



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.

June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Stewardship'

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



Dear parents and carers,

5th June 2026

This week has been a particularly special and enriching one for our school community. Our whole-school retreat with Rise Theatre offered pupils and staff a meaningful opportunity to pause, reflect, and grow together. We were privileged to receive a visit from Bishop David Evans, who spent time with the Year 6 children and shared words of encouragement ahead of their Confirmation. In addition, our celebration of World Ocean Day enabled pupils to deepen their understanding of environmental stewardship and the importance of protecting our oceans.

Early start for Years 4, 5 and 6 on 10.06.26 – sports day

It's important to let you know that on Wednesday 10.06.26, our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be travelling to Solihull for their Sports Day. Coaches will be loaded at 8:45am, so we will be opening the school gates **early at 8:15am** for all children. We kindly ask that all Y4, Y5 and Y6 pupils are in the building by 8:30am at the latest so that we can organise groups and ensure a prompt departure. If you have children in other year groups, you are very welcome to drop them off from 8:15am onwards on this day as well.

Parking/drop offs/taxis

Parking and drop-offs continue to cause significant safety concerns outside school, and we urgently need everyone's support to improve this. If you are using taxis for drop-off, please ensure they do not stop directly outside the school gates under any circumstances. This area must remain clear for the safety of all children and families. Taxis should drop off away from the school entrance, allowing pupils to walk safely the short distance to the gate.

Sacramental preparation

We have a very special weekend ahead as many of our children continue their sacramental journey. This evening, our Year 6 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop David as celebrant. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them as they take this important step in faith. We were blessed to have Bishop David visit school yesterday, and he was genuinely impressed by the children's thoughtful answers and strong understanding. Tomorrow, our Year 3 children will make their First Holy Communion – a beautiful moment in which they receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. It marks a deepening of their relationship with God and their place within the Church community. We keep all our children and families in our prayers as they celebrate these joyful milestones.

I wish you all a joyful weekend, Mrs Yorke



CATHOLIC LIFE



This week's Gospel

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

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

- **Know** that He is one God in three persons - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit;
- **Remember** that when we make the Sign of the Cross it is a declaration of our faith in the mystery of the Trinity
- **Experience** the great love He has for us through each person of the Holy Trinity



Year 6 Mass - 20.5.26
- 7th week of Easter

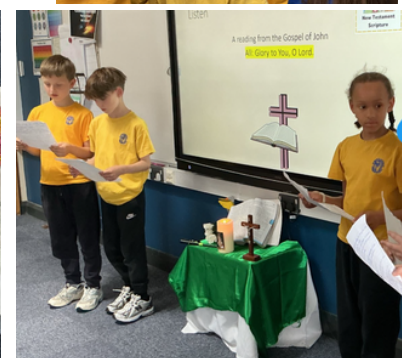
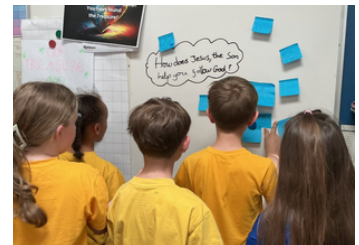
Year 5 led our Mass on the Holy Trinity and reflected beautifully on the wonder of one God in three persons.

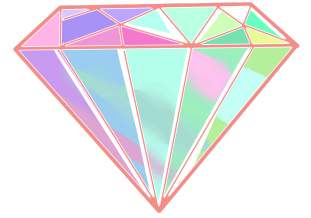
Our next Mass - Y3 Mass - Holy Communion Celebration

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 10th June 2026, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 children will be joining together as an entire cohort to celebrate making their Holy Communion. All children should wear their Communion outfits and/or smartest clothes for this special Mass, followed by a party in school afterwards. Parents are welcome to attend Mass.

Child-led prayer

Children prepared and led prayer focused on the Most Holy Trinity this week. Their dedication and reverence was wonderful, as was their commitment to sharing their faith so confidently with others.

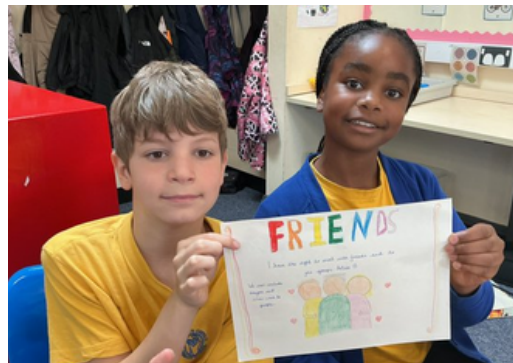




Whole school retreat

Rise Theatre - Treasure Within

On Thursday, the whole school enjoyed a wonderful retreat day led by Rise Theatre. The theme of the day was 'Treasure Within' and was an exploration of Catholic Social Teaching, specifically rights and responsibilities.



