Archdiocese of Birmingham



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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.

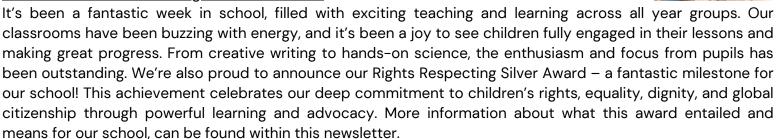
October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Dignity of the human person' Our virtues for this half term are: - Eloquent and Truthful

Dear parents and carers,

A week of wonderful learning and achievement

10th October 2025



Behaviour Audit

On 20th September, Beacon School Support carried out a full behaviour audit across our school. We're proud to share that whole school strategy, classroom behaviour, and SEMH support were all rated green, with auditors praising our clear vision and calm learning environment. Breaktime and lunchtime behaviour was highlighted as an area for further development, to support our more unstructured times in our school day. More information about behaviour is included later on in the newsletter. We'd be grateful for donations of items for our OPAL lunchtimes, such as: costumes, fabrics, kitchen utensils, small world toys, Lego, Duplo, pots and pans, chalk, and anything else that sparks imagination and movement. Thank you for supporting our OPAL journey!

Parents' Evening - Booking Opens Monday at midday

We're looking forward to welcoming you to our upcoming Parents' Evening—a valuable opportunity to speak formally with your child's class teacher about their learning and development. Appointment slots will go live on Gateway at **midday on Monday 13th October**. Please ensure you book early to secure a time that suits you.

Winter Uniform Reminder

It is now time for children to be wearing full winter uniform, including school tie and black shoes (unless it is their PE day or another arrangement has been made with school). A gentle reminder that jewellery is not permitted, except for stud earrings and a watch—smart watches should not be worn in school. Necklaces and bracelets must be left at home.

Harvest Collection & Mass

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Harvest Collection. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. We will be celebrating Harvest Mass on Wednesday 22nd October, and would love to have all donations on display. If every child brought in just one item, we would have 420 items to donate to SIFA, supporting those in need in our local community. Please consider sending in at least one non-perishable item.

Thank You

As always, thank you for your continued support. It makes a real difference to the life of our school. Wishing you and your families a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Yorke,, Headteacher



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Luke 17: 5-6

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

- We can depend on God, trust Him and ask for His help.
- Nothing is impossible for God.
- With God, we can do amazing things - it is God's will.

"If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea', and it would obey you."





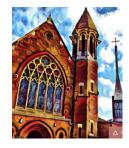


Year 5 Mass - 8.10.25 St. Faustina

Year 5 led a wonderful mass on Wednesday dedicated to 5Fs's class Saint - St. Faustina.







Next week's Mass: - Y1 Mass - St. Luke

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 15**th **October 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 children will be leading our Mass and Year 2 children will attend too.

All parents are welcome to attend.





Celebrating Class Saints

Class 5F have spent this week joyfully celebrating their class saint, St. Faustina, whose feast day falls on 5th October. The children marked the occasion with a special Mass, where they reflected on St. Faustina's life and message of Divine Mercy. In class, they have produced beautiful artwork inspired by her visions and writings, and engaged in thoughtful research to deepen their understanding of her faith and legacy. It has been a meaningful week of spiritual growth, creativity, and connection, as pupils explored how St. Faustina's example can guide their own lives.

Praying the Rosary







Prayer at home

Our Spiritual Council have created special prayer bags to pray to our Heavenly Mother at home. Please share photos with us through enquiry email or twitter.







Dignity of the Human Person

Year 6 taught us all about what it means to show dignity to others, with their assembly this morning. They explored the meaning behind the Good Samaritan and what their Literacy text 'Private Peaceful' has taught them about how we should treat our neighbour.





Silver Accreditation for Rights Respecting Schools

We are delighted to share that St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School has been awarded the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) by UNICEF UK.

Achieving the silver award recognises our commitment to placing children's rights at the heart of our school's ethos, curriculum, and relationships.

