



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: Miss L. J. Price M.Ed.

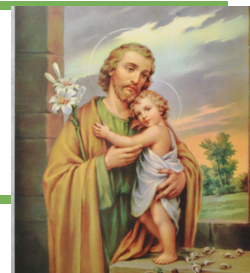


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

March is dedicated to St. Joseph

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the poor and vulnerable'

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



18th March 2022

Dear parents and carers,

The nation has been celebrating British Science Week with a focus on exploring the 'environmental impact of city growth'. Our Science lessons this week have been dedicated to this theme and the children have enjoyed learning about famous Scientists and completing Science challenges and investigations. With the weather improving, we are looking at ways to make our lunchtimes more exciting and active. I am sure that the children have told you all about our new sports coach and the playground equipment being used. We are looking to further expand on this and to buy more equipment for the children to use. When we return to school, on Monday 21st March, children (and staff) are able to come in to school wearing brightly coloured socks, or theme socks, or odd socks - all to raise awareness about Down Syndrome. I hope you have a lovely weekend and enjoy the warm weather.

Miss Price

Pilgrimage to the Cross

Luke 9: 28-36

"As He prayed, the aspect of His face was changed, and His clothing became brilliant as lightning."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Being a Christian means allowing ourselves to be changed by the 'Light of the World' – Jesus.
- Jesus' light can shine through our words and actions.
- When we allow His light to shine through us, we become more like Him.

Dear Jesus,

You are the Light of the World.

You guide us on our way.

Help us to reach out to help other people.

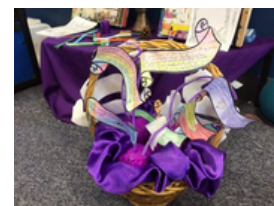
Help us to shine with your light of love.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 5 Mass - 2nd Week of Lent

On Wednesday, Y5 children, supported by staff and parents, led us in our second Mass in Lent.



Y3 Mass in Church - 23.3.22 at 9:15am - 3rd Week of Lent

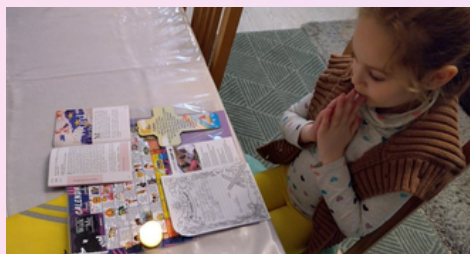
Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 23rd March, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend.

Other year groups will begin to attend Mass from next week.

(If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



Lent prayer... at home



British Science Week: Science Learning at home

We posted a STEM challenge each day this week for children to try at home...

Well done those of you who had a go...

Day 1: - Strong bridge

Build the strongest bridge you can using only 1 sheet of A4 paper. It must be able to hold a food can for 90 seconds!



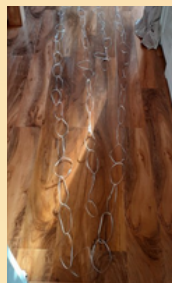
Day 2: - Shadow Puppets

Create your own shadow puppets and put on a show



Day 3 STEM challenge: Paper Chains

What is the longest paper chain you can make using just 1 sheet of A4 paper? Can you measure its length?



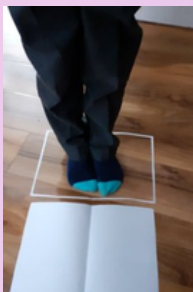
Day 4 STEM Challenge: Tower

Create a tower that is at least 50cm tall using only paper and tape.



Day 5 STEM Challenge: Step through it!

Make a hole in a piece of A4 paper big enough to step through



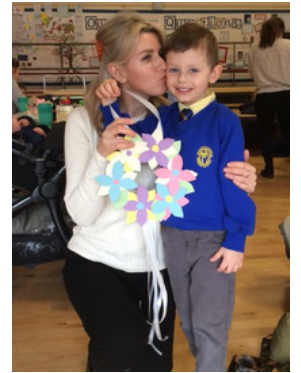
Mothers' Inspire!



"It was all brilliant and I enjoyed making the wreath with my son."

Reception Class

"Love these events please do more. Thank you for the enjoyable experience"



"There is a nice atmosphere in school. My child is happy with her classmates"

Year One



"How well behaved the children are here and how wonderful the teachers and teaching assistants are!"