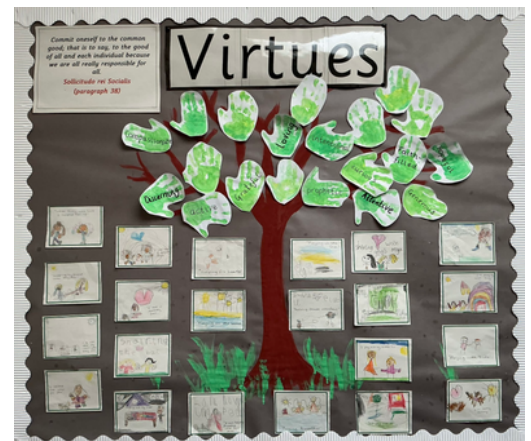
Bishop David's visit

Yesterday, Bishop David visited Year 6 ahead of their Confirmation on Friday evening. The children listened both attentively and respectfully, and asked some very insightful questions demonstrating how well prepared they are for this final step in their rite of initiation.



VIRTUES LEARNING

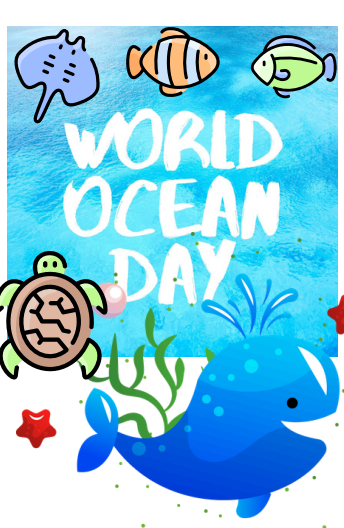
Our virtues this half-term are attentive and discerning. All our children are reflecting on how they can be attentive and make discerning choices in everything they do.



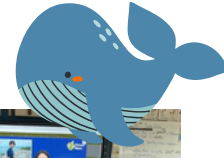
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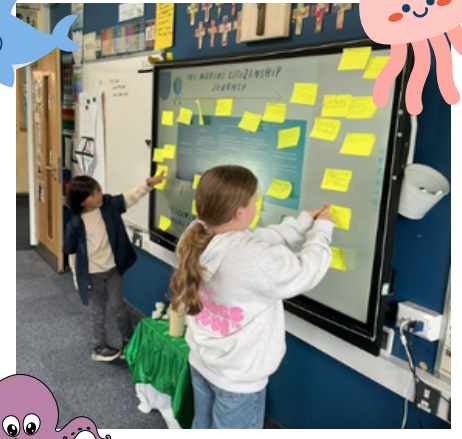
Lovely learning this week about Pentecost and the Holy Trinity.



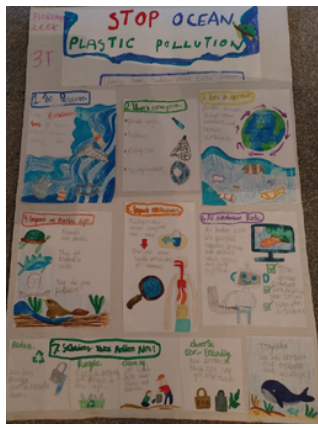
World Ocean Day



Today, our children proudly wore blue and donated £1 to support the Marine Conservation Society, helping to protect our seas, shores and wildlife. Throughout the day, children learnt more about the importance of our local water systems and the simple steps we can take to look after them.



Thank you as well to all the children who took part in our half-term World Oceans Day challenge. Linked to our summer theme of Stewardship and our work as a Rights Respecting School, many pupils visited local "blue" spaces, spotted wildlife, checked water quality and even collected litter to help care for these areas. Their photos show wonderful enthusiasm, care for God's creation and a growing understanding of children's rights to safety and clean water. We are incredibly proud of everyone who got involved.



Y3 Trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens



Year 3 had a wonderful day at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Tuesday. They learned so much about rainforests and even handled some rainforest animals!