Our assessor highlighted the strengths shown across all three strands of the accreditation and the report praised our strong alignment between rights education and our school values, particularly our focus on equality and dignity.

Children spoke confidently about their rights and demonstrated a deep understanding of global issues, including the denial of rights in places such as Gaza and Ukraine. Pupils also shared how rights help foster positive relationships in school, with one child saying: "We know we have the right to express ourselves and be listened to and we do this for each other."

The assessor noted that rights learning is embedded across assemblies, class charters, and the curriculum—especially through literature, with the terrific texts that engages learning, such as: 'The Boy at the Back of the Class', which opens up discussions around refugees, inclusion, and dignity.

Parents are increasingly engaging in rights-based conversations at home, and Governors continue to support and monitor our progress closely.

We are especially proud of our children, who were interviewed as part of the process and spoke with clarity, compassion, and conviction. Their advocacy work—such as campaigning against the closure of the local library—shows how they are learning to be active, informed citizens.

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Snios (RRSA Lead), Miss Preedy (Assistant Head), our dedicated staff and governors, and of course, our wonderful children for their contributions to this achievement.

We are now excited to continue our journey towards the Gold Award.



Music at St. Mary's

Music plays a vital role in our school's broad and balanced curriculum, enriching pupils' learning and personal development. This week alone, Year 1 pupils explored rhythm and pitch through the glockenspiel, Year 5 continued with their learning of the ukulele—building confidence and coordination—and three talented children played the piano, in the absence of Mr Warhurst, during Mass, contributing to our spiritual life and showcasing their musical growth. We are proud of the children for their creativity, engagement and resilience, across all year groups in their music lessons.







RHE Curriculum Workshops

This week, we welcomed parents to workshops focused on our Relationships and Health Education (RHE) curriculum, providing a clear overview of what children are taught and creating space for questions and discussion. We deliver RHE through Ten Ten: Life to the Full, a programme endorsed by the Diocese and fully aligned with statutory guidance from the Department for Education. These sessions reinforced our commitment to a curriculum that promotes respect, emotional wellbeing, and personal development, while supporting children to build healthy relationships and make informed choices—key elements in preparing them for life in modern Britain.



Showing our best work to Mrs Yorke

Children always get excited when they're selected to show me their best work.

They appear at my office, looking proud and clutching their work, with beaming smiles and a sense of achievement. It's my favourite part of the week.





Enjoying visiting libraries

We love reading at St. Mary's and feel truly spoilt for choice when it comes to books! Whether it's a trip to Harborne Library, browsing our school library, or curling up with a book from the classroom shelf, there's always something exciting waiting to be discovered







Practical Science lessons

Science comes alive in our classrooms! The children love exploring, testing, and asking big questions during our practical investigations.









October - Pray the Rosary

As we journey into the month of October, 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.



Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 14.10.25

Year 3 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

3T will leave at 8:45am

3L will leave at 10:15am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 3 staff know.



As part of Year IL's feast day celebration...

Year 1 Mass for parents - 15.10.25 9:15am

Year 1 are inviting parents, grandparents, family members to join them in a special Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Luke – 1L's class Saint.

Full school uniform for photo day - Thursday 16th October 2025





Thursday 16th October will be school photo day.

Children will be having their individual photos and photos with siblings (who attend St. Mary's). It is important that children come to school on this day in full winter school uniform. If it is normally a PE day for your child, they just need pumps / trainers to change in to.



On **Friday 17th October**, we will be celebrating Saint Teresa of Avila, the Spanish Carmelite nun – who is one of only four women to be named doctor of the Church because of her writings about how to live a Christian life.

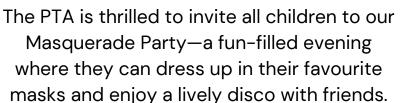


Children who are in St. Teresa of Avila House Group

<u>- can come in to school wearing blue on this day!</u>



PTA Masquerade Party – Friday 17th October at the Parish Centre



Dress Code: Masquerade style – masks encouraged, but not essential!

