



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

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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.

April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for Poor and Vulnerable'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Intentional and Prophetic'



Dear parents and carers,

2nd April 2026

As we break up for Easter today, we are all ready for a well-earned rest. The children have worked incredibly hard and achieved so much this term. Our final week has been a truly special and holy one in school, as the children have led us, through prayer and liturgy, on a journey towards Jesus' cross.

Holy Week

Year 3 reminded us of the importance of servant leadership through their thoughtful re-creation of the Last Supper. Year 4 helped us reflect on the anguish Jesus felt in the Garden of Gethsemane as he was betrayed and arrested. Yesterday, Year 5 guided us in considering all those involved in Jesus' persecution and how Pilate ultimately 'washed his hands' of the whole affair. Today, Year 6 led us beautifully in the Stations of the Cross, and it was wonderful to see so many parents and members of the Parish joining us in Church.

On Sunday, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection, and on behalf of the Governors and all the staff, I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Easter.

Goodbye to Mrs. Gidley

Today, we also say goodbye to Mrs Gidley, who is moving on to a new adventure in a local Catholic school. She will be greatly missed, and we send her with our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to share that we have appointed a teacher for the Summer term – Miss Muflahi. She visited school yesterday to meet the staff and children, and we look forward to welcoming her fully after the Easter break.

Routine Appointments and Additional Inset Day

This term, there has been a marked increase in children attending routine appointments (eye tests, dentist etc) during the school day disrupting learning. I would respectfully request that non-urgent appointments are made either in the school holidays or outside of the school day. There is now also an additional Inset day on **Friday 17th July** – kindly note this date in your diaries.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Easter. Enjoy the well-earned rest. God bless.

Louise Yorke, **Headteacher**



*"Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!"*

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 set our scene: –

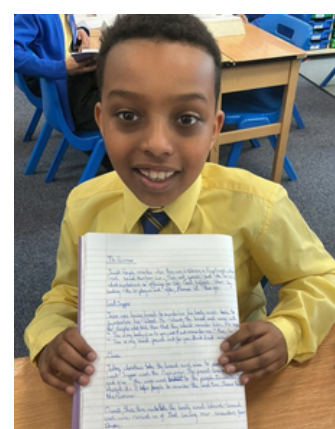
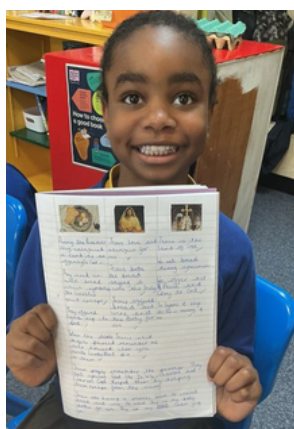
Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they waved palm branches...



The Last Supper

*"Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you are proclaiming the death of the Lord"*

Year 3 showed us the love of Christ. Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples and washed their feet at the Last Supper.



The Stations of the Cross

"Truly this was the Son of God"

Year 6 retold the Stations of the Cross and linked the suffering of Jesus, to the suffering and persecution that still takes place today.



Holy Week Reflection

As we begin our Holy Week journey – we think about Jesus' triumphant entry in to Jerusalem and His Passion. We have reflected on our own behaviours and have asked God for His forgiveness for our shortcomings. Now, it is our turn to forgive others – we think about those who have hurt us... and ask God to help us to truly forgive them.

scripture

*"For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation" -
2 Corinthians 5:19*

reflection

God gave us His Only Begotten Son so that we may be offered reconciliation. Yet, we are still called to merit reconciliation with our own deeds. We reflect on Our Lord's mercy given to us through Jesus' sacrifice and continue to give praise and glory to Jesus.

open question

What do you need to let go of, so that you can be closer to God?

Task

A Creative Reflection We invite families to explore Holy Week together at home. This could be through role-play, stories, artwork, prayer or any form that resonates with your family. Share your creations with us. All collective work will be displayed in the school hall.



Social Action



Thank you for your generosity in supporting our charity appeals throughout Lent. Almsgiving and social action are central to our school's mission and to Catholic life, especially at this sacred point in the liturgical year. Thanks to your kindness and commitment, we have been able to...

Reception

CAFOD



Our Reception class have been taking part in the Big Lent Walk! Together, our youngest children have walked an incredible 200km over Lent and have already raised £118. Thank you so much for your generous donations.

