



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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.

## Year 1 newsletter - Spring 2

We had a fantastic half term, with the children settling back into school after the Christmas break. We were incredibly proud of how they led Mass with such prayerfulness and respect.

Our visit to Grove Park was a great success, where we explored the human and physical features of our local environment. The children also had fun working with Year 2 to play maths games on Numbers Day! A big thank you to everyone who attended the Phonics workshop—Phonics will continue to be a focus this term as we continue to prepare children for the Phonics Screening Check in June. Phonics homework will be sent every Tuesday, along with reading books that need to be returned on Monday.

Looking ahead, we have lots to look forward to, including Pet Day! We will also be learning about the various jobs our adults do in school. One exciting week, the children will be able to "adopt" an adult for the day—whether as the head teacher, cook, or office assistant!

Within this newsletter we've attached our spelling list, which will be tested every Friday. PE will take place on Thursdays and Fridays, so these are the days that children need to wear their PE uniform. We will also be running the daily mile in order to gain steps towards our CAFOD Lent walk. Please Sponsor Us!

We're looking forward to another fantastic half-term in school.

With best wishes,

**Year 1 staff**

## PE

### PE days - Spring 2

Year 1	Thursday - Dance Friday - 'Hands' - dribbling and throwing skills CAFOD lent walk - every day Daily Mile
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*On PE days - the children come in wearing their PE uniform.*

*This is the gold t-shirt, royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and plain trainers. Please ensure that any jewellery is taken off for PE days for your child's (and others) safety. All long hair must be tied back in a ponytail.*





# Catholic Life



## Our RE learning for Spring 2 is: -

We will be studying the following units in our RE lessons: -

### Lent

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Lent as a time of change and of growing to be more like Jesus by following his example. In the unit the children will explore various aspects of Jesus' message and ways in which Christians can apply these to real life situations.

### Holy Week

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the important events of Holy Week and how they tell of the last days of Jesus' life on earth. The unit focuses on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the Stations of the Cross.