Trip to Houses of Parliament



Our School Council and Prefects had a fantastic day at the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday. They learnt about how Parliament works and deepened their understanding of democracy and leadership. They also learnt about the Suffragettes and the courageous protests they carried out inside and outside Parliament in their fight for women's rights.



Week Beginning 8th June - Phonics Check for Year 1

fresh

wink

shuts

dack chob 

Year 1 children will be completing their phonics screening check next week. This check assesses children on how well they can decode certain words. Decoding means sounding out an unfamiliar written word. The children will be asked to decode a series of 40 different words. While most of these will be real words, there will also be some pseudo-words mixed in. These are sometimes known as alien words, and they will be accompanied by an image of an alien to help children identify them. We wish them the best of luck in their phonics check.

Y4, 5 and 6 Sports Day at Tudor Grange Stadium - 10.6.26

Years 4, 5 and 6 will be taking part in their sports day at Tudor Grange stadium on Wednesday 10th June. Coaches have been arranged to transport the children to/from the stadium - the children will leave school at 8:45am and return at approximately 1:30pm. In order to ensure that the coaches leave on time, **please can children come into school at an earlier time of 8:15am that day.** Younger siblings of children in Years 4, 5 and 6 and children in other year groups can ofcourse take advantage of the earlier opening time. Children attending sports day, need a packed lunch on Wednesday - a food choices letter has been sent out if your child is provided with a lunch by school. Please ensure your child's food choices are received by **Monday 8th June.**

*Forthcoming dates***Year 6 Alton Castle Residential - 15.06.26 to 17.06.26**

Year 6 will be going on their Alton Castle residential on Monday 15th June. Parents/Carers have been provided with the necessary information but it has been uploaded to the school website also. A polite reminder - **all payments must be made by 12.06.26.**

**Fathers' Day Inspire - 19.6.26 - 9:15-11:00 or 1:15-3:00**

To celebrate Father's Day, we are hosting a special play-based 'Parents and children Inspire workshop' in school. This workshop has been designed for dads in line with Fathers' day but of course mums or any family member can attend. The person attending must be an adult over 18 years of age. We have planned some fun activities, led by staff in school, where you can work with your children across the year groups.



BEST
DAD
EVER

Year 1 Trip to Warwick Castle - 24.06.26

Year 1 will be going to Warwick Castle on Wednesday 24th June. The trip will give children the opportunity to explore medieval life and deepen their understanding of castle history. All lunch choices should be submitted by **11.06.26.**





Donations needed for Summer Fayre

The PTA have asked for the following donations to sell at the School Summer Fayre on Friday 26th June 2026...

Non-school uniform day for children will be on Monday 22nd June 2026

Children wear their own clothes and donate: -



Reception and Year 1 -
Chocolates - bars or
small boxes of
chocolates



Year 5 -
cakes, cupcakes etc...



Year 2 -
Sweets - bagged
up, rolled or boxed



Year 3 -
sweets cellophane cone
and secured with tie



Year 4 - books



Year 6 -
teddies and
soft toys



Party in the Playground

Friday 26th June

3.30pm-6.30pm

**Inflatables
DJ
Rides**

**Raffle
Food
Refreshments**



**Tickets on sale NOW
Shocal 2606**

**Family Ticket £15
Individual Tickets £4**

WORLD SPORTS

SUMMER FETE

St Mary's Parish Centre
Vivian Road, Harborne

SUNDAY 5 JULY
12.00 – 3.00pm

Join us for a day of fun!
Bring your friends and family.
Come in sportswear, prizes to be won!

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| ENTERTAINMENT | REFRESHMENTS | RAFFLE | STALLS |
|-------------------|------------------|------------|------------|

FREE ENTRY

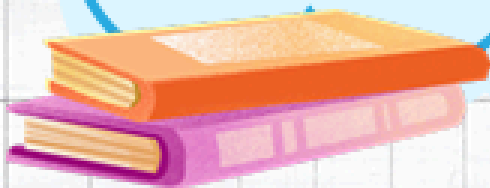
Reception 2027

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

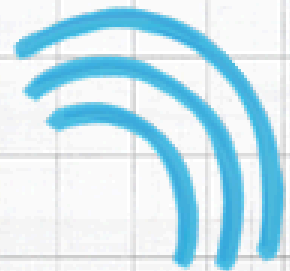
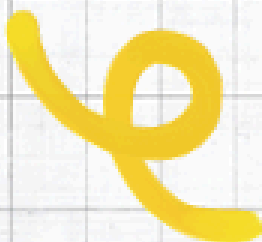
AND

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)





Communication and Autism Team

Parent Carer Workshop - Primary to Secondary School Transitions

Summer Term 2026

We would like to invite you to a CAT Parent carer workshop for parent carers who would like to increase their understanding of transitions and ways to support their child.