All money raised through the Big Lent Walk helps to tackle poverty around the world, supporting communities who face daily hardship. If you would still like to contribute, please use the link below:-

£118 raised so far

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/receptions-big-lent-walk-2026>



Year 1 have been taking part in simple but meaningful acts of kindness this Lent — sharing smiles, offering kind words, and spending an afternoon joyfully sharing their toys. Through these small actions, the children demonstrated fairness, empathy, and the importance of thinking of others.

These early experiences help lay the foundations for future social action. By practising kindness in everyday moments, the children begin to understand how their choices can positively impact others. As they grow, these values will guide them towards wider acts of service, generosity, and justice within our school community and beyond.

Year 1



Year 2



Year 2 visited the residents of Heathcote House during Lent, gifting them something truly precious – their time. The children baked cakes, created thoughtful Easter cards, and then delivered them in person. We received lovely thank-you cards and warm greetings from Heathcote House, expressing how much the children’s visit, cards, and cakes meant to them.



Year 3

CAFOD



Year 3 have been generously donating to the CAFOD Lent Appeal as part of their social action this term. For their fabulous finish, the children spent time reflecting on the virtues we are rich in, and they shared ‘virtue coins’ with one another to recognise the qualities they see lived out in daily school life.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Your kindness will support communities around the world who have far fewer resources than we do, and it has helped the children understand the real impact of giving and living out our faith through action.



Year 4

St
Basils



Year 4 have been supporting the local homeless charity St Basil's through a generous food and 'needed items' collection this Lent. Thanks to your kindness, the children have gathered an impressive amount of items that will directly support people experiencing homelessness. We are so grateful for your continued generosity. After Easter, a visitor from St Basil's will be coming into school to speak with the children about her role and what life is like inside a homeless shelter. She will also collect the donated items and take them back to St Basil's for distribution to those most in need.

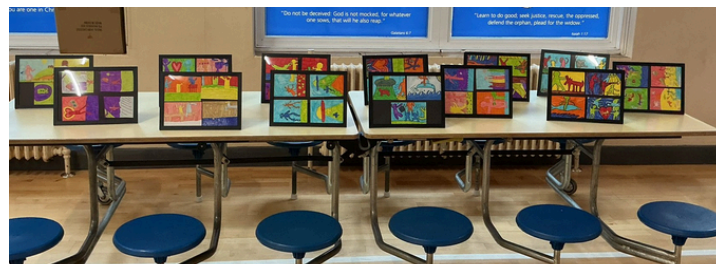
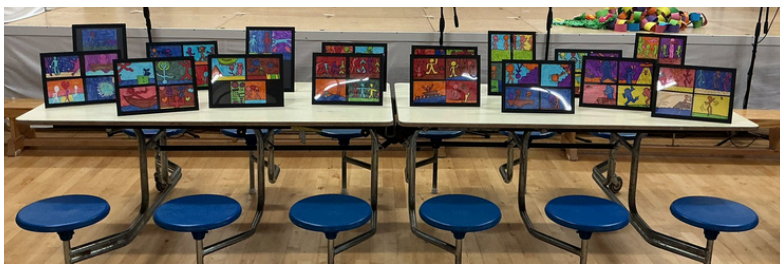


Year 5



Year 5 have been supporting Father Hudson's Care through a wonderful art-based social action project. Inspired by The Story of a Refugee and the distinctive style of Keith Haring, the children created powerful pieces of artwork which they then exhibited and sold. Through this project, they have raised both awareness and vital funds to support the charity's work with vulnerable families.

Their exhibition has already raised an impressive £120, and there is still time to purchase your child's unique artwork. Thank you for your generosity in helping us support the mission of Father Hudson's Caritas.



Year 6



Year 6 have been actively supporting the Brushstrokes Community Project this Lent. The children gathered and donated a range of items that will make a real difference to families in need, including pre-loved clothes and essential household goods. Their generosity shows a deep understanding of what it means to live out our faith through service and compassion.

Grow your
God-given gifts



God-Given Gifts

We are so proud of our amazing children and grateful for the gifts that God has given each of them – from kindness and enthusiasm, to resilience and achievement. We loved celebrating the children who have been using their gifts to help others.