## Curriculum Map - Spring 2

These are the topics that your child will be studying in Spring 2 -

<p><b>Marvelous Middle</b> Present a thank you card to Maggie our cleaner for all that she does for Year 1 and keeping our learning environment special. Work completed in the school community.</p>	<p><b>DT - UNCRC Article 24</b> Children will create a moving story book. They will: Identify a mechanism. Label drawings. Create a picture to meet the design criteria. Evaluate the main strengths and weaknesses of a design. <b>Link to people who help us learning</b> – show books to Reception</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b> <b>R.E. UNCRC 14</b> <b>Unit 1: Sharing Jesus' life</b> Jesus choosing and calling the disciples and how they are an example to us of what it means to be a disciple <b>Unit H: Lent</b> To gain knowledge and understanding of Lent as a time of change and of growing to be more like Jesus by following his example. <b>Unit I: Holy Week</b> To gain knowledge and understanding of the important events of Holy Week and how they tell of the last days of Jesus' life on earth.</p>	<p><b>P.E. UNCRC 31</b> <b>Dance- Heroes</b> To create a range of controlled movements that represent a superhero. To control and co-ordinate their bodies to perform a sequence of movements, including a balance. <b>Hands 1</b> To learn to develop bouncing (dribbling) skills. To understand why we need to keep the ball away from the defender. To explore different ways of sending the ball to their partner.</p>
<p><b>Science – Plants NPP</b> How we can look after God's gardens. To grow mint/parsley. Observe the plants and how they grow. Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees. Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. NPP. Discuss gardens in castles and what was grown in castle gardens</p>	<p><b>Maths UNCRC 28</b> <b>Place Value within 50</b> – Count from 20-50, count making groups of 10, tens and ones, using a number line to 50. <b>Length and height</b> – compare lengths and heights, measure length using objects. <b>Mass and Volume</b> – heavier and lighter, measure and compare mass, full and empty, measure and compare capacity.</p>	<p><b>PSHE: UNCRC 5, 18</b> Economic Wellbeing and <b>Careers Week</b> My Happy Mind - Celebrate What Character Strengths are and how they make us unique and special. About the 5 Character Strengths and what they mean. <b>RSE: Unit 4: Life Cycles</b> Session 1: The Cycle of Life</p>	<p><b>Computing – Algorithms unplugged - UNCRC 17</b> Explain what an algorithm is. Write clear algorithms. Follow an algorithm. Explain what inputs and outputs are. Create an achievable program. Decompose a design into steps. Identify bugs in an algorithm and how to fix them. le bois.</p>
<p><b>English</b> <b>Terrific Text</b> The Storm Whale in Winter by Benji Davies</p>	<p><b>Music – Keeping the pulse UNCRC 31</b> To demonstrate an understanding of pulse using parts of the body. To keep a pulse and show a sound pattern using bodies and voices. To explore using a thinking voice to show the pulse. To play short rhythms in time with the pulse.</p>	<p><b>Dignity of Work</b> Work increases the common good. <b>Virtues: Attentive and Discerning</b> <b>Scripture Focus:</b> "So that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands" Deuteronomy 14:29 <b>Prayer Focus:</b> Act of faith, hope, love Prayer to St. Francis</p>	<p><b>History – Augustus Pugin UNCRC Article 14 29</b> In this History unit, children will explore: <b>Substantive Knowledge:</b> • Pupils will learn about Birmingham's history, architecture, and Industrial Revolution. • Pupils will know about Augustus Pugin and his contributions to the city's architecture (particularly religious contributions). <b>Disciplinary Knowledge:</b> • Pupils will understand chronological frameworks and how historians use primary sources. • Pupils will learn about different ways to represent historical events and changes. <b>Procedural Knowledge:</b> • Pupils will ask and answer questions about historical events and people. • Pupils will use vocabulary related to history, such as "Industrial Revolution" and "architect". • Pupils will sequence events and identify similarities and differences between periods.</p>
<p><b>Writing Opportunities</b> Non-chronological report about whales Recounts - postcard writing First person narrative from different perspectives</p>	<p><b>Other Reading Opportunities</b> Stories with repeated phrases – i.e. snail and the whale <b>Spoken Language opportunities</b> Speaking and holding a sentence in their heads.</p>	<p><b>Big Question – Why is every job important?</b></p>	<p><b>Art – Miro (painting/artist study) UNCRC Article 29</b> Children will explore the world of abstract art with Miro. Through mixed media and fine motor skills, they will develop the ability to draw lines, shapes, and experiment with colour blocking. Painting with water colours and using a fine-tip pen will enhance their skills in adding detail and interpreting art. Learning about diverse artists like Miro introduces children to different cultures and perspectives and to care about all forms of expression. <b>Fabulous finish</b> 'Adopt the grown-up day'. Children will discuss how they can help one of the people in the school community they interviewed and will spend time helping them to feel valued and appreciated for the work that they do. They will also reflect on what other ways going forward they can help them in their role e.g. not dropping litter, tidying the play area.</p>