Year Three



"It was lovely to have 1 to 1 time with my child, undertaking activities and networking with other parents"



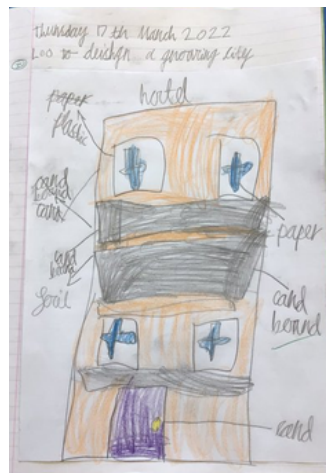
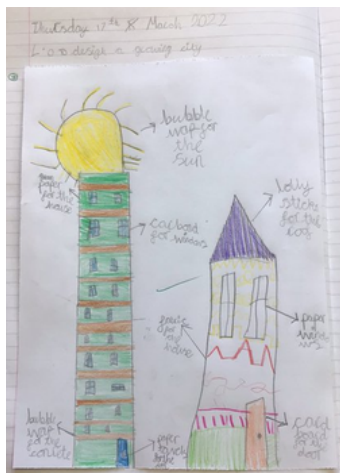
Lunchtime Rota

We are trialling a new rota at lunch time, which has allowed for more opportunities for games to take place. This has proven to be a huge hit with the children. Children now have the opportunity to be even more active. They can play sports with a qualified coach on the astro-turf, play their own games (or the ones led by the playground leaders), use the gym equipment or exercise on the activity trail. We also have a range of other lunchtime clubs such as: colouring club, computer club and choir... with more hopefully to follow...



Reception news: -

Reception have been very busy recycling this week and making some jellyfish for our classrooms



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 designed their own city. They had to think about what building they would like to make and what materials they would use.

Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been testing the absorbency of materials

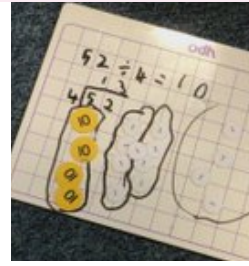




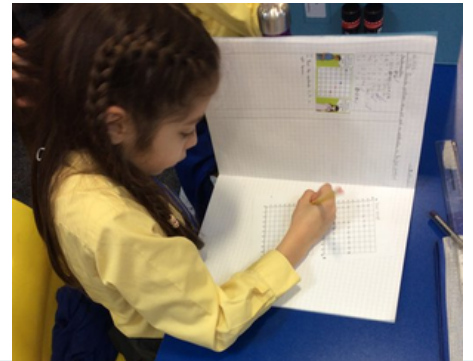
Year 3 news: -
Year 3 love reading and they have a new class text: The Abominables



Tricky problems in Maths too



Year 4 news: -
Year 4 used their co-ordinate knowledge to play battleships



Year 5 news: -
Year 5 have been enjoying their PE lessons with Mr. Markall



Year 6 news: -
Year 6 have been keeping fit and running the daily mile





Wear bright coloured socks on 21st March...

The #LotsOfSocks campaign exists to raise awareness about Down syndrome.

#LotsOfSocks help us to get people talking on World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), celebrated each year on 21 March.

All you need to do is choose some socks that are going to get noticed - they might be mismatched socks or your craziest and most colourful socks, whatever takes your fancy!

If someone asks you about your socks you can tell them, "I'm wearing them to raise awareness of Down syndrome".

Next week we begin our class Inspires dedicated to Mothers

Next week, we will continue our sessions dedicated to a mother figure in our lives. Mums (nans / aunties / or even dads) are invited to come in and spend a session with their child in school. Individual letters have been sent out and times have been advertised on this newsletter. We understand not all mums can make it, but your child will still be part of the workshop and will enjoy making something that they can bring home to you.



Relationships and Sex Education Workshop

Next week, Miss Horton will be leading workshops in school to explain what is covered in our RSE curriculum. The workshops are running: -

Monday 21st March 3:00-3:45 for Y5/Y6 parents

Wednesday 23rd March 3:00-3:45 for Y3/Y4 parents

Thursday 9:00 - 10:00 for YR/Y1/Y2 parents

If attending a workshop, which continues after the children are normally dismissed, we will keep your children in school, in the Y3 classroom, and will bring them to you at 3:45.

