



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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,

19th June 2026

Year 6 residential to Alton Castle

It has been another exciting and joy-filled week in school, especially for our Year 6 pupils. They have just returned from their residential at Alton Castle, a unique Catholic retreat set within castle ruins dating back to 1176 and the more modern 1847 Pugin constructed castle. Throughout their stay, the children embraced opportunities for teamwork, challenge, and spiritual reflection. They learnt survival skills, trekked through the beautiful Staffordshire landscape, and enjoyed archery and biking, all while grounding their days in prayer and Mass. It was a truly special experience that strengthened both their faith and their friendships.

British Science Week

Back in school, we have been celebrating British Science Week, and the whole building has been buzzing with curiosity. Children across all year groups have thrown themselves into a wide range of scientific enquiry and hands-on investigations, exploring forces, materials, living things, and the world around them. A particular highlight was yesterday's exciting live lesson.

Fathers' Day Inspire

Today, we were delighted to welcome dads, father-figures, mums, and other family members into school for our Fathers' Day INSPIRE workshop. The day was filled with meaningful moments as families took part in shared activities both outdoors and in classrooms. The feedback has been wonderful, and it is clear how much the children valued this special time with you.

Summer Fair 'Party in the Playground' and non-school uniform day

Looking ahead, on Monday we will be holding a non-school uniform day in exchange for items that can be sold at our Summer Fair on Friday. Your donations make a real difference, and we are very grateful for your generosity. Our annual Summer Fair: 'Party in the Playground', is always a highlight of the school year, with food, entertainment, and a wide range of activities for the children to enjoy. It creates a fantastic community atmosphere and is one of the main PTA fundraisers of the year. The funds raised provide so many valuable enrichment opportunities that all our children benefit from throughout the year.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community. Enjoy the Fathers' Day celebrations this weekend and the lovely weather.

Mrs Yorke

CATHOLIC LIFE

This week's Gospel

Matthew 9:37-38

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.”

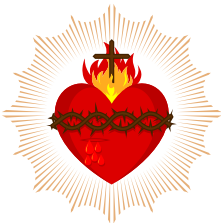
Reflecting on this week's reading, we learn: –

- Know that we have a mission to share God's love.
- Follow Jesus' example in all we say and do.
- Be inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit working in our lives.



This week's Mass – Y1 Mass – The Sacred Heart of Jesus

This week, Year 1 led a beautiful votive Mass for the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Our next Mass – Whole School Mass – Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Our next Mass in Church will be a whole school Mass on Wednesday 24th June 2026, starting promptly at 9:30am.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend.





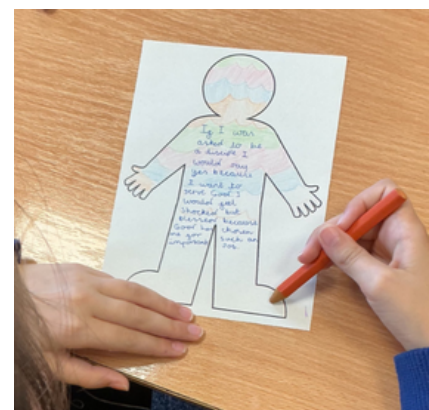
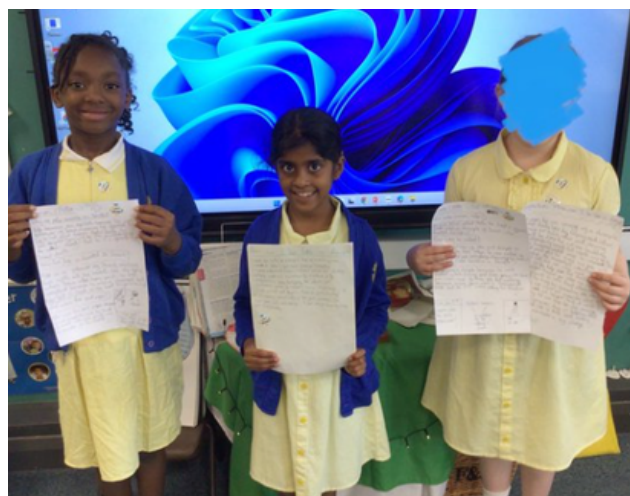
CATHOLIC LIFE



Reception practised the Hail Mary and enjoyed learning about the importance and meaning of this special prayer.



Year 3 spent time listening attentively to this week's Mark 10 Mission



This week's child led prayer in Year 5 focused on the disciples of Jesus.

A, V and G undertook some independent RE learning during their own RE lunchtime club! Well done, girls!

Jesus

BAGS OF HOPE



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM



As part of a diocesan initiative, we are supporting the Bag of Hope appeal, which asks each school to prepare a backpack filled with essential items to support someone in need for a week. These bags will be blessed by His Grace at the Leadership Conference on Friday 26 June 2026 before being distributed across the diocese as a sign of hope, care, and compassion.

Our school has chosen to prepare a bag for those experiencing homelessness, and we would be extremely grateful for your help in filling it. If you are able to donate, we are collecting the following items:



HOMELESSNESS

- Socks
- Hat
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Water
- Tissues
- Wipes
- Gloves
- Cereal Bar
- Bar of Soap

Even one item from the list will make a meaningful difference.

Together, we can create a Bag of Hope that reflects the compassion and generosity of our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and support.

Please send any items in to school by

Wednesday 24th June 2026



Y6 RESIDENTIAL - ALTON CASTLE

Year 6 had a fantastic time on their residential at Alton Castle. Through exciting outdoor activities they explored the theme of discipleship and what it means to follow Jesus – their team work, resilience and perseverance was incredible. The children also helped to lead a beautiful Mass in the Church within the grounds of Alton Castle, which was very special. Thank you to the parents for entrusting your children to our care and to staff who supported the residential both at Alton Castle and at school.



