



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.

July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Solidarity and the Common good'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Faith-filled and Hopeful'



4th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a truly special weekend heading in to this week, as our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a well-deserved residential packed with outdoor adventures, friendship, and moments of spiritual reflection. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence. A heartfelt thank you to the parents who shared such kind feedback—it really means a lot. And a huge thank you to the dedicated staff who gave up their weekend to make this experience possible. Your commitment is deeply appreciated.

This week, children have been getting to know their new teachers for September, and we've loved seeing their excitement about the year ahead. We also welcomed several new teachers who will be joining our school family—it's always energising to bring in fresh faces and ideas. At the same time, we're bidding a fond farewell to five remarkable colleagues: Mrs McConnell, Mrs Tibbatts, Mrs Foster, Mrs Shipman and Mrs Downing. Their contributions have left a lasting impact, and we wish them every success in their next chapters.

We're currently preparing school reports, which will be sent out by email early next week. These will include attendance and statutory assessment results. For Year 6 families, we're expecting SATs outcomes next week, and will send these with the reports towards the end of the week. If you don't receive your child's report by the end of next week, please do contact the school office.

Thank you once again for your generous bottle donations ahead of the Parish Fair this Sunday, and to our brilliant PTA for their ongoing support—it's always felt and valued.

I'm incredibly proud to share that we have once again achieved the School Games Gold Award—our fourth consecutive year at this standard of excellence. This recognition reflects not just our commitment to high-quality PE and sport, but the enthusiasm and participation of our children across the school. A special thank you goes to Miss Heath, whose unwavering dedication and leadership in promoting sport and wellbeing has been exceptional.

With just two weeks remaining before the summer break, there's still plenty to enjoy and discover. Let's make the most of every moment before a well-earned rest.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mrs Yorke

CATHOLIC LIFE

This week's Gospel

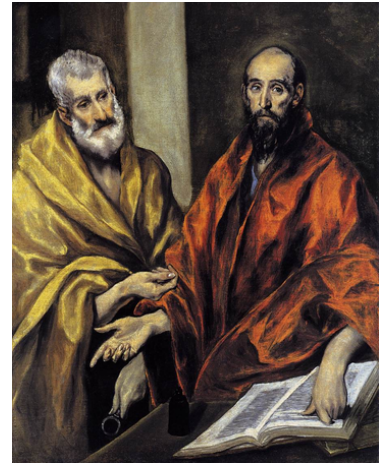
Matthew 16:16-18

'Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in Heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church..."

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

- Saints Peter and Paul are two great Saints who helped to establish the Church.
- Peter and Paul, in their unique ways, encouraged the Early Christians and they encourage us today.
- We can be inspired to use our talents to do God's work today.



Our next Mass – Y1 Mass – Votive St. Benedict

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 9th July 2025, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 children will be leading our Mass and Year 2 children will be attending. All parents are welcome to attend.

THANK YOU

Just over £2500 raised
from Party In The
Playground!

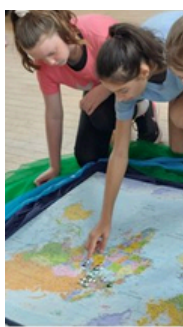
PTA fundraising

Thank you again to all those who supported our fundraising event 'Party in the Playground' – over £2500 has been raised and will fund projects and resources for the children next year. All money raised by our PTA goes back to the children. Please continue to volunteer and support our PTA events next year.



Year 6 Residential - Alton Castle

Year 6 had a wonderful time at Alton Castle this week. The theme of the retreat was 'Jubilee year - pilgrims of hope'. We had many highlights including our prayer time together and Mass at the Church in the grounds of Alton Castle (John the Baptist). Our children read eloquently and served with reverence at the Mass. Alongside their spiritual time together, the children enjoyed a range of fantastic activities including trekking, mountain biking, low ropes, survival skills and archery. The children behaved beautifully and really enjoyed themselves. They returned home on Sunday afternoon tired, but happy and full of the Holy Spirit! Thank you to our staff for giving up your time too - without you these lovely experiences couldn't happen!





St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

**has achieved the Gold School Games Mark
award for their commitment, engagement
in the School Games for 2024/25.**



GAME AWARDS

We are very proud to achieve the Gold Award for our commitment to PE, Physical Activity and School Sports, for the fourth year in a row.