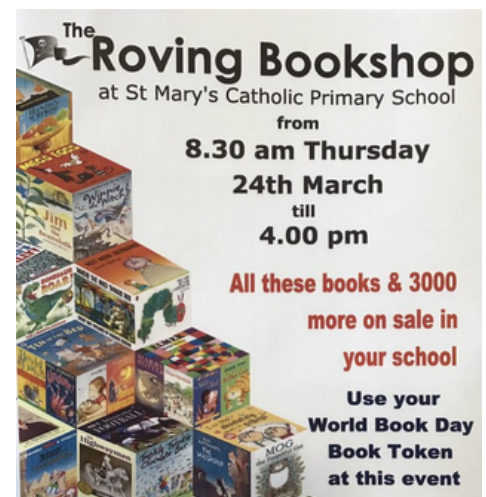


Roving book shop – Thursday 24th March 2022

Our next book fair is on Thursday 24th March. Children will be able to purchase books during the school day, when visiting with their class, or parents can attend after collecting their child.

The bookshop will be in the hall till 4:00pm.

Children can use their World Book Day token at this event.





MAKING YOUR OWN -Promise Box-

Reception are taking part in CAFOD's 'Walk Against Hunger' during Lent. The children are challenged to walk 40,000 steps (as 40,000 km is the distance around the world) to fight hunger in solidarity with the 200 million children whose lives are at risk because of malnutrition. This is the equivalent of walking 32km, which is a lot for little legs! You can sponsor them online...

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-harborne-reception>

Year 1 have made Lenten promises e.g. helping to do the washing up, making their beds, tidying toys etc. The children will make their own charity boxes for their family members to sponsor them with a coin every time that they complete their promise.

Year 2 have made a promise for Lent as a year group to give up their time to those in need. As part of this, they will be visiting a residential home on Vivian Road. The children will take their favourite story books to read with the residents.



On Friday 8th April, Year 3 will be holding a 'swap shop' in the hall after school where parents can find clothes, shoes and uniforms that are looking for a new home. We would love it if children (from any year group) can bring in any 'good-quality' clothes, shoes and uniform that they no longer wear or have grown out of so it can have a new home! We'll have donation buckets too for anybody who would like to give a donation for our charities.



During Lent, Year 4 will be asking the children to help to collect food for St Chad's Sanctuary, SIFA Fireside and the Trussell Trust. These charities urgently require donations as the demand for food banks has sadly increased considerably. We are collecting packets of food each week to send to our local foodbanks. Any donations welcome.



As part of their work to build God's Kingdom on Earth, the children in Year 5 have learnt about the world water crisis and have explored the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' The children have learnt that 1 in 10 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water - something that we often take for granted. The children are passionate about tackling this injustice and have been inspired to complete a sponsored bucket walk around the playground as part of the school's Lenten charity work - sponsorship forms have been sent out.



Year 6 are becoming People of Change by trying to reduce food wastage in school. Today, they launched their campaign to the rest of the school: 'Eat for your need, not for your greed'. We are hoping that by reducing food waste, only taking what we will eat and not taking food for granted, we will reduce what is cooked and then wasted in school. Any money saved will go towards our charities.



The Spiritual Council have pledged to organise a litter picking walk on the school grounds and within the local community - we will adopt a road each Friday and go out with Mrs Davis and Miss Price and our litter pickers to clean up any litter.

100 *live simply* award ideas

The *live simply* award is open to any Catholic community – including parishes, schools and chaplaincies – that wants to respond to Pope Francis' call to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor communities.

At St. Mary's, we have applied for the CAFOD live simply award – help us by making changes in your life to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity – tag us in to any twitter posts @StMaryB17

Our challenge this week is: – No. 95 Have weekly meat-free days



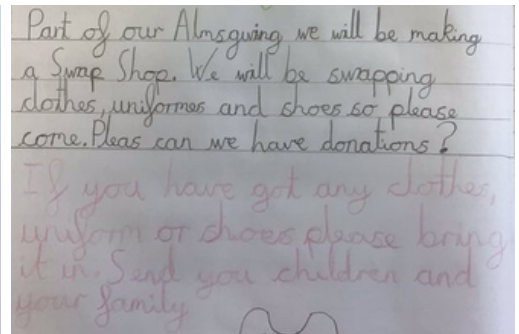
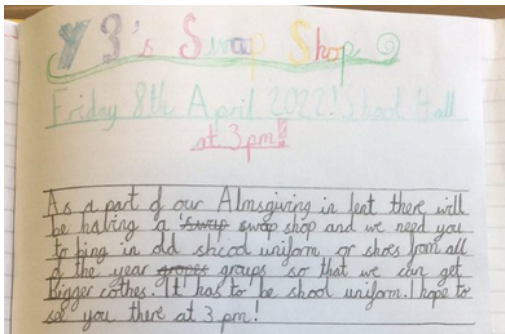
Other News

St. Mary's Charity Work for Lent...