There'll be dancing, games, and plenty of surprises throughout the night. It's the perfect chance for children to let loose, celebrate with classmates, and make unforgettable memories.

All proceeds go directly to the school, helping fund exciting projects, resources, and activities that benefit every child.

So grab your mask and put on your dancing shoes - we can't wait to see you there!



First Communion and Confirmation:

If you would like your child to make their First Communion (Yr 3+) or Confirmation (Yr6+), there is still time to pick up an enrolment pack and return the form to the Parish Office. There are Parents Meetings on Wednesday 15 October for First Communion parents and Wednesday 22 October for Confirmation parents – both meetings are at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.

Parent Consultation Evening

Log in using your personal information i.e. Parent name and child's Date of Birth.



Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days – Tuesday 21st October 2025 and Thursday 23rd October 2025.



All appointments take place in the school hall.

There will be an opportunity to look at your child's books following your appointment.

The appointment will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please <u>do</u> not arrive any more than <u>5 minutes early for your appointment</u> to help us with numbers in the school hall.

It is better if you do not bring your children (including pre school children and babies) to your appointment so that you can focus on the information given to you. We do realise that this is not always possible. Children of St. Mary's will be taken down to the Year 2 classroom if you do bring them, where they will be taken care of by the staff.

We will be asking all parents to complete a parent questionnaire on the night.

Please look out for this. We always take feedback on board to constantly improve and we love to hear all the things that you think are going well too.

There will also be the opportunity to visit our book fair.

The Book Fair is Coming!

We're excited to announce that the Book Fair is coming to St Mary's!

The Scholastic Book Fair is a fantastic opportunity for children to buy quality books while raising money for the school at the same time.



The Book Fair will be open on the following dates/times:

Tuesday 21st October - Parent Consultations

Wednesday 22nd October - 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)

Thursday 23rd October - Parent Consultations

Monday 3rd November - 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)



Children will have the opportunity to browse the Book Fair during the school day but purchases will only be possible on the above dates/times. The Book Fair will be cashless, as before, and we will have a card reader available too.

With every book sold, the school receives a percentage towards books for schools so we appreciate you supporting our Book Fair!

Reception cohort - September 2026

Have you a child who is Reception age next year - September 2026? We'd love to extend our welcome to you, to come and look around our fantastic school.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School













Reception 2026 Parents -

Would you like to come and see

our school in action?





2025



Morning Tour— 10:30—11:30

Please contact us to book a slot:

Afternoon Tour-13:45-14:45



Contact Email:

enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Call: 0121 464 2141



Winter Menu - Autumn 2

MENU Week ONE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday						
Sausage Roll Marvellous Macaroni Cheese Fish of the Day	Meatballs in herby tomato sauce with Spaghetti Jacket Potato served with Cheese	Roast Chicken or Quorn Roast with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Sweet & Sour Chicken Steamed Rice Or Four Cheese Quiche with Potatoes	Margarita Pizza Tempura Battered Fish and Chunky Chips						
Served With Seasonal Vegetables, potatoes & Salad	Seasonal Vegetables Or Baked Beans	Served With Seasonal Vegetables, roast potatoes or Mash Potatoes	Seasonal Vegetables	Served With Seasonal Vegetables, chunky chips or Pasta, Baked Beans						
Fresh Seasonal Salad Bar With Fresh Bread Available Daily A Daily Selection Of Fresh Fruit & Fruit Yoghurts										
Chocolate Sponge Pudding with Custard Fresh Fruit Salad	udding with Custard Iced Smoothie		Jelly Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit Salad	Assorted Flavoured Ice cream Tubs						



