|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|--------|-------|-----|---------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|------|
| % | 96.3% | 94% | 95% | 95.5% | 89.3% | 98.3% | 98.3% | 97% | 100% | 95.3% | 94% | 96.6% | 97.1% | 98.6 |
| Lates | 7 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Whole School Attendance so far this year | | | | | | 96.88% | | | School Target | | | | 97% | |

Well done: - 4J our Attendance Champions

Dates for next term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 11 Virtues

25th November 2023

28th November 2023

29th November 2023 - all day

29th November 2023 - 7pm

5th December 2023 - 3:30-4:30

6th December 2023 - 3:30-4:30

7th December 2023 - 3:45-4:45

7th December - all day

8th December 2023 - 9:30am

13th December 2023 - all day

13th December 2023 - 9:00am

13th December 2023 - lunch

15th December 2023 - 9:30am

15th December 2023 - 6:45pm

15th December 2023 - 7pm

18th December 2023 - am

19th December 2023 - 2:15pm

20th December 2023 - 2:15pm

21st December 2023 - 2pm

22nd December 2023 - 9:30am

22nd December -

Dignity of the Human Person

Attentive and Discerning

Parish Fete 12:00-3:00

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

INSET Day - school closed to children

Annual Wreath making workshop in Parish Hall - £25

PTA event - KS1 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

PTA event - Reception class Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

PTA event - KS2 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

Christmas jumper day

Whole School Mass - Feast of Immaculate Conception in Church (Parents welcome)

Year 3L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Lucy

Year 3 Prayer Service for all Year 3 parents

Christmas dinner day in school

Reception Nativity in Church (for parents)

Choir sing for Carols by Candlelight - meet at school 6:45pm

Carols by Candlelight in St. Mary's Church (all welcome)

Theatre Show in school for the children 'Sinbad the Sailor'

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Assembly in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service in Church (for parents)

Whole school Christmas Mass for all children, staff and parents

Break up for Summer holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Star of the week

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

- Year RB Emily For having a fantastic week in school and trying really hard during Nativity practice.
Year RT Edward For terrific work in your maths lessons this week!
Year IF Edward For trying his best and working hard all week!
Year IL Jayden For always trying his best!
Year 2E Grace For doing a super job as classroom monitor.
Year 2G Harrison For trying really hard in his exciting writing
Year 3L Adel For trying really hard to focus on her work and complete it to the best of her ability
Year 3T Alicia For a superb character description of Edward Tulane.
Year 4J Vincent For trying his best not to be distracted in his learning this week.
Year 4M Bella For a super effort in her Exciting Writing
Year 5F Kitty For excellent work ethic and descriptive diary entry!
Year 5M Cecile For beautiful singing and growing confidence during assembly practice
Year 6O Layla Always being kind and helpful and having a fantastic attitude towards her work.
Year 6R Joshua For always putting 100% effort into everything he does in school