Reception class have raised over £500 walking against hunger...



Year 3 are organising and advertising a 'swap shop' so that we are being sustainable

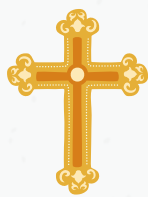


2F Class Assembly

2F were wonderful in their class assembly about prayer. They reminded us that we can sing, dance and even use our fingers to help us to pray to God and praise Him.



St Mary's Church will retain all its Covid precautions for the foreseeable future, despite widespread relaxations.



Children's Liturgy Mass

St Mary's Children's Liturgy/Church is on for all the Sundays of Lent: pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children can go straight into the Parish Centre at 9.30am with a parent - prior to joining the rest of the family and the congregation at about 9.45.

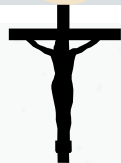
Children of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, should remain in Church for the whole of the Mass. This is especially important for Years 3 and 6, as the part of their Sacramental preparation.



Mass during Lent

There will be an 8:30 weekday Mass, which lasts for 25 minutes: drop in daily after drop off, for all or part of the Mass.

Or simply light a candle, say a prayer and leave.



Wednesday 7:00pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross

Join us for Mass (half-hour) and 7:30 Stations of the Cross (half-hour), each Wednesday.



Friday Mass

There is a Mass every Friday at 7:00pm.



St. Mary's Church is open 8:00am – 4:00pm every day

The Church is open for private prayer, candles at Shrines and personal Stations of the Cross.

Reminders

Standard Assessment Tests (SAT's)

Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 9th May - Thursday 12th May**
- Year 2 SATs take place during the month of **May**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check **from 6th June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **from 6th June (3 week period)**



Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates. Further details will be given out nearer the time.

School dinners

From 1st April 2022 - the cost of school dinners will increase to **£2.50.**



Parents' Consultations

We look forward to welcoming you to our Parent Consultation Evenings WB 28.3.22

Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days -
Tuesday 29th March 2022 and Thursday 31st March 2022.

Our consultations ran really well in October, so we will continue to host them in the school hall. After consultation with the teacher, your child's teacher will give you your child's books to look at. You will then have time to look at the books in the Y3 classrooms. There will be a parent questionnaire to complete too.

After looking at your child's books, please leave them with the TA in the classroom and you can either go to your next appointment, or leave the school via the playground and main gate.

The appointment with the class teacher will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please do not arrive any earlier than 5 minutes before your first appointment to help us keep numbers in the hall to a minimum and to allow for a timely well-organised evening.

Your children (those attending the school) will not be allowed to attend the appointment in the hall, if they are with you, we can look after them in one of our classrooms. If you need an interpreter, this should not be your child. It would be preferable if pre-school children, babies and older children do not attend the appointment so that you are able to focus on the consultation. We are unable to look after pre-school children in our classrooms.

We ask that you continue to use hand sanitiser on entry in to our building and wear a mask if you are vulnerable or unvaccinated. If you are feeling unwell, or suspect that you may have COVID, please do not attend your appointment and instead phone school to book an appointment at a different time.

This is an Operation Encompass School

KEEPING SAFE

YUBO is a location-based social networking app previously known as 'Yellow'. It has been dubbed 'Tinder for teens' due to its similarities with the adult dating app, in which users swipe to find matches. Yubo allows users to livestream themselves to anyone watching, and rate other users.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHO IS USING YUBO?
Although its official guidelines suggest the app is for people aged 18+, those aged between 13 and 17 can create a profile with parental permission. Furthermore, the app does not verify ages or identities upon sign-ups, leading to fears that it could be exploited by those seeking to target children. Adults can set up fake profiles for sexual reasons, while children younger than 13, with access to the internet, could pretend to be older than they are.

LIVE-STREAM FOOTAGE
Yubo states that it uses a combination of technical tools and human moderators to check the content created by Yubos, but since users can comment on footage in real-time this could mean that children could be exposed to derogatory or unpleasant language. Multiple reports indicate that teens are being pressured into undressing live on camera for strangers, sending nude photos, and are even being into face-to-face meetings on Yubo, any users can take screenshots or copies of live streams, after they end and share them with others.

SNAPCHAT
While the Yubo app doesn't directly link to Snapchat anymore, users still need to share their Snapchat usernames on their profiles, making them very easy to add on Snapchat without ever speaking to the individual. On Snapchat, if your child's location feature is switched on, there is a high chance that strangers can find your child's exact location.