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
Chi	uorn Burger With Jacket Wedges icken Goujons with Tortilla Wrap, barbecue Sauce	Beef Bolognaise served with Pasta Fish Fingers served with Potatoes	Roast Chick <mark>en or</mark> Quorn Roast with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy	Chicken Tikka Masala With Steamed Rice & Naan Vegetable Samosa with Steamed Rice	Margarita Pizza Fish Fingers and Chunky Chips					
	erved With seasoned wedges, Seasonal Vegetables & Salad	Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Salad	Served With Seasonal Vegetables, roast potatoes or Mash Potatoes	Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Salad	Served With Seasonal Vegetables, chunky chips or Pasta, Baked Beans					
Fresh Seasonal Salad Bar With Fresh Bread Available Daily A Daily Selection Of Fresh Fruit & Fruit Yoghurts										
E	Chocolate Muffin or Sweet Finger Roll Blueberry Muffin Fresh Fruit Salad Fresh Fruit Salad		White or Double Chocolate Cookie Fresh Fruit Salad	Jelly Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit Salad	Assorted Flavoured Ice cream Tubs					
ADDITIO	onal menu options availab For any aller	MADE FRESH								

YOUR MENU Week THREE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
Fish Fingers Jacket Potato served with Savoury Mince or Cheese	Lamb Burger in a Bap Veggie burger Both served with wedges Roast Chicken or Quorn Roast with Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy		Chicken Curry with Naan Spinach, Chickpea & Sweet Potato Curry	Margarita Pizza Tempura Battered Fisl and Chunky Chips		
Potatoes, Baked Beans, Seasonal Vegetables, and salad	Seasonal Vegetables Baked Beans	Served With Seasonal Vegetables, roast potatoes or Mash Potatoes	Served With Seasonal Vegetables, Steamed Rice & Salad	Served With Seasonal Vegetables, chunky chip or Pasta, Baked Beans		
		ad Bar With Fresh Brion Of Fresh Fruit &				
Lemon Drizzle Sponge or Fresh Fruit Salad	Fruit Crumble and Custard	White Chocolate or Double Chocolate Cookie	Chocolate Cake Slice or Fresh fruit Salad	Assorted Flavoured Ic		
DDITIONAL MENU OPTIONS AVAILAE For any alle	MADE FRES					

Our current menu can always be found on our school website

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 Hy<mark>giene Pr</mark>oducts

Socks and other Foot-care Items

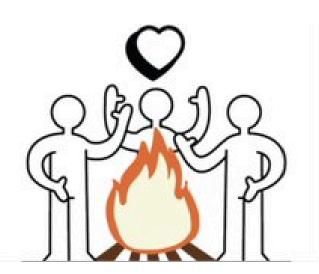
Person Hygiene Items such as: Shower gel, soap, deodorant, combs, hairbrushes, baby wipes, hand cream, chap sticks, tooth brushes, tooth paste

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)



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





HARBORNE ACADEMY, EDGBASTON, B15 3JL 9AM-4PM £24.00

MULTI ACTIVITY (5 DAYS) MON 27TH - FRI 31ST OCTOBER FOOTBALL (3 DAYS) MON 27TH - WED 29TH OCTOBER DANCE (2 DAYS) THUR 30TH - FRI 31ST OCTOBER

WE ARE OFSTED REGISTERED SO WE CAN ACCEPT TAX-FREE PAYMENTS AND CHILDCARE VOUCHERS



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps



This is an **Operation** Encompass School

KEEPING SAFE

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 School Counsellor



Sharon Tame



EYFS Lead



Rachel Richards Shania Birchenall **SENDCo**

SAFEGUARDING

ONLINE SAFETY

What is online safety?

Online safety is about protecting yourself and others from risks while using the Internet, social media, and digital devices. It includes understanding potential dangers and knowing how to respond to threats like cyberbullying, grooming, and scams.

Key risks

- · Cyberbullying: Harassment, threats, or abuse online
- · Privacy Breaches: Sharing personal information that could be misused
- · Inappropriate Content: Exposure to harmful or illegal material
- . Online Grooming: Manipulation by strangers to build trust and exploit
- · Scams & Fraud: Phishing emails, fake websites, and identity theft

How to stay safe online

- . Think Before You Share: Personal information, images, and location should be kept private
- . Use Strong Passwords: Keep passwords unique and never share them.
- · Adjust Privacy Settings: Restrict who can see your posts and personal details
- · Be Aware of Scams: Don't click on suspicious links or messages
- · Know Who You're Talking To: Never trust strangers online
- . Report & Block: If someone makes you uncomfortable, report them and seek help

What to do if you need help

- . If in immediate danger, call 999
- · Talk to a trusted adult if you feel unsafe or pressured online

REMEMBER

Be mindful of what you share and who you engage with. Help is always available if you need it.