Father's Day Inspire Workshops

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Father's Day Inspire Workshops this week - we hope you enjoyed spending time with your child/ren and sampling a range of different activities! It was great to see everyone together and we are thrilled with the wonderful feedback we received from the day! Thank you to the staff too.



"Great to spend this time in my son's school environment and see him so happy with his friends!"



"Congratulations to Mrs Yorke and the entire team for a job well done!"



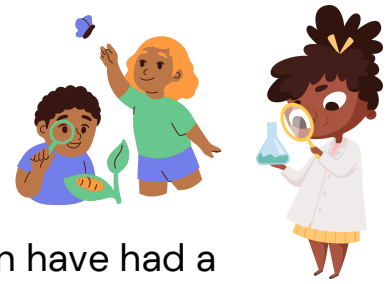
"Very happy and positive, teachers did a really good job organising!"





SCIENCE WEEK

"tiny scientists, big curiosity"



This week has been Science Week at school. The children have had a great week of practical Science learning including an engaging live Science lesson. Thank you to Bishop Challoner Catholic College for their help in organising the week.

Year 2 got hands-on for Science Week, mixing, squishing and experimenting their way to the perfect play dough.



Year 3 made playdough and used the playdough to create flowers for their plants unit!



Year 4 worked together to create a bionic hand. They discussed how it works and how it can be helpful.



Year 5 had an egg-citing time afternoon making and testing egg parachutes for Science Week



Year 6 loved watching the Science Week Show!



Some amazing home learning from Year 5



ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL



Congratulations to I who achieved 3rd in the IDTA Nationwide Medalist of the Year Street Dance Finals in Blackpool earlier this year. I is trained outside of school by our very own Dance Teacher, Mrs P (Michelle Pendleton).

Congratulations to F who achieved 2nd in floor, 2nd in beam, 3rd in vault and 4th overall in gymnastics recently at The Wizards Cup.



Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.

Leo Buscaglia

Non-school uniform day - 22.6.26 Children wear their own clothes and donate: -

St Mary's RC School
PTA
Parent-Teacher Association
Charity No. 1180380



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 -
surprise bags



Year 1 Trip to Warwick Castle - 24.6.25

Year 1 will be visiting Warwick Castle on Wednesday. Children will be leaving and returning within the school day. Thank you to parents for returning the packed lunch preference information. Please follow 'X' for any updates during the trip.

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**



Non-school uniform day for donations for Parish Fair – 29.6.26

There will be a non-uniform day for all children on Monday 29th June in exchange for a donation of bottles for the Parish Fair – the PTA will be waiting outside of school on this day to collect your donations of bottles... this can be bottles of pop or alcohol. We thank you for your generosity.

WORLD SPORTS

SUMMER FETE

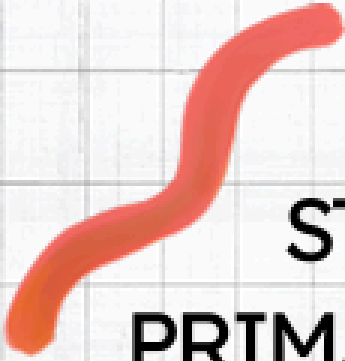
St Mary's Parish Centre
Vivian Road, Harborne

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



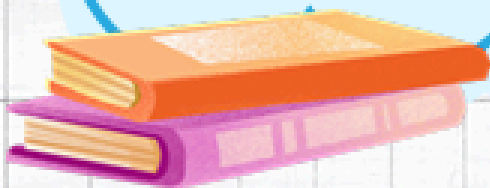
Reception 2027

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

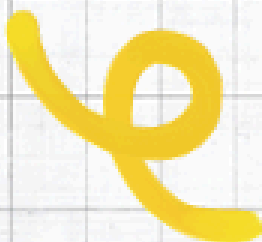
AND

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)



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 15/06/26-19/06/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96	95	98	94	93	95	95	96	97	94	93	99	96	97
Lates	2	1	3	0	2	7	4	0	2	5	0	0	1	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.8%			School Target				97%	

Well done 5F: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for next half term

Summer theme -

Summer 2

22nd June 2026 - all day

24th June 2026 - all day

24th June 2026 - 9:30am

26th June 2026 - 3:30pm

29th June 2026 - all day

1st July 2026 - all day

2nd July 2026 - 2pm

3rd July 2026 - 1:45pm

5th July 2026 - 12:00-3:00pm

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

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

Year 1 trip to Warwick Castle

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

PTA event - Party in the Playground (ticketed event)

Non-school uniform day - bring in 'bottles' for the Parish Fair

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

St. Mary's Parish Fair

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 - KSI 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 Mary For her excellent blending during guided reading!
- Year RT Khalifa For always showing excellent listening and being a fantastic role-model for other children!
- Year 1F Ethan For building his resilience and striving for excellence in all areas
- Year 1L Micaiah For working so hard in phonics and English.
- Year 2E Evan For being a maths superstar!
- Year 2G Asher For being a wonderful member of 2G!
- Year 3L Emerson For working so hard in Art- well done Emerson!
- Year 3T Elliott For trying his best and striving for excellence!
- Year 4J Rina For her effort in history on the daily life of the Mayans, well done!
- Year 4M Max For making good choices this week!
- Year 5F Alvin For his enthusiasm and cheering on of others during sports Day
- Year 5M Bobby For all his efforts, during Sports Day!!
- Year 6O Peter and Alfie For being incredible role models for resilience, courage and behaviour at Alton Castle!
- Year 6R Ben and Joseph For being incredible role models for resilience, courage and behaviour at Alton Castle!