BULLYING & MENTAL HEALTH
The way Yubo works is that users 'swipe' to accept or decline to talk to someone. Whether users accept or decline is all based on their profile picture, meaning there is the potential that children could be left with low self-esteem if declined. Receiving comments about their appearance can have a negative impact on a child's emotional wellbeing, leaving them feeling less confident about how they look or how interesting they are. Bullying includes actions such as making threats or spreading rumours about people. As users have the ability to screenshot copies of live streams and private messages etc., they can use these screenshots as forms of blackmail, making the person feel victimised, embarrassed and unsafe.

Top Tips for Parents

HAVE A CHAT
Start a conversation with your teenager so that they know how to stay safe online. Don't be embarrassed to talk about inappropriate online content with your children and look out for reactions or reserved behaviour when it comes to their internet devices.

DISCUSS YUBO GUIDELINES
Take time to go through Yubo's Community Guidelines, which all users must agree to before they sign up to the app. Anyone who does not follow the guidelines may have their content removed or account suspended. Guidelines include advice on not posting any fake pictures or pretending to be someone else.

YUBO GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS
Yubo offers a quite handy 'Parents guide' page, free to use, to reassure parents about their child's usage. It explains how the app works, how children can stay safe and outlines its 'four-step approach to safety', including sign-up, Profile Settings, Community Guidelines, Moderation and Reporting.

REMOVE LOCATION FEATURE
In their 'Profile' settings, children can hide their GPS and choose to connect with people who are only located within a certain radius of their location.

PROOF OF AGE
Yubo recently updated its verify settings so that users who attempt to change their date of birth after signing up now have to send proof of ID to the app in order to verify the change.

ENCOURAGE RESPECT
Remind your teenager to always consider anything they are about to share online and to think about whether they are getting something they may regret at a later date. Encourage your child to think about the language they use online and to think carefully before making a comment or content posted by someone else.

AVOIDING UNEXPECTED IMAGES
Yubo suggests that teenagers ask the person they are talking with to share a picture of themselves with a spoon on their head to prove they are really who they say they are as their pictures. Another tip is to avoid people with only one photo as these are often 'catfish' - someone who pretends to be somebody else by creating false identities.

AVOIDING UNEXPECTED IMAGES
Report any suspicious activity. This can happen by clicking on the 'flag' button within the app or by visiting Yubo's 'help' centre at <https://help.yubo.com>. This includes pornographic, sexually explicit content, bullying, grooming and fake accounts.

PREPARE FOR 'GOING LIVE'
While users can 'Go Live' during a chat only friends can choose to live stream 'Annoce' on Yubo. To help your child avoid sharing too much, help them to consider whether they really want the world seeing what they are doing. If they are going to watch streams they should also know how to report anything that makes them feel unsafe.

NOS National Online Safety
A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com
Email us at help@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 568 6061

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

Community News

SUPPORT IN THE LOCAL AREA...

Birmingham Children's Partnership

From Birmingham with love – winter 2020

We've all been through a tough time with Covid-19 and repeated lockdowns. For many families it can get harder over Winter, which is why we're here to help. Here are some of our partners' most used services and support, which might make life a little bit easier...



Help for all families



1. Online parenting course. We've pre-paid for every parent in Birmingham to access a [parenting course](#). Just enter the access code "COMMUNITY" at the top of the page to claim. There are courses for parents, carers and grandparents of children from bump to 19. Learn about how your child develops and get tips to manage their behaviour.



2. Mental health support. In these difficult times we have to look after our mental health. For young people aged 11-25 there are forums, guides and counselling available completely free at [Kooth](#). If your child 0-25 needs support, get in touch with [Pause](#) by calling 0207 841 4470 or [email](#). Adults can get support from [MIND](#) by calling 0121 262 3555. Or for urgent help call [Forward Thinking Birmingham](#) on 0300 300 0099. And remember to stay [active](#).



3. Financial help. If you've lost your job or are struggling for food or rent, there are services that can help. [Local welfare provision](#) can make a big difference if you are in a crisis and need food, fuel or basic white goods. [Discretionary Housing Payments](#) may be able to help with rent. And there are [food banks](#) across Birmingham that are here to help.



4. Domestic abuse. For women and children affected by domestic abuse please see [guidance](#) or confidentially contact [Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid](#). For Men, please contact [Respect](#). Also [Ask for ANI](#) and the [Safe Spaces](#) scheme where victims can access help through pharmacies.