ONLINE SAFE

As children grow up surrounded by technology, it's more important than ever to help them navigate the online world safely. Parents play a vital role in guiding their children's digital habits. Start by setting clear boundaries around screen time and using parental controls to filter content. Encourage your child to talk openly about what they see and do online—creating a safe space for questions and concerns. Teach them never to share personal information, click on unknown links, or speak to strangers online. Keep devices in shared family areas to promote transparency. Explore websites, games, and apps together, and model responsible online behaviour. By staying involved and informed, you empower your child to make smart choices and enjoy the internet safely. Let's work together to build a strong foundation for digital

wellbeing!



BEHAVIOUR



Beacon School Support Behaviour Audit

As you will be aware, Beacon School Support spent a day in school recently auditing school behaviour focusing on whole school policy and strategy, classroom behaviour, behaviour at lunchtime and breaktime and support for children with SEMH (social, emotional and mental health) needs. We have now received their final report and are pleased to share their findings:



Whole school policy and strategy was rated as **green** with auditors commenting that the school has "clear policies, consistent expectations and proactive strategies."



Classroom behaviour was rated as green and auditors described the overall behaviour across the school as "calm, orderly and well-managed."



Behaviour at breaktime and lunchtime was rated as amber. Whilst overall behaviour across these times is positive, there are areas that we can improve upon to keep children engaged and promote consistent positive behaviour. This is a target for improvement going forwards.



Supporting children with SEMH was rated as **green** and auditors noted that the school has "a clear vision that every pupil will be understood, supported and able to thrive."

The audit team were overwhelmingly positive and complementary about our children, describing them as '*incredible*', and this really is something to celebrate. We are very grateful for your support with this audit through your survey responses, and look forward to further updating you on our progress in the near future.

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 06/10/25-10/10/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y60
%	97	92	98	98	93	98	96	99	99	97	95	100	98	99
Lates	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	1	2	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year			97.6	5%	School Target			97	%					

Dates for this term

Autumn theme -

Autumn I Virtues

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

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 - 10:30am

5th November 2025 - 9:30am

6th November 2025

7th November 2025 - 9:00am

WB 10th November 2025

WB 10th November 2025

10th November 2025 - 12:45pm

12th November 2025 - 9:15am

13th November 2025 - 12:45pm

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

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

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

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

Year I 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 Paull 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

Y6 visit to the Mosque ahead of Other Faiths Week

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 4M Synagogue visit

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

Year 4J Synagogue visit

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



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

- Year RB Seb For trying his best in all areas of his learning!
- Year RT Jack For being so kind and helpful to his teachers and for trying his best with his writing this week!
- Year IF Faith For her wonderful effort and progress in writing this week. So proud of you keep up the amazing work!
- Year IL Jonah For being sensible in class and trying very hard during his music lesson!
- Year 2E Ava For working hard in all lessons and being a kind friend to others.
- Year 2G Sophia For being such a kind and caring member of the class.
- Year 3L Jahmi For his super effort in his Maths learning!
- Year 3T Nathan For always showing impeccable behaviour and putting 100% effort into everything he does
- Year 4J Aayush For being so kind and helpful to every member of the class!
- Year 4M Harley For working very hard in all of his lessons, especially the recent Guided Reading session
- Year SF Eleanor For always putting her heart and soul into her singing
- Year 5M Milo For enthusiastically helping others, whilst maintaining a bright smile!
- Year 60 Xavier Producing a fantastic black history month prayer and liturgy showing real insight and passion
- Year 6R Noah.C. For playing so beautifully in Year 5 and 6's Mass!