To support parent carers of children with a diagnosis of autism, or who are on the Neurodevelopmental Pathway for autism assessment.

All Birmingham parent carers are welcome

Date: Tuesday 9th June 6pm-7.30pm

Book via the following link:

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/product/cat-parent-carer-workshop-primary-to-secondary-school-transitions-via-teams-tuesday-9th-june-2026/>

Sessions will take place via Microsoft Teams - a link be sent to you prior to the session.

We look forward to seeing you there Viv Walters and Jo Clifford



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.

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 01/06/26-05/06/26

| Class | YRB | YRT | Y1L | Y1F | Y2E | Y2G | Y3L | Y3T | Y4J | Y4M | Y5M | Y5F | Y6R | Y6O |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| % | 99 | 97 | 98 | 96 | 97 | 91 | 94 | 98 | 96 | 98 | 96 | 99 | 99 | 97 |
| Lates | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Whole School Attendance so far this year | | | | | | 96.8% | | School Target | | | | 97% | | |

Well done RB,5F and 6R! - Our attendance champions!

Dates for next half term

Summer theme -

Summer 2

1st June 2026 - all day

WB 08.06.26

WB 08.06.26

10th June 2026 - 9:15am

10th June 2026 - am

15th to 17th June 2026

17th June 2026 - 9:15am

19th June 2026 - 9:15 or 1:15

22nd June 2026 - all day

24th June 2026 - 9:30am

26th June 2026 - 3:30pm

1st July 2026 - all day

2nd July 2026 - pm

3rd July 2026 - pm

8th July 2026 - 9:15am

9th July 2026 - 2pm

10th July 2026 - 2pm

14th July 2026 - 9am

14th July 2026 - all day

15th July 2026 - 9:30am

16th July 2026

17th July 2026

20th July 2026

21st July 2026

Stewardship

Attentive and Discerning

Children return to school at normal time

Year 4 Multiplication check window - week 2 of 3

Phonics check for Year 1 this week

Year 3 Mass in Church and Holy Communion celebration - parents welcome

Years 4, 5, 6 Sports Day at Tudor Grange - wear house colours - parents welcome

Year 6 Residential at Alton Castle

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

Fathers' Day Inspire for Reception to Year 6

Non-school uniform day - bring in items to support school Party in the Playground

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

PTA event - Party in the Playground (ticketed event)

Transition Day (inc. new Reception cohort) - children meet their new teacher

Reception Sports Day - wear house colours

Years 1, 2 and 3 Sports Day - wear house colours

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

Performance of Year 6 production to parents

Performance of Year 6 production to parents

Year 2 Prayer Service for parents

St Alphonsa House Feast Day - wear own clothes

Year 6 Leavers Mass (Whole School) - parents welcome

Break up for Summer holidays

Early finish time

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Year 6 shirt signing on final day in school and 2:00pm guard of honour

INSET Days (CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL)

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 - Wednesday 21st 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 Cillian For being a positive role model and doing excellent handwriting during drift in.
- Year RT Emily For her super contributions to class discussions!
- Year 1F Armani For his contribution during retreat day and working hard with his phonics
- Year 1L Amaka For a wonderful first week at St Mary's
- Year 2E Amanda For super sentence writing this week. Well done Amanda!
- Year 2G Nathan For being a wonderful member of 2G!
- Year 3L Ollie For linking the retreat day to write rights respecting articles
- Year 3T Liam Had a lovely day at the Botanical Gardens
- Year 4J Harper For her wonderful understanding of how to carry out our rights and responsibilities in our everyday lives
- Year 4M Fabio For being a positive and cheerful member of Y4
- Year 5F Chidalu For being a calm and patient member of 5F
- Year 5M William For showing such enthusiasm in his learning and being so helpful! Keep it up!
- Year 6O Ted Very reverent and prayerful during the retreat and his preparation for the session with Bishop David
- Year 6R Sam For trying incredibly hard with his handwriting and presentation in his Exciting Writing.