Reception and Key Stage 1



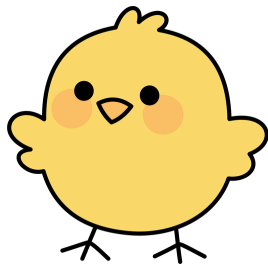
Key Stage 2





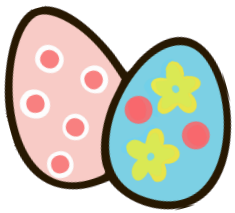
EASTER BONNET PARADE

Reception were fantastic in their Easter Bonnet Parade on Wednesday!

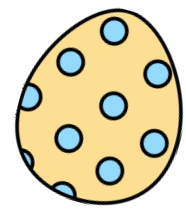


School FUNDRAISING

School Fundraising Update



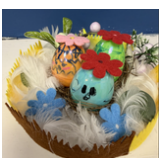
THE GREAT EGG-HIBITION!



We're thrilled to announce that the Egg-inhibition raised the spectacular sum of **£889.07!**

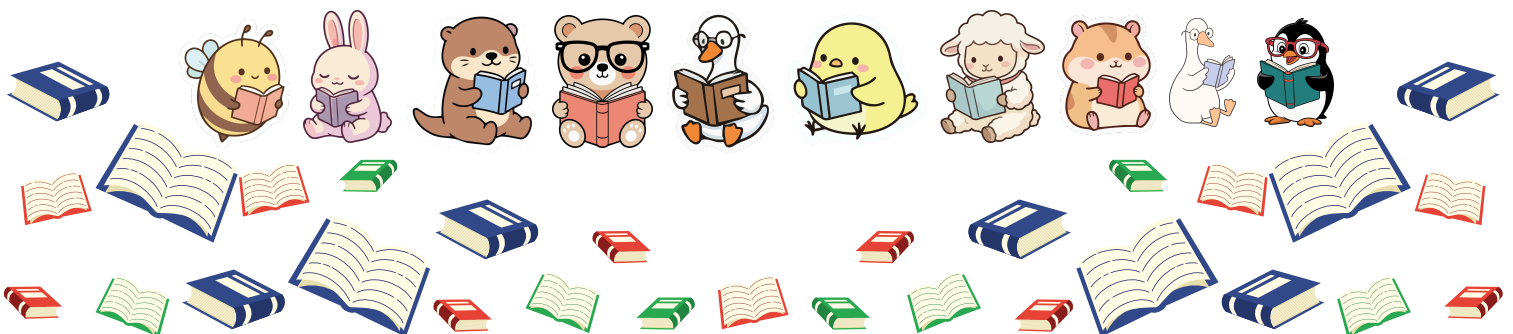
This is an incredible amount and will go towards our new school activity trail, which the children are very much looking forward to.

Thank you so much to Mrs Tame for organising the event and for all your support in both helping the children create their 'masterpieces' and attending the egg-hibition itself.



A Thanksgiving Celebration for Jane

The school came together to say farewell and thank you to Jane of Harborne Library who retired on Tuesday. Jane has been instrumental in helping many of our children develop a love of reading and we all love our weekly visits to the library. Thank you for everything, Jane!



Fast-track Ballet



21st April 2026

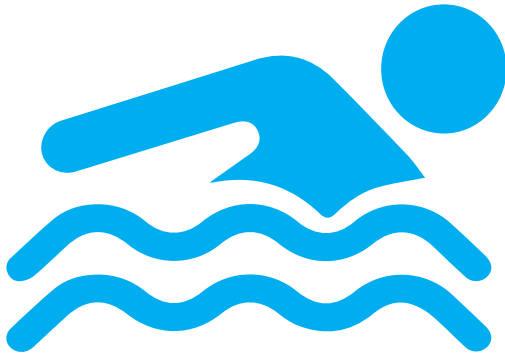
The Birmingham Royal Ballet will be in school on Tuesday 21st April to run workshops for Year 1 children. During their workshop, the children will have the opportunity to learn the basic skills of ballet.



Year 2 Mass - 22.4.26

St. George

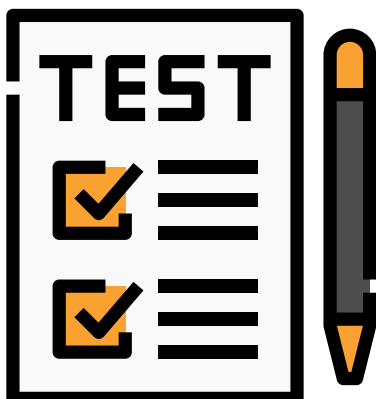
Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 22nd April 2026**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 2 will be leading our Mass and Year 1 will also be in attendance.



