



Archdiocese of Birmingham
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121 464 2141

Email: enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.

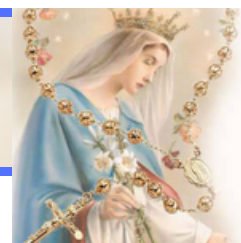


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

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,

17th October 2025

We've had a fantastic week at St Mary's, full of purposeful learning, smiling faces, and proud moments across the school. It's always a joy to see our children so engaged and enthusiastic. Next week promises to be just as busy with: parent consultations, flu vaccinations, and the excitement of the Book Fair, all before we head into a well-earned half-term break.

Parent Consultation Evenings

We're very much looking forward to welcoming parents into school on Tuesday and Thursday evening next week. It's a pleasure to open our doors and share in the pride we feel for your children's achievements. I hope you're just as pleased with their progress as we are. **A quick reminder:** the vehicle gates will remain closed during parents' evening, so please avoid obstructing them when arriving. Thank you for helping us keep the site safe and accessible.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair returns next week! It's a great chance for children to discover new books they'll love; and every purchase helps raise funds for our school. The fair will be open during Parent Consultations on Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd October, and from 3.15–4pm in the Hall on Wednesday 22nd October and Monday 3rd November. Children can browse during the day, but purchases can only be made during these times. As before, the fair is cashless and card payments are welcome. Thank you for supporting reading at St Mary's!

Harvest and Reception Welcome Mass

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to our Harvest collection. Your generosity is truly appreciated. After our Harvest Mass on Wednesday, the children will deliver donations to SIFA Fireside, supporting those in need in our community. We're still aiming for 420 items, which is just one per child. So if you're able to help, please send in your donation on Monday or Tuesday. Every item makes a difference!

Other Events

On Tuesday, children who are registered will receive their flu vaccinations during the school day. Children break up for half-term on Thursday 23rd October at the usual time. School will be **closed to pupils on Friday 24th October for our INSET day**, giving staff valuable time for training and development with our partnership schools.

Dates for Your Diary

Looking ahead to next half-term, we've included all the key dates in this newsletter—including our much-loved nativities and festive Christmas events. It's a truly special time in school, and we can't wait to share it with you. Please do take a moment to pop those dates in your diary, so you don't miss a thing!

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Yorke, **Headteacher**



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer



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

- God is generous and loving,
- In faith, we should ask God with a 'please' for what we want and be confident that He will hear and respond.
- By saying 'thank you' to God, we acknowledge Him as our Saviour.

Luke 17:19

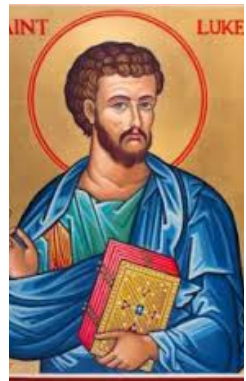
'And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."'



Year 1 Mass – 15.10.25

St. Luke

Year 1 celebrated their feast day to St. Luke. The Mass was full of energy with fabulous singing and signing.



Next week's Mass: – Reception Welcome Mass – Harvest

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 22nd October 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Reception children will be leading our Mass alongside their Year 6 buddies.

All parents are welcome to attend. Following the Mass, Reception will be officially welcomed in to St. Mary's with a guard of honour by pupils and staff.



St. Teresa of Avila Feast Day

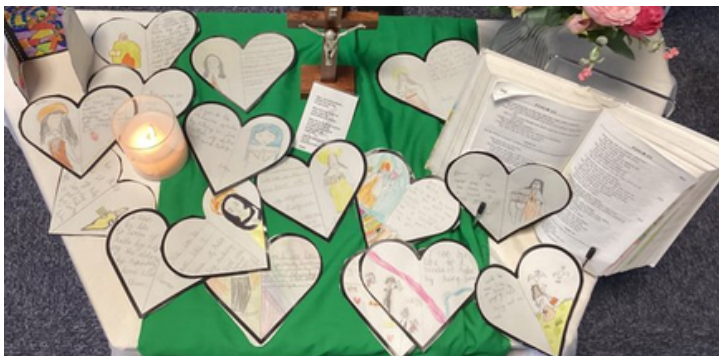
Our wonderful house captains – Ben and Josh led St. Teresa of Avila house in a special retreat today, as a celebration of her feast day.



Prayer



Year 5 children asked their peers to reflect on the example given to us by St. Teresa of Avila and how we could follow her example.



