



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.

May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Compassionate and Loving'



16th May 2025

Dear parents and carers,

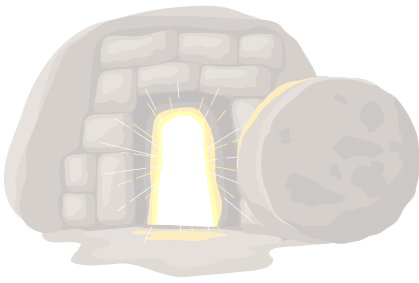
This week has been SATs week for Year 6 and the children all did wonderfully. We are extremely proud of how hard the children have worked and how they conducted themselves. Year 6 children now have lots to look forward to with their Confirmation, Residential and end of year performance next half-term. A massive well done to all the children and staff who have taught them throughout their whole learning journey in school. Thank you to our PTA, who organised a special treat for everybody today as a reward. The live dinosaurs and fossil workshops were exceptional learning opportunities and very much enjoyed by the children.

We have also begun assessing our Year 2 children. SATs are no longer statutory for KS1, but as a school, we have been conducting some tests and this will continue in to next week – if your child is in Year 2, please ensure that they are in school every day, and on time next week, for their assessments.

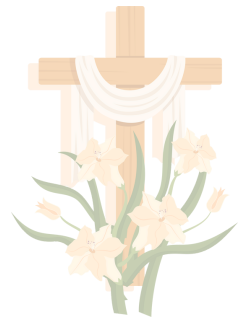
If your child wishes to enter our drawing competition of Pope Leo XIV, please can we have any final entries on Monday.

I am in the process of finalising dates for Summer 2 and this will be in next week's newsletter. Our term dates for next academic year are also being ratified by Governors and will be sent out next week. We break up on Friday 24th May at normal finishing time for one week, and return to school on Monday 2nd June at normal time.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, God bless,
Mrs Yorke



CATHOLIC LIFE



This week's Gospel

John 10: 27-28

'Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish..."'

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

- Jesus wants us to listen to His voice.
- We need to be able to recognise His voice amongst all other 'voices' that compete for our attention.
- We can know Jesus' voice because He is our friend - we know our friends' voices!



Our next Mass - Y6 Mass - 5th Week of Easter

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 21st May 2025, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 children will be leading our Mass and Year 5 children will be attending. All parents are welcome to attend.

Child-led prayer

The children have led beautiful prayer sessions this week, in devotion to our Heavenly Mother, for their peers and within their homes.

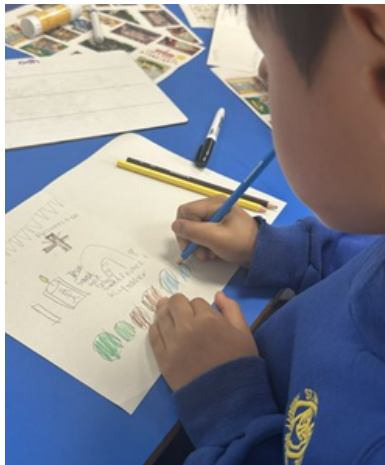


OUR EASTER RE LEARNING THIS WEEK

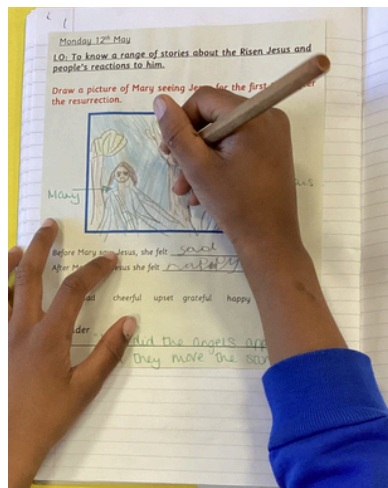
Reception have made rosary beads and created pictures of Mary for their Grotto role-play area outside.



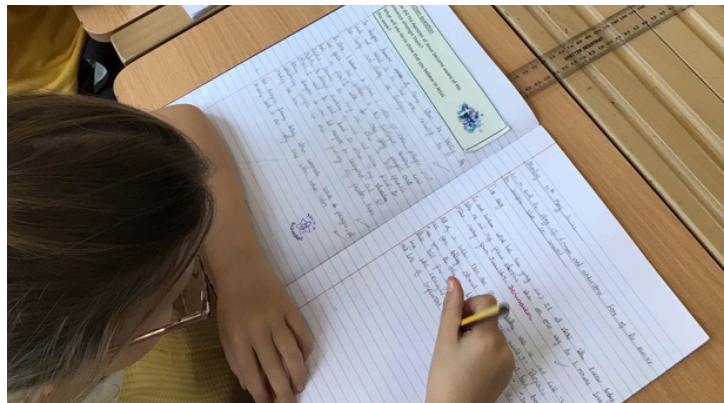
Year 1 have learnt about how the community celebrate Easter, creating information booklets on how Easter is celebrated at home, in school and in Church.