Swimming lesson begin for Year 2
from Thursday 23rd April 2026

Swimming lessons will begin on Thursday 23rd April for all of the children in Year 2. Swimming lessons are a compulsory part of the PE curriculum and therefore participation is obligatory. If your child is unable to participate for a medical reason then a doctor's note must be provided.

Key dates for your diary



SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from

Monday 11th May - Thursday 14th May 2026.

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.



Year 6 Residential – Alton Castle 15th to 17th June 2026

The Year 6 residential is booked for June... leaving on 15th June and returning on 17th June. Further information about the trip and parent meetings will soon follow.

If you would like your child to attend the trip, a non-refundable deposit of £25 is to be paid by today.



Support our PTA!
Our PTA plays a vital role in enriching school life by bringing families and staff together, fundraising for extra opportunities, and helping to create a warm, supportive school community.

**PARENTS vs. TEACHERS
NETBALL TOURNAMENT!**

WHO WILL WIN?


**FRIDAY 15TH MAY 2026
ST MARY'S PLAYGROUND**

£5 PER PLAYER - 4:00PM START

PROCEEDS GO TO THE SCHOOL!

Kindly supported by
HADLEIGH and **BIRMINGHAM PANTHERS**
ESTATE AGENTS

Email PvTNetball@outlook.com to reserve your



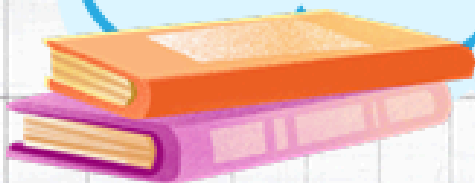
Reception 2027

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Thursday 5th November 2026

- Morning Tour: 10:30 - 11:30
- Afternoon Tour: 13:45 - 14:45

Email: enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk
to book your place



OUR MISSION

TO LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS
BY

LEARNING TOGETHER
LOVING OURSELVES
LOVING EACH OTHER
LOVING ALL PEOPLE
LOVING LIFE ITSELF

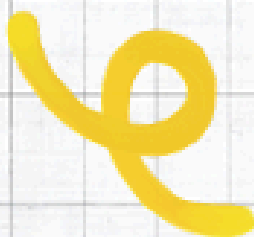
AND

CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR
EXCELLENCE

WORTHY OF OUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS.

For more information call our school
office on: 0121 464 2141 or visit our
website:

[https://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk/web/
september_2027_reception_class/720099](https://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk/web/september_2027_reception_class/720099)



Signposting for Easter Activities

This section is to sign-post activities that are taking place over Easter, which you may wish to engage with. As a school we are only sign-posting not necessarily endorsing these clubs.



EASTER



HOLIDAY CLUBS

HARBORNE ACADEMY, HARBORNE RD, B15 3JL

**MONDAY 30TH MARCH - THURSDAY 2ND APRIL
TUESDAY 7TH - FRIDAY 10TH APRIL**

***£18.83 9AM-4PM (5-11 YEAR OLDS)**

£14.00 9AM-1PM (4 YEAR OLDS)

£21.54 (20% DISCOUNT) 2ND - 15TH MARCH

£24.50 (STANDARD PRICE)

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT

WWW.PREMIER-EDUCATION.COM/HOLIDAY-CAMPS



Information for Parents

Community news

The home of youth cricket in Harborne

HARBORNE CRICKET CLUB

Boys & Girls 8-16

APRIL 13TH - 28TH AUGUST

FRIDAYS MONDAYS

U8 & U9
16:30 - 17:45

U10 & U11
17:30 - 19:00

U12 & U13
18:45 - 20:15

U14 - U17
18:00 - 20:00

**LEARN TO BAT
SMASH SIXES
TAKE WICKETS
MAKE FRIENDS**

- ✓ **MATCHES & FESTIVALS**
- ✓ **PATHWAY TO SENIOR CRICKET**
- ✓ **DELIVERED BY ECB QUALIFIED COACHES**
- ✓ **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED**
- ✓ **NEW PLAYERS WELCOME**

One of Birmingham's leading Premier League clubs

Join Now

WWW.HARBORNE-CC.CO.UK
YOUTH@HARBORNE-CC.CO.UK

If your family needs help, Early Help is available, Please speak to Mrs Noone or contact the Early Help office local to you. We can also provide details of all the parenting courses provided through the Family Hubs so please ask if you would like details.