5. Problems with drugs or alcohol. A new, discrete app called Staying Free is available on Android or Apple. Use the code "birmingham11" for pre-paid access. To speak to someone call [Change Grow Live](#).



6. Bereavement support. It's a terrible time to lose a loved one — you can get help by calling 0121 687 8010 or from [Cruse](#).



7. Early help for families. If anyone in your family needs more help, from public services or community groups, then please contact our [voluntary sector local leads](#). We have ten areas which can connect you to support across the city.

If you are worried about a child, please call Birmingham's Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121 303 1888. In an emergency, including child abuse, contact the Police on 999. You can also [chat](#) to the Police.

If you require any support from school please speak to a member of our pastoral team



Dates for next term

21st March 2022 - all day -	Wear brightly coloured socks to school for Down Syndrome Awareness
21st March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -	Y5F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)
21st March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -	Y5L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)
21st March 2022 - 3:00pm-3:45pm	RSE talk for Y5 and Y6 parents
22nd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -	Y2F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)
22nd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -	Y2L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)
23rd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -	Y4F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)
23rd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -	Y4L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)
23rd March 2022 - 3:00pm-3:45pm	RSE talk for Y3 and Y4 parents
24th March 2022 - 9:00am-10:00am	RSE talk for YR, Y1 and Y2 parents
25th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -	Y6F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)
25th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -	Y6L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)
28th March 2022 - all day -	INSET DAY - School closed to children
29th March 2022 - after school -	Parent consultations
31st March 2022 - all day -	Retreat day for children in school
31st March 2022 - after school -	Parent consultations
1st April - 2pm -	Year 3 swap shop for their Lenten charity work
5th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -	EYFS parents work with their children in class
6th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -	EYFS parents work with their children in class
7th April - 8:45am - 10:00am -	EYFS parents work with their children in class
8th April 2022 - 9:15am -	Y2L Class Assembly in school (2L parents welcome)

Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Starts: Monday 28 th February	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2 nd May	Starts: Monday 6 th June
Monday 28th March - INSET - Children NOT in School	Tuesday 3 rd May – Children return to school	Tuesday 5th July - INSET - Children NOT in School
Ends: Thursday 14 th April 2022	Thursday 5th May - Closed for Local Election Day	Ends: Thursday 21 st July 2022
	Ends: Friday 27 th May	Friday 22nd July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee
Easter Holiday: Monday 18 th April to Friday 29 th April 2022	Half-Term: Monday 30 th May to Friday 3 rd June 2022	Summer Holidays: Start Monday 25 th July 2022

Attendance and Punctuality: -

Good attendance, after the disruptions of the last two years, continues to be a school and government priority. During Parent consultations, staff will be giving out your child's attendance this term and discussing any concerns. 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 Miss Price or Mrs. Davis.

Attendance

Week 7th March – 11th March

Class	YRF	YRL	Y1F	Y1L	Y2F	Y2L	Y3F	Y3L	Y4F	Y4L	Y5F	Y5L	Y6F	Y6L
%	96.3%	95.7%	98%	98.3%	92.7%	100%	93%	100%	97.7%	96.1%	97%	96.3%	97.3%	96.6%
Lates:	7	4	9	5	4	2	3	4	6	4	8	1	0	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.2%	School Target					97%		

Well done Y2L and Y3L: - our Attendance Champions!



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

Year RL	Rina	<i>trying really hard with her blending this week</i>
Year RF	Wayne	<i>great problem solving ideas when making his recycled jellyfish</i>
Year 1L	Dee	<i>always being a kind and caring friend</i>
Year 1F	Alicia	<i>trying really hard in her work and always participating in class discussion</i>
Year 2L	Nikola	<i>fantastic home learning during Science Week</i>
Year 2F	Emanuel	<i>trying really hard with his writing all week</i>
Year 3L	Benjamin	<i>positive attitude towards learning and great contributions to class discussions</i>
Year 3F	Lauren-Elise	<i>writing a brilliant fable in English this week</i>
Year 4L	Sebastian	<i>excellent contributions in class discussions</i>
Year 4F	Audrey	<i>constantly striving for excellence worthy of her God-given gifts</i>
Year 5L	Ayomide	<i>being such a supportive friend and encouraging others to do their best in PE</i>
Year 5F	Eva	<i>for creating powerful imagery in her writing when describing a storm</i>
Year 6L	Bori	<i>working exceptionally hard in Maths</i>
Year 6F	Erin	<i>having such enthusiasm in her learning</i>