# Homework - spelling

To be tested on 28.02.25

Graphemes taught this week- or u are oor

**Spellings:**

word  
awful  
share  
floor  
world  
playful  
square  
door  
once  
our

To be tested on 07.03.25

Graphemes taught this week- tch ture al a

**Spellings:**

Catch  
picture  
calf  
father  
itchy  
nature  
half  
nasty  
because  
eye

To be tested on 14.03.25

Graphemes taught this week- a u a ear

**Spellings:**

always  
difficult  
swap  
bear  
small  
animal  
watch  
tear  
who  
whole

To be tested on 21.03.25

Graphemes taught this week - ear wr sc st  
our or

**Spellings:**

learn  
write  
scent  
colour  
early  
wrong  
listen  
actor  
any  
many

To be tested on 28.03.25

Graphemes taught this week- ch ze a

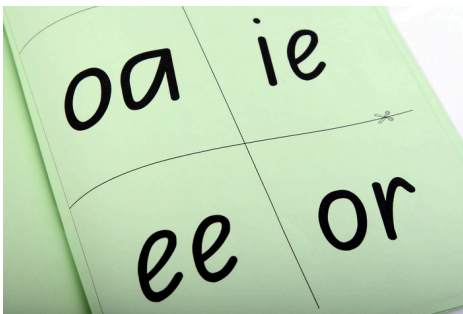
**Spellings:**

school  
freeze  
ball  
gigantic  
echo  
squeeze  
salt  
difficult  
laugh  
eye



## Homework

### Website for Phonics -



This website supports your child to practise their using their phonics to read real and pseudo words. This is what they will be required to do in the Phonics Screening Check.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

### Website to support Maths-

Please support your child to access NumBots for at least 30 minutes a week.

<https://numbots.com>



# Homework - Power Project - RE - Y1

**Lent** - Our power projects this half term have an RE theme.

We would like children to embrace their Lent journey with learning and prayer time in school and within their homes too...

**Complete the task and bring your project in for our Lent displays and prayer areas**



## Lent Reflection

*During Lent, we are called to pray as a way to connect with God and reflect on Jesus' teachings. Prayer is a way of communicating with God and to grow in our relationship with Him. Through prayer, we find comfort, hope and strength.*

# Prayer

## scripture

*"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours"*

Mark 11:24

## reflection

*Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting (turning away from our sins) and receiving God's mercy and love.*

*We offer our petitions to God, knowing that He will always listen.*

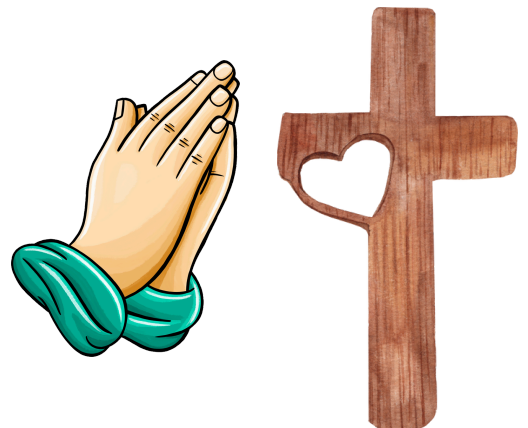
*This is the time to pray and strengthen our relationship with Him.*

## open question

*What will you pray for, this Lent?*

## Task

**A Creative Reflection** Create your own prayer to God. This may be a prayer of praise, asking, saying sorry or thanks. You could create a prayer intention- draw a picture or write a name of somebody you would like to pray for.



# Dates for this half term - Year 1

*Spring theme -*

*Spring 11 Virtues*

*24th February 2025 - 8:45am*

*28th February 2025 - all day*

*WB 3.3.25*

*5th March 2025 - 10:00am*

*6th March 2025 - all day*

*WB 10.3.25*

*17th March 2025 - all day*

*18th March 2025 - am*

*19th March 2025 - 9:15am*

*20th March 2025 - all day*

*21st March 2025 - all day*

*27th March 2025 - all day*

*1st April 2025 - pm*

*3rd April 2025 - pm*

*9th April 2025 - 9:30am*

*WB 14.4.25*

*17th April 2025*

*Dignity of Work*

*Attentive and Discerning*

*Children return to school at normal time*

*Pet Day - animal theme dress up - see separate letter*

*Careers Week / Vocations week*

*Whole school Mass in Church for Ash Wednesday - parents welcome*

*World book day - wear pyjamas*

*British Science Week*

*INSET day - school closed for all pupils*

*Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:45 1L and 10:15 1F)*

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

*One life Pilgrims of Hope Retreat for whole school*

*Down Syndrome Awareness Day*

*Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school*

*Parent Consultation Evening*

*Parent Consultation Evening*

*Whole School Mass - parents welcome*

*Holy Week*

*Break up for Easter 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*