Celebrating Success

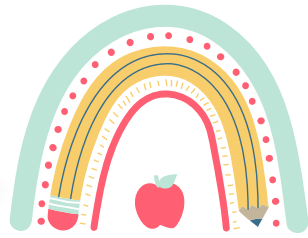


Arabella & Daphne have been accepted into the Birmingham Royal Ballet Dance Track programme which came from their visit to the school earlier in the year. The children had their 2nd round of auditions this week; clearly showing off their exceptional potential for ballet. 😊

Congratulations to both of you - we can't wait to see you on the stage.



transition



We're saying goodbye to these wonderful members of staff who are all moving on to new and exciting opportunities...

At the end of the school year, Mrs McConnell, Mrs Tibbatts, Mrs Foster, Mrs Shipman and Mrs Downing are leaving St. Mary's. We wish all of them the best of luck in their new adventures. They will be really missed at St. Mary's and we send out a massive thankyou to them for the commitment that they have shown the children and their families during their time at St. Mary's.



Mrs McConnell



Mrs Tibbatts



Mrs Foster



Mrs Shipman



Mrs Downing

Welcome to our St. Mary's team

We would like to give a big St. Mary's welcome to Miss Grego, our new Year 4 teacher; Miss Mir, who will be teaching Year 5; and Mrs Cole who will be teaching Year 6.

Miss Grego and Miss Mir are newly qualified and excited to join our experienced team. Mrs Cole is joining us from St. Thomas Aquinas and will be bringing a wealth of experience and new ideas in to St. Mary's. We look forward to seeing what the new year will bring.



Miss Grego



Miss Mir



Mrs Cole

"To change isto grow..."

Class teachers and support staff for September 2025

Year group	Teachers	Teaching Assistants
RB	Miss Harris	Miss Lawlor
RT	Mrs Russell / Mrs Richards	Mrs Pitt
1F	Miss Dawe	Mrs Kopera
1L	Miss Price / Mrs Birchenall	Mrs Laroque
2G	Miss Bennett	Ms Parmar
2E	Miss Busby	
3L	Miss Heath / Mrs Reeson	Mrs Whittingham
3T	Mrs Gidley	Mrs Campbell Miss Robinson
4M	Mrs Snios	Mrs Anderson
4J	Miss Grego	
5F	Mrs James	Mrs Lassey
5M	Miss Mir	
6R	Miss Flynn	Mrs Nguyen
6O	Mrs Cole	
Cover	Madame Baille (art / French) Miss Pendleton (dance) Coach Red (PE / sports)	Mrs Tame
SLT	Mrs Jones (Senior teacher) Miss Preedy (Assistant Headteacher) Mrs Noone (Deputy Headteacher) Mrs Yorke (Headteacher)	



The children met their new teachers on Wednesday and went to their new classes. It was a lovely day in school. Most of our Year 6 children were at their new schools too and came back excited about the next step of their learning journey. We also met our new Reception children who will be joining us in September. Transition is about change, which we appreciate comes with worry sometimes – we support all children through any periods of change and transition, but if you have any questions ahead of September, please do speak to a member of SLT.



The staff had a wonderful day meeting their new classes for September. We hope that the children did too!



"We'll Meet Again"

Not long now until our Year 6s perform one last time at St Mary's in their show 'We'll meet again' Set during the outbreak of World War II, the children of the 1940s are living with gas masks, sirens and the need of safety of the shelters.

Year 6 are putting on two performances of "We'll meet again" for Y6 parents only.

The performance will also be recorded so can be shared with loved ones later.

Performance are:

Thursday 10th July 2025

Friday 11th July 2025

Year 6 Leavers Mass –

Wednesday 16th July 2025 – 9:30am

We will be celebrating Year 6 and their time at St.

Mary's with a whole school Leavers Mass on

Wednesday 16th July at 9:30am.

All parents and family members are able to attend this Mass. For the Mass, we will ask parents to sit in the old part of the Church.

After Mass, the rest of the school will leave and return to have break time. Year 6 will remain in the Church and parents will join them to watch their slideshow of memories in the Church.

This will be when we hand out presents too.

The rest of the school / siblings will watch the slideshow in their classrooms.

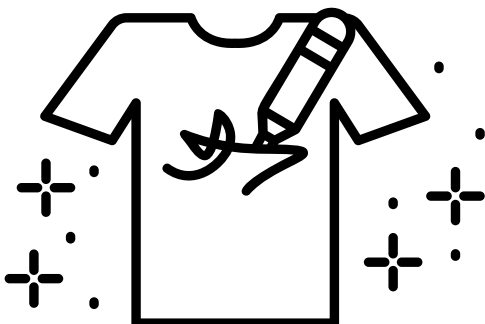


Friday 18th July – all day

Shirt signing will take place on the final day of term.

