



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.

July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Our theme for the Summer term is: "Stewardship"

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



Dear Children, Parents and Carers, and Staff,

16th July 2026

It has been a wonderful week at school. A true sense of celebration and joy has radiated around school as we have drawn another successful year to a close. We have said goodbye to our cherished Year 6 cohort, staff and children, and wished them the fondest of farewells as they move on to their next chapter. I have truly felt God's blessings on us all this week.

I wish to thank all the school staff for their hardwork this year – their commitment to the children has been incredible. Every member of our team has played a part in the success of the school, and their efforts are truly appreciated. I am also indebted to the school's governing body for their wise and discerning scrutiny and guidance. I wish to thank Fr. Hilary for his collaboration and support as Parish Priest – his spiritual companionship has been appreciated.

Finally, I wish to thank the parents, carers and families of our school community. We are blessed to be a part of your child's journey and I truly appreciate all your support throughout the year.

It is now time to rest, recharge and reset ahead of September. I encourage you to take time to rest with Jesus this holiday period, stepping away from your burdens to find peace and spiritual renewal.

"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"

Matthew 11:28

I wish you a safe, restful and happy summer holidays and look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 2nd September.

God bless,

Mrs Yorke



**ENJOY THE
SUMMER**



CATHOLIC LIFE

This Week's Gospel

"Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Matthew 13:8

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

- Allow His Word to live and grow in our hearts and lives
- Remember that He loves us and is always with us
- Rely on Him at times of challenge, and hold onto the hope we have in Him for our future



This week's Mass – Y6 Leavers Mass – Wednesday 15th July

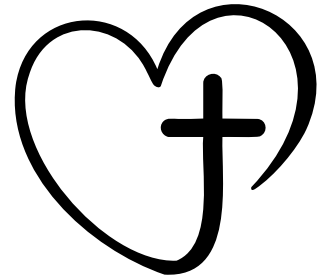
This week, we gathered for our final school Mass of the year, beautifully led by our Year 6 pupils one last time. We also said a special farewell to Mrs Shepherd, and celebrated her service and dedication to the school.



CATHOLIC LIFE

Year 2 Prayer Service

Last week, our wonderful Year 2 pupils led a beautiful prayer service in celebration of St Edith, sharing thoughtful reflections, prayers and songs with confidence and reverence. We are so proud of the way they helped our school community come together in faith and celebration



St Alphonsa House Retreat

St Alphonsa gathered for their House Retreat focusing on humility and kindness – virtues exemplified by this special saint.



St Alphonsa, pray for us.

A Celebration of our God-Given Gifts

A big congratulations to the winners of our God-Given Gifts awards this term. We are so proud of all your hard work and commitment to your learning and our school.



**BORN TO
Rock**

"School of Rock" St Mary's Summer Choir Concert



The St Mary's Choir ended the year with a fantastic performance as the 'School of Rock'! They performed a medley of rock songs, old and new. Their enthusiasm and passion was incredible. Thank to you to Mrs Campbell and her team for all their hard work.

Farewell to our Leavers!



SCHOOL GAMES PLATINUM MARK AWARD

**St Mary's achieve
School Games
Platinum Mark
Award for 2025/26**



We are delighted to announce that we, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, have achieved the School Games Platinum Mark Award after sustaining the Gold Mark Award for four years.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With our young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

A special thanks to Miss Dawe and the staff and supporters of our school community.

We look forward to applying once again in 2028!



HM Government



CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Well done to Abi who recently competed with her dance school 'L'apelle Academy of Dance' at the World Cup - over 11,500 dancers from 73 countries competed at this event! Incredible!



Well done to Adedike and her team (Quidditch) who won a recent Little League Netball Tournament.



Congratulations to Phoebe - her team finished 6th at the Dance World Cup! Their hard work, dedication, and passion truly paid off. Memories to last a lifetime and an unforgettable journey from start to finish.



Sign up for our clubs

Alvechurch Football Club

Alvechurch Football Club will continue to be running our after-school football clubs again next year! An email was sent out with information about how to register your child for September – please check your inbox. After-school football starts W/C 7th September 2026.



Mini Athletics

If your child is in Year 1 to Year 4 next year, links have been sent out to sign up to our popular Monday or Tuesday breakfast club. Mini Athletics starts W/C 7th September 2026.



Create Club

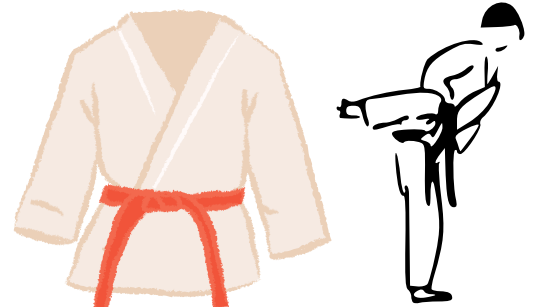
If your child has attended Create Club this year, you should have received an email to book for next year, if you wish to do so. There will be a club for Infants on Tuesdays and a club for Juniors on Thursdays. The booking link will be sent out to all parents shortly.

