



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 3 newsletter - Spring 2

Welcome to our Spring 2 newsletter.

Year 3 have an exciting half term ahead, learning about Egypt, Animals including Humans and beginning our Lent learning. We will be participating in the Big Lent Walk as part of our Catholic social action so please do look for our posts on X and donate if possible via the CAFOD link.

For our Egypt learning, we have a Mother's Day inspire lesson planned for Thursday 27th March, where we will be sowing Egyptian collars! We also have a school trip planned to Birmingham Art Gallery, where we will be taking part in an exciting Egyptian workshop on Friday 11th April.

Throughout Spring 2, you can help your child's progress at home by practising their spellings and times tables with them. The children are tested weekly on these. Homework has been set on TT Rockstars. Please refer to our Spring 2 curriculum map, which is included within this newsletter, for further details about what will be covered in lessons.

kind regards,
Year 3 staff

PE

PE days - Spring 2

Year 3	Monday - Dance Tuesday - Basketball 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

The unit is designed to help the children appreciate that during Lent Christians resolve to change and try to become more like Christ. The children will be introduced to new Gospel stories about Jesus bringing change into the lives of people he encountered.

Holy Week

The unit is designed to help deepen the children's knowledge of some of the events of Holy Week and to deepen their understanding of the foundation of the Church's celebration of the Mass.

Curriculum Map - Spring 2

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

Marvelous Middle

Children analyse an area of Catholic life – explaining what we do well and choosing an element to lead on for improvement.

Science –

Animals including humans – UNCRC 28, 29
The structure of the human skeleton
How the skeleton supports and protects the human body.
How skeletons differ in animals.
Nutrition and the importance of a healthy diet.

English UNCRC 28, 29

Terrific Text

'The Eye of the Wolf'
by Daniel Pennac

Writing Opportunities

- Non-fiction piece on Alaska
- Narrative from different perspectives (dual narrative)
- Balanced argument

Oracy

Easter Prayer Service

Practising oracy actions and sentence stems e.g.: starting a discussion, building on a point of view and disagreeing with a perspective.

DT - UNCRC Article 24

This unit builds on the children's repertoire by introducing two new skills: cross-stitch and appliqué. After learning these techniques, the children apply their knowledge to the design, decoration and assembly of their very own Egyptian collars to represent their unique personalities.

Maths UNCRC 28, 29

Fractions – understand and compare unit and non-unit fractions
Understanding fractions on scales and number lines.
Understanding Equivalent Fractions
Mass and Capacity – To measure and compare mass, capacity and volume.
To add and subtract mass, capacity and volume.

Music – UNCRC Article 31, 28, 29

Creating compositions for animation
Verbalise how the music makes them feel.
Create actions or movements appropriate to each section of a piece of music.
Play in time and with an awareness of other pupils' parts, giving some thought to dynamics.
Play melodies and rhythms which represent the section of animation they are accompanying.

Other Reading Opportunities

'Zoo' by Anthony Browne
Non-fiction texts (Alaska / Africa / Egypt)

Spoken Language opportunities

Debate around zoos
Easter performance - Oracy

Year 3

R.E. UNCRC 14

Unit H: Lent – In this unit, we aim for children to appreciate that during Lent, Christians resolve to change and be more like Christ.

Unit I: Holy Week (Assessed Unit) – In this unit, we aim to deepen the children's knowledge of some of the events of Holy Week and their understanding of the Church's celebration of Mass.

PSHE: **UNCRC 5, 18**
My Happy Mind
Appreciate

The children will understand what gratitude is and how giving or experiencing gratitude affects our brain.

RSE: Unit 3 – Emotional Well-Being helps children to understand the difference between feelings and actions, how to manage them and what they can do to help themselves stay emotionally healthy.

Dignity of Work

Work increases the common good.

Virtues:

Attentive and Discerning

Scripture Focus:

"So that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands" Deuteronomy 14:29

Prayer Focus:

Act of love
The Confitour

Big Question –

How does our work shape the world?

Art – UNCRC Article 29

Highlight the importance of architecture in shaping our surroundings and how it reflects the values and aspirations of a society. By using St. Basil's Cathedral as a starting point, students can not only learn about architectural elements and drawing techniques but also engage in discussions about cultural diversity and social responsibility.

MFL – UNCRC 30, 27

Dans la maison We'll explore "Dans ma maison il y a..." (In my house, there is...), learn furniture vocabulary. Plus, we'll have fun answering, "Où habites-tu?" (Where do you live?). Children will also count to 30, and practice counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s.

P.E. UNCRC 31, 29

Dance – To challenge pupils to respond to different stimuli, being able to add drama and emotion to the dance.
Basketball – Exploring how to apply the principles of attack and defence.

History - Ancient Egypt NPP UNCRC Article 27, 28, 29

In this History unit, children will explore:

Substantive Knowledge: Children will delve into the chronological development, social structures, religious beliefs, and technological achievements of Ancient Egypt.

Disciplinary Knowledge: Children will learn to analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources, and understand the significance of historical terminology.

Procedural Knowledge: Students will engage in collaborative activities such as creating timelines, participating in discussions, and conducting independent research to develop valuable historical thinking skills.

Computing - UNCRC 17

- To know that Scratch is a programming language and some of its basic functions.
- To understand how to use loops to improve programming.
- To understand how decomposition is used in programming.

Other Opportunities

British Science Week **UNCRC 29**
World Book Day **UNCRC 17&31**
One Life Retreat **UNCRC 14**
Lent **UNCRC 14**
Holy Week **UNCRC 14**

Fantastic Finish

Children feed back to Governors about how CST builds us up and shapes the learning of our school community and beyond in to the wider world.