We also continue to encourage parents, staff and children to join us in the guard of honour as they leave school for the final time as Year 6 pupils.

Collection times of all children are in red in 'dates for this term' – all children will need to be collected by 2pm and then Year 6 (and any staff leavers) will come out.



Look out for our bull this Summer



The city's next big art trail will depict the legendary Birmingham Bullring Bull, with 40 large bull sculptures, and 85 calves descending on Wednesday 16th July and continuing to be present throughout the Summer until Sunday 14th September.

Designed and painted by the children, this is what our bull looks like: -



His name is:-
Azrael the bull
and he will be located on Harborne High Street, so you won't need to go far to find him.

Over the Summer Holidays, you can take a photo with Azrael and tweet him so that we know that you found him. Enjoy looking at all the other bulls that are on display too and reading about the artists who painted them.

So why Bulls in the City?

It is to raise money for Birmingham Hospice. Read more about the charity and how you can donate by visiting the Bulls in the City website. Leave a message of encouragement and words of acknowledgement to our children for getting involved. So, find the bull, take a photograph with him, and donate!

Tweet @StMaryB17 #bullsinthecity

<https://www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/donate-bullsinthecity/>

Thanks for being part of our herd

offers end 31/07/25

Kids

Essentials

Package 1

2 x Jumpers/Cardigans

1 x Tie

1 x PE T-Shirt

1 x Book Bag

£34.99



Package 2

2 x Jumpers/Cardigans

1 x Twin Shirts/Blouses

1 x Tie

1 x Book Bag

1 x PE T-Shirt

1 x P.E Shorts

£54.99

Kids Essentials:

Northfield High Street, B31 2NN



SCHOOLWEAR
ASSOCIATION

www.kids-essentials.co.uk  0121 477 0736

Kids essentials have kindly offered to do a one off deal for all year groups on uniform bundles due to being a new supplier of St Mary's Uniforms.
Please see the offer leaflet above.

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 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:



Louise Yorke
Headteacher



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor



Laura Noone
AHT



Jade Preedy
AHT

Alternatively, email DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

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 a member of the SLT team.

We will announce the attendance for the previous week in this section of the newsletter each week.

Celebrating our fantastic attendance:-

Our attendance for last week was -

Week 30/06/25-04/07/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99	99.6	99	95.6	99	98.6	95	97.3	98	98.9	97.3	97.6	97.5	98.6
Lates	1	3	1	3	3	3	0	1	0	0	2	6	1	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.5%		School Target				97%		

Well done RT: - Our attendance champions!

Summer theme -

Summer 2

8th July 2025 - am

10th July 2025 - 2pm

11th July 2025 - 2pm

16th July 2025 - 9.30am

18th July 2025 -

Solidarity and the Common Good

Faith-filled and Hopeful

Reception visit to Harborne library (8:45 RT and 10:15 RB)

Year 6 performance to parents - 'We'll meet again'

Year 6 performance to parents - 'We'll meet again'

Year 6 Leavers Mass (Y6 parents welcome) - Mass for whole school

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

Key Dates

Autumn Term	Tuesday 2nd September - Thursday 23rd October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th December
Spring Term	Monday 5th January - Friday 13th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 23rd February - Thursday 2nd April
Summer Term	Monday 20th April - Friday 22nd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

Star of the week

- Year RB Kendrick For working really hard on his reading!
- Year RT William For working hard with Mrs Pitt to do his My Happy Mind work
- Year IF Daisy For her fantastic use of adjectives, conjunctions, exclamation and question marks in her exciting writing
- Year 1L Edward For his excellent efforts in the classroom and always trying his best.
- Year 2E Reena For being an outstanding role model and carrying out the virtues!
- Year 2G Aaliyah For being an outstanding role model and carrying out the virtues!
- Year 3L Ada For her wonderful English work using Alan Peat sentence types!
- Year 3T Maya For always having a fantastic attitude to learning and being a role model to her classmates.
- Year 4J Tobi For being particularly kind and considerate this week.
- Year 4M Danny For listening straight away to instructions and excellent focus during his learning.
- Year 5F Isabella For always having a fantastic attitude to her learning and trying her best.
- Year 5M Isla For being a fantastic helper to her teacher and peers and always doing her best in everything
- Year 6O Rhoda For consistently living out our school mission
- Year 6R Marley-Marie For her help and care towards everyone, particularly at Alton Castle and in production preparation