Year 1 children prayed in Mass to 1L's class Saint – St. Luke. St. Luke stands for **L**oving, **U**nderstanding, **K**indness and **E**mpathy.



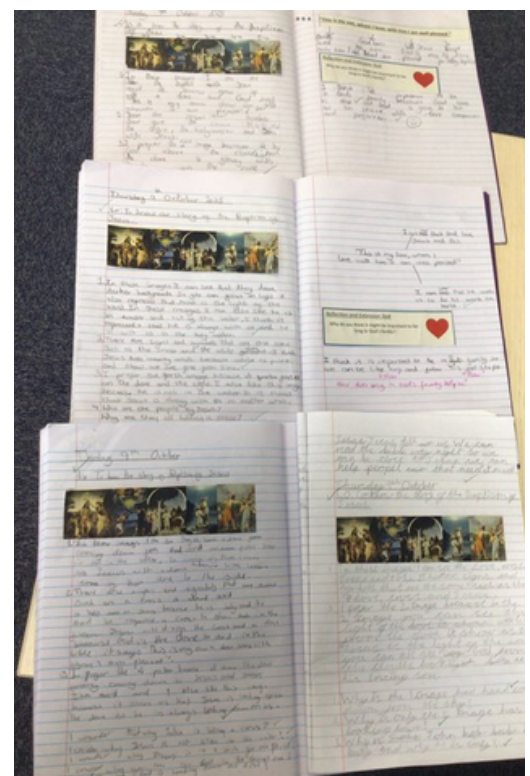
Year 4 prayed the Rosary on the anniversary of the last Fatima apparition, joining in with Pope Leo XIV. who lead the Rosary for peace on Saturday.



Year 6 have been praying the rosary, with Mark 10 mission.

Religious Education

Across the school, RE is taught through a rich blend of visual art and thoughtful enquiry. Pupils explore religious stories by engaging with symbolic artwork, which helps bring faith to life in a creative and meaningful way. They are encouraged to ask deep questions about what they see, sparking discussion and reflection. This approach nurtures curiosity, emotional connection, and spiritual understanding. It's a powerful way to help children interpret belief with both heart and mind.



CURRICULUM

Black History Month Learning

This October, our school is proudly celebrating Black History Month with a rich and meaningful approach that spans across year groups and subjects. Each class is learning about influential Black role models whose lives connect directly to areas of their curriculum—whether through Geography, History, or PSHE. From courageous campaigners for social justice to inspiring figures of social action, pupils are discovering stories that challenge, uplift, and empower.

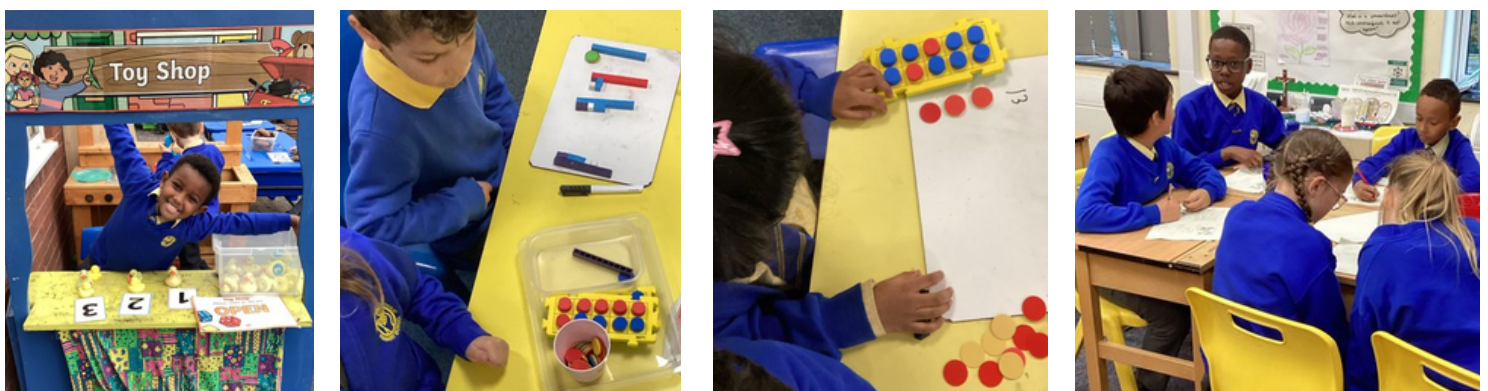
Children are also diving into powerful books that highlight resilience, leadership, and change, sparking thoughtful conversations in class. At home, they're channeling their learning into exciting "Power Projects," showcasing creativity and personal reflection.