Create Club starts W/C 15th September 2026.



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.



WAITROSE
& PARTNERS

Update - Waitrose 'Green Token' Scheme

We are thrilled with our progress in the local Waitrose's 'Green Token' Scheme. This scheme allows shoppers to vote for local causes and the project with the most votes receives **£1500**, the second and third receive **£1000** and **£500** respectively.



*This is our current total
collection of tokens.*

*If you do shop in
Waitrose, please pick up
a token and vote for us.
Every token counts!*





Parent Information



School Uniform

In accordance with DfE guidance, we have reviewed our uniform requirements and, from September 2026, now require only **three branded items of school uniform** to be worn as follows:

St Mary's jumper or cardigan



St Mary's gold polo shirt



St Mary's PE T-shirt



For the avoidance of doubt, the school uniform has not changed (please see the website for the uniform guide) but the number of compulsory branded items has now been reduced. Other branded items are optional e.g.: book bags, hats etc, and gold shirts/blouses, grey trousers/skirts, PE bottoms (jogging bottoms or shorts) can be generic and purchased from any supplier.

Signposting Services - Emotional Health



If you/your child are worried about their emotional health over the summer holidays, there are several services available to help (as well as your local GP)

- **Pause Birmingham** - this face to face service is delivered in partnership with Forward Thinking Birmingham. It is a wellbeing drop-in service available to anyone under the age of 25 with a Birmingham GP. The service runs in different locations across the city including Digbeth, Northfield etc. The Pause calendar is published online - <https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause>
- **Living Well Consortium Youth Workshops** - free weekly workshops (for 5 - 17 year olds) are running over the summer holidays offering a range of activities such as sports, arts and crafts, yoga and mindfulness and more - <https://livingwellconsortium.com/wellbeing/programmes/youth-sessions/>
- **Shout (Birmingham & Solihull)** - this is a free, confidential text service for young people. To access the service, text 'Space' to 85258.
- **Childline** - this service is available 24 hours a day by phoning 0800 1111.

If you/your child have more immediate concerns, the following services are also available:

- **NHS 111** - the 24/7 Mental Health Crisis Line team can be accessed by calling NHS 111 and selecting the mental health option.
- **Forward Thinking Birmingham** - their crisis line is open 24/7 on 0300 300 0099.
- **Birmingham Mind Helpline** - this helpline offers advice (not for immediate emergencies) between 9am and 11pm daily on 0121 262 3555.

In emergency situations where there is an immediate risk to life, you should contact 999 or go to your A&E department.

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

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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



Sharon Tame
School
Counsellor



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Shania
Birchenall
SENDCo

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.



ST MARY'S
Attendance
matters
Every child, every day

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. Noone.

Attendance

Week 13/07/26-16/07/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	95	95	97	100	95	98	89	95	96	94	95	100	98	99
Lates	2	5	1	0	3	5	6	3	0	2	2	0	2	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.7%			School Target			97%		

Well done 1F and 5F: - Our attendance champions!

Next Year's Term Dates - 2026-2027

Autumn Term	Wednesday 2nd September - Friday 23rd October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th December
Spring Term	Monday 4th January - Thursday 11th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 22nd February - Thursday 25th March
Summer Term	Monday 12th April - Friday 28th May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 7th June - Tuesday 20th July

School Closed:

- Monday 3rd May 2027 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
 - Friday 2nd October 2026
 - Friday 12th February 2027
 - Monday 28th June 2027
 - Wednesday 21st July 2027
- 1 more INSET day to be confirmed



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

Year RB	Xexe	For having a positive attitude towards all of her learning.
Year RT	Ewa	For having a wonderful year at St Mary's!
Year IF	Whole Class	For having a wonderful year and always working hard
Year IL	Elias	For a fantastic year always trying his best. Well done!
Year 2E	Lucas	For an improvement in writing this year. Well done Lucas!
Year 2G	Ava	For being a fabulous member of 2G!
Year 3L	Esme.M	For always doing her best in everything she does!
Year 3T	Asha	For being a fantastic role model and striving for excellence
Year 4J	Pistis	For playing nicely with others and showing kindness
Year 4M	Cillian	For great improvement in handwriting! Well done!
Year 5F	Noah	For great partner work in DT this week
Year 5M	Keira	For her great collaboration in DT!
Year 6O	Emanuel	For growing in confidence this year and showing what a great friend he is through continued kindness to all
Year 6R	Noah	For growing into a resilient, outstanding young man. He has made Miss Flynn incredibly proud this year!