HELP FOR ALL FAMILIES IN BIRMINGHAM



BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP

EDGBASTON EarlyHelp@edgbaston@gatewaysf.org 0121 456 7821	NORTHFIELD EarlyHelp@Northfield@gatewaysf.org 0121 456 7821
ERDINGTON ErdingtonFamilies@compass-support.org.uk 0121 748 8199	PERRY BARR BirminghamEarlyHelpPerryBarr@family-action.org.uk 07385 444 482
HALL GREEN HallGreen.Families@greensquareaccord.co.uk 07570 953 519 (9:30am to 4:30pm)	SELLY OAK SellyOak.Families@greensquareaccord.co.uk 07483 090 434
HODGE HILL YardleyHodgeHillEH@barnardos.org.uk 0121 289 4875	SUTTON COLDFIELD SuttonColdfieldEarlyHelp@compass-support.org.uk 0121 748 8199
LADYWOOD BirminghamEarlyHelpLadywood@family-action.org.uk 07816 086 607	YARDLEY YardleyHodgeHillEH@barnardos.org.uk 0121 289 4875

HARBORNE CC All Stars

GS

It all starts with... **ALL STARS CRICKET**

BOWL BAT FIELD
ACTION PACKED CRICKET COURSES
FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-8

SIGN UP NOW

MONDAYS
from MAY 11th 2026
16:30 - 17:15





Winning the gold medal for children's sports classes

We take what children love to do the most (running super fast, jumping high and throwing far) and mix it with imaginative themes, learning to follow instructions, making friends, developing skills and burning energy!



Teeny Athletes
Walking - 2 Years

Didee Athletes

2 - 3 1/2 Years



Little Athletes
3 1/2 - 5 Years

Mini Athletes

5 - 7 Years



BOOK NOW!
NEW SUNDAY CLASSES AT
EDGBATSON PRIORY SCHOOL

SCAN HERE FOR ALL OTHER VENUES



www.miniathletics.com

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 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

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.

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 Mrs. Noone.

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 30/03/26-02/04/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96	91	94	90	93	97	94	93	94	95	92	98	85	97
Lates	5	4	2	2	2	1	4	2	2	3	1	0	2	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.9%		School Target				97%		

Well done 5F: - Our attendance champions!

This Year's Term Dates - 2025-2026

Summer Term	Monday 20 th April - Friday 22 nd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 1 st June - Thursday 16 th July

School Closed:

- Monday 4th May 2026 - May Bank Holiday
- Thursday 7th May 2026 - local elections

INSET DAYS

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Friday 24th October 2025
- Friday 17th July 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026
- Tuesday 21st July 2026



Next Year's Term Dates - 2026-2027

Autumn Term	Wednesday 2 nd September - Friday 23 rd October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 2 nd November - Friday 18 th December
Spring Term	Monday 4 th January - Thursday 11 th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 22 nd February - Thursday 25 th March
Summer Term	Monday 12 th April - Friday 28 th May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 7 th June - Wednesday 21 st July

School Closed:

- Monday 3rd May 2027 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
 - Friday 2nd October 2026
 - Friday 12th February 2027
- 2/3 more INSET days to be confirmed

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Melina	For her excellent speaking in the Easter Bonnet Parade!
Year RT	Rose	For her fabulous speaking and singing in our Easter Bonnet Parade!
Year IF	Nikki	For being a wonderful role model and living out St Mary's mission in everything that she does.
Year 1L	Seb SV	For being such a wonderful member of our class and such a great role model.
Year 2E	Daisy	For being a hardworking member of our class who always tries her best. Well done Daisy.
Year 2G	Diako	For being a lovely member of 2G and working hard!
Year 3L	Ollie	For his super effort in all of his learning!
Year 3T	Edward	For improved focus, and confident contributions to class learning
Year 4J	Tess	For always trying her hardest in lessons and being a role model to others.
Year 4M	Paris	For showing respect and always making positive choices
Year 5F	Adel	For challenging herself, particularly in maths.
Year 5M	Abby	For being so enthusiastic with her classroom contributions
Year 6O	Rudi	Continued maximum effort both in his written work and verbal contributions! A real star!
Year 6R	Shiza	For always being an incredible role model for behaviour to others!