This work is vital. It helps our pupils understand the importance of equality, representation, and standing up for what's right. By learning from the past and celebrating those who've shaped our world, we're helping children become thoughtful, informed citizens of the future.



Maths

Maths has been buzzing with excitement across St Mary's this week! In Reception, our youngest learners have been confidently subitising and representing numbers in a variety of creative ways, building strong foundations for number sense. Year 2 have been busy exploring teen numbers using manipulatives, deepening their understanding through hands-on learning and discussion. Meanwhile, our Year 6 booster group have been tackling fractions with focus and determination—showing great resilience as they sharpen their skills. It's been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and progress in maths right across the school!



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.



Flu immunisation day:

Tuesday 21st October 2025

NHS nurses will be in school on Tuesday to administer the flu vaccine.

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)

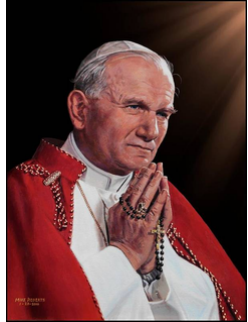
Children will have the opportunity to browse the Book Fair during the school day but purchases will only be possible on the above dates/times. The Book Fair will be cashless, as before, and we will have a card reader available too.

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

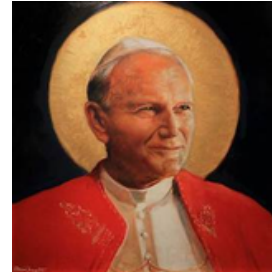
Parents' Consultation Evening

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

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.



On **Thursday 23rd October**, we will be celebrating Saint John Paul II, christened Karol Józef Wojtyła, St. John Paul II was Bishop and Pope (1978–2005). He led an extraordinary and inspiring life and made many reforms. **Children who are in St. John Paul II House Group – can come in to school wearing red on this day!**



School Closed – INSET

Friday 24th October 2025

School is closed for children on Friday next week as it is a teacher INSET day. Children will return to school on Monday 3rd November at normal time.

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 Class 2026



Open Day



Reception 2026 Parents -

Would you like to come and see
our school in action?

Please contact us to book a slot:

Morning Tour— 10:30—11:30

Afternoon Tour— 13:45—14:45

Contact Email:

enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Call: 0121 464 2141



Reception

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 Hygiene Products

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

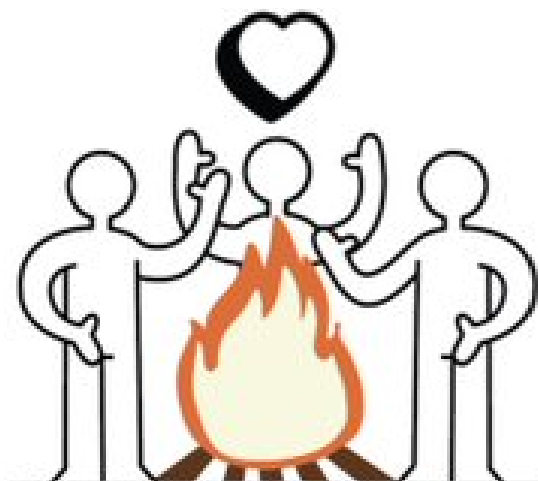
Good quality used clothing such as:

Gloves, scarves, blankets, hats, sleeping bags, warm clothing (jumpers, trousers, vests, coats etc)



Birmingham, you're not alone

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





Ofsted
Registered

**MULTI
ACTIVITY,
DANCE
OR
FOOTBALL**

3 X CAMPS AT HARBORNE ACADEMY

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

 **Trustpilot**

Based on over 20,000 reviews

 **Premier**
Education

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



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Shania Birchenall
SENDCo

SAFEGUARDING



ONLINE SAFETY-ROBLOX



What is Roblox?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play games, create games, and socialise with others. It's especially popular with children and teens. Most games on Roblox are created by users, not professional developers. Roblox is free to download and play, but it includes in-game purchases using a virtual currency called Robux. Children can chat, add friends, and join groups, which makes parental supervision essential.