Homework - spelling

Spring 2 Spellings

Spelling rules will be taught on Mondays, practiced throughout the week and tested on Fridays. Children should continue to learn these spellings at home alongside Y3/4 common exception words this half term. During each test there will be 2 surprise Y3/4 common exception words and therefore a total of 10 spellings each week.

w/c 24.02.25	w/c 03.03.25	w/c 10.03.25	w/c 17.03.25
Prefixes 'super' and 'auto' automatic autograph autopilot autobiography superman supernatural superstar superficial	Year 3 Common Exception words actual actually believe calendar caught describe height reign	Homophones meet meat here hear there their they're high	Year 3 Common Exception words heard library mention ordinary peculiar promise woman women



w/c 24.03.25	w/c 31.03.25	w/c 07.04.25	w/c 14.04.25
Words with 'k' sound spelt 'ch' ache anchor Christmas echo choral mechanic architect chemist	Suffixes ('-ed', '-ing', '-s', '-es', '-ness', '-ful', '-less') hopping caring liked shared bakes hopeful useful likeness	Suffix ly quickly nicely funnily gently simply basically frantically dramatically	Apostrophes would've you're he'll haven't you've aren't couldn't I've



Please note:

Words containing a capital letter or apostrophe must be spelt in the same way during a test to be marked as

Year 2 Common Exception Words

after
 again
 any
 bath
 beautiful
 because
 behind
 both
 break
 busy
 child
 children
 Christmas

class
 climb
 clothes
 could
 cold
 door
 even
 every
 everybody
 eye
 fast
 father
 find

floor
 gold
 grass
 great
 half
 hold
 hour
 improve
 kind
 last
 many
 mind
 money

most
 move
 Mr
 Mrs
 old
 only
 parents
 pass
 past
 path
 people
 plant
 poor

pretty
 prove
 should
 steak
 sugar
 sure
 told
 water
 whole
 who
 wild
 would

Homework - key spellings

Year 3 and 4 Common Exception Words

Aa	breath	consider	enough	grammar	interest	Nn	perhaps	question	suppose
accident	breathe	continue	exercise	group	island	natural	popular	Rr	surprise
accidentally	build	Dd	experience	guard	Kk	naughty	position	recent	Tt
actual	busy	decide	experiment	guide	knowledge	notice	possess	regular	therefore
actually	business	describe	extreme	Hh	Ll	Oo	possession	reign	though
address	Cc	different	Ff	heard	learn	occasion	possible	remember	thought
although	calendar	difficult	famous	heart	length	occasionally	potatoes	Ss	through
answer	caught	disappear	favourite	height	library	often	pressure	sentence	Vv
appear	centre	Ee	February	history	Mm	opposite	probably	separate	various
arrive	century	early	forward	Ii	material	ordinary	promise	special	Ww
Bb	certain	earth	forwards	imagine	medicine	Pp	purpose	straight	weight
believe	circle	eight	fruit	increase	mention	particular	Qq	strange	woman
bicycle	complete	eighth	Gg	important	minute	peculiar	quarter	strength	women

Homework - timestables

Y3 Times tables test

The children will be tested every **Thursday**. There will be 10 questions each week. The children will have a set number of seconds to answer each question, which may change.

27.02.25	06.03.25
8x tables for 10 seconds	8x tables for 7 seconds
13.03.25	20.03.25
8x tables for 7 seconds	8x tables for 6 seconds
27.03.25	03.04.25
3,4,8x tables for 10 seconds	3,4 8x tables for 10 seconds
10.04.25	17.04.25
3,4,8 x tables for 7 seconds	3,4,8 x tables for 7 seconds

Homework - Power Project - RE - Y3

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



This Lent we are called to change our hearts – to give up those habits, like anger over little things, which lead us away from God and our friends. We should change our hearts to always be full of love; to pick up our cross and follow in the way that Jesus has put before us.

scripture

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

Psalm 51:10

Change

reflection

Lent provides us with an opportunity to deepen our spirituality and change things we do not like. We can change things around us, speak up for injustice, and change some of our own behaviours to be the best version of ourselves that we can be.

We have the perfect example to follow: the teachings of Jesus.

By doing this, we can make the world a better place. We can start small by showing love in our hearts to our friends in school; our families at home; and out in our wider community. We are called to make right choices and to love our enemies.

open question

What can you change this Lent?

Task

A Creative Reflection Think of something that you can change this Lent.

Show your ideas in creative ways: - you could make a pledge; write a prayer; or create a piece of art work including Jesus' teachings about how we should live our lives. We look forward to seeing your creative reflections.



Dates for this half term – Year 3

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

24th February 2025 - 8:45am

28th February 2025 - all day

WB 3.3.25

4th March 2025 - am

5th March 2025 - 10:00am

6th March 2025 - all day

WB 10.3.25

12th March 2025 - 9:15am

17th March 2025 - all day

20th March 2025 - all day

21st March 2025 - all day

27th March 2025 - all day

1st April 2025 - am

1st April 2025 - pm

3rd April 2025 - pm

9th April 2025 - 9:30am

11th April 2025 - all day

WB 14.4.25

17th April 2025 - 11:00am

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

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

Whole school Mass in Church for Ash Wednesday - parents welcome

World book day - wear pyjamas

British Science Week

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

INSET day - school closed for all pupils

One life Pilgrims of Hope Retreat for whole school

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Parent Consultation Evening

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

Year 3 school trip to Birmingham Art Gallery

Holy Week

Year 6 Stations of the Cross in Church for KS2 and parents

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