Help your child enjoy Roblox safely with these ten simple tips:

- (1). Supervise and stay involved – know what your child is playing and talk to them about it.
- (2). Set up parental controls – use Roblox's settings to manage chat, game access, and privacy.
- (3). Talk about online safety – teach your child not to share personal information.
- (4). Encourage open communication – tell them that they can talk to you about anything they see online.
- (5). Use the block and report tools – show your child how to block and report inappropriate behaviour.
- (6). Monitor chat and friends List – regularly check who your child is talking to.
- (7). Choose age-appropriate games – help your child find games suitable for their age.
- (8). Set time limits – balance Roblox with other activities and rest.
- (9). Use a family email – sign up with an email you can monitor.
- (10). Stay informed – visit the Roblox Parents Guide for updates and safety tools.



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 13/10/25-17/10/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	98	99	99	98	96	95	93	96	97	94	96	100	98	97
Lates	3	1	2	0	1	3	3	5	0	0	1	1	2	5
Whole School Attendance so far this year						97.55%			School Target				97%	

Well done 5F: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this half-term

Autumn theme -

Autumn I Virtues

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

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

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

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 Paul 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

Dates for next half-term

Autumn theme -

Autumn II Virtues

3rd November 2025 - all day

3rd November 2025 - 10:30am

4th November 2025 - am

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

18th November 2025 - am

19th November 2025 - all day

19th November 2025 - 9:15am

21st November 2025 - 9:15am

22nd November 2025 - 12:00pm

Dignity of the Human Person

Learned and Wise

Children return to school at normal time

Y6 visit to the Mosque ahead of Other Faiths Week

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

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 in 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 5 library visit - 5M (8:45) and 5L (10:15)

*Wear **red** for Red Wednesday*

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

Year 5 Year group Assembly

Parish Fete

25th November 2025 - am

26th November 2025 - 9:15am

27th November 2025 - 9:00am

28th November 2025 - all day

WB 1st December 2025

1st December 2025 - 9:30am

2nd December 2025 - am

2nd December 2025 - 3:15-4:15

3rd December 2025 - 9:15am

3rd December 2025 - 3:15-4:15

3rd December 2025 - 7:00pm

4th December 2025 - 3.30-4:30

8th December 2025 - 9:30am

9th December 2025 - 9:15am

9th December 2025 - 10:45

11th December 2025 - all day

11th December 2025 - 9:30am

11th December 2025 - lunch

12th December 2025 - 9:00am

12th December 2025 - 6:45pm

12th December 2025 - 7:00pm

16th December 2025 - 2:00pm

17th December 2025 - 2:15pm

18th December 2025 - 2pm

19th December 2025 - 9:30am

19th December 2025 -

Year 4 library visit - 4J (8:45) and 4M (10:15)

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

Coffee morning for parents - come in to school and find out more about SEND

Reception bedtime story day

Corporal Acts of Mercy

Penitential Service for Years 4 - 6 (children and staff only)

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

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

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

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

Annual Wreath making workshop in Parish Hall

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

Whole School Mass - Feast of Immaculate Conception

PANTO for EYFS/KSI in school

PANTO for KS2 in school

Christmas jumper day in school

Reception Nativity in Church (for parents)

Christmas dinner day in school

Year 3 Prayer Service for all Year 3 parents

Choir sing for Carols by Candlelight - meet at school 6:30pm

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

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity in Church (for parents)

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 - KSI 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 Eshan For working really hard in phonics and doing brilliant blending!
- Year RT Jude For trying really hard to develop his fine-motor and handwriting skills!
- Year IF Nino For reading beautifully in mass, his excellent behaviour and wonderful writing!
- Year IL Layla For excellent contributions during discussions in both RE and English this week.
- Year 2E Amanda For working hard in all lessons and giving some excellent responses.
- Year 2G Eduard For fantastic contributions during Maths!
- Year 3L Elizabeth For always being a fantastic role model for others and always completing her work to the best of her ability!
- Year 3T Zoey For an amazing Exciting Write, using Alan Peat sentence types and beautiful handwriting
- Year 4J Maya For being a kind and helpful member of the class, a real role model!
- Year 4M Raika For modelling best behaviour this week to his peers
- Year 5F Keira For always being ready to learn and being a fantastic role model
- Year 5M Bobby For consistently showing a positive attitude towards his learning and always striving for excellence
- Year 6O Alfie Amazing effort in RE and History. So focussed and volunteering ideas
- Year 6R Emily For always ensuring that her work is presented beautifully, especially in History and RE.