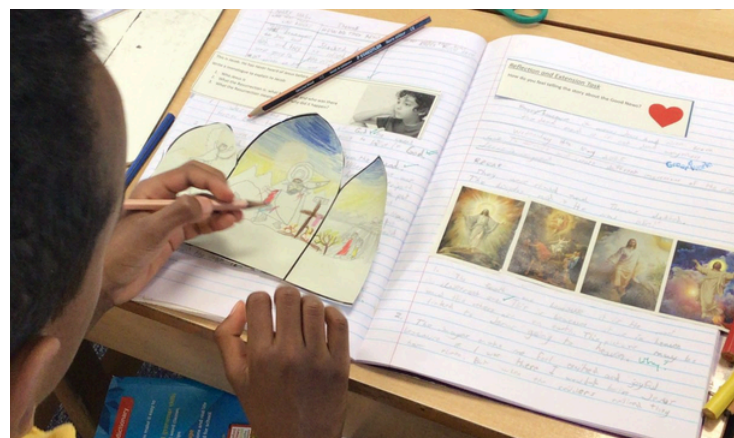
Year 2 have been analysing what they believe the thoughts and feelings of Mary Magdalene would be after Jesus' resurrection.



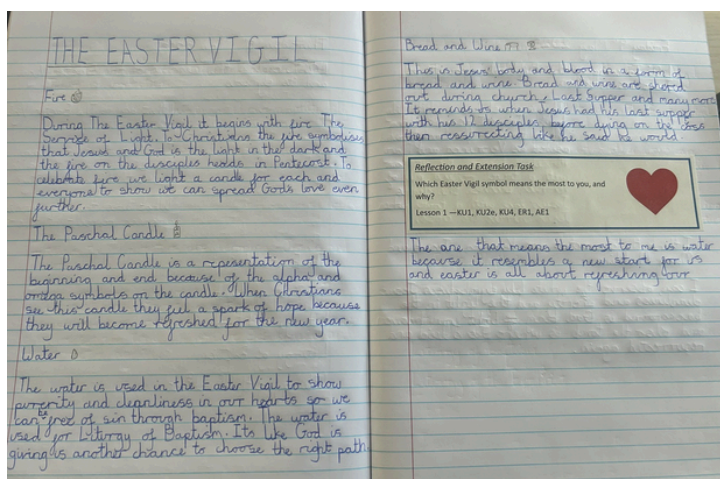
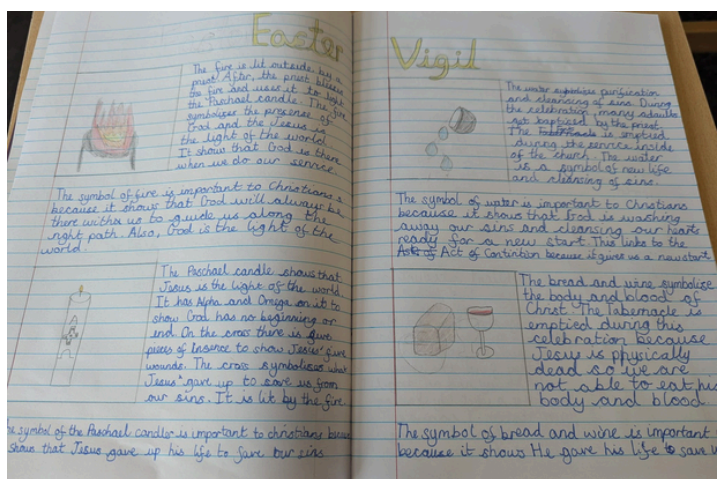
Year 3 have been writing diary entries from the perspective of one of the Disciples from the story of The Road to Emmaus.



Year 4 discussed the symbolism in the Easter paintings and designed their own triptych showing the Risen Christ and the response of the people present.



Year 5 have produced outstanding writing about the symbolism of the Easter Vigil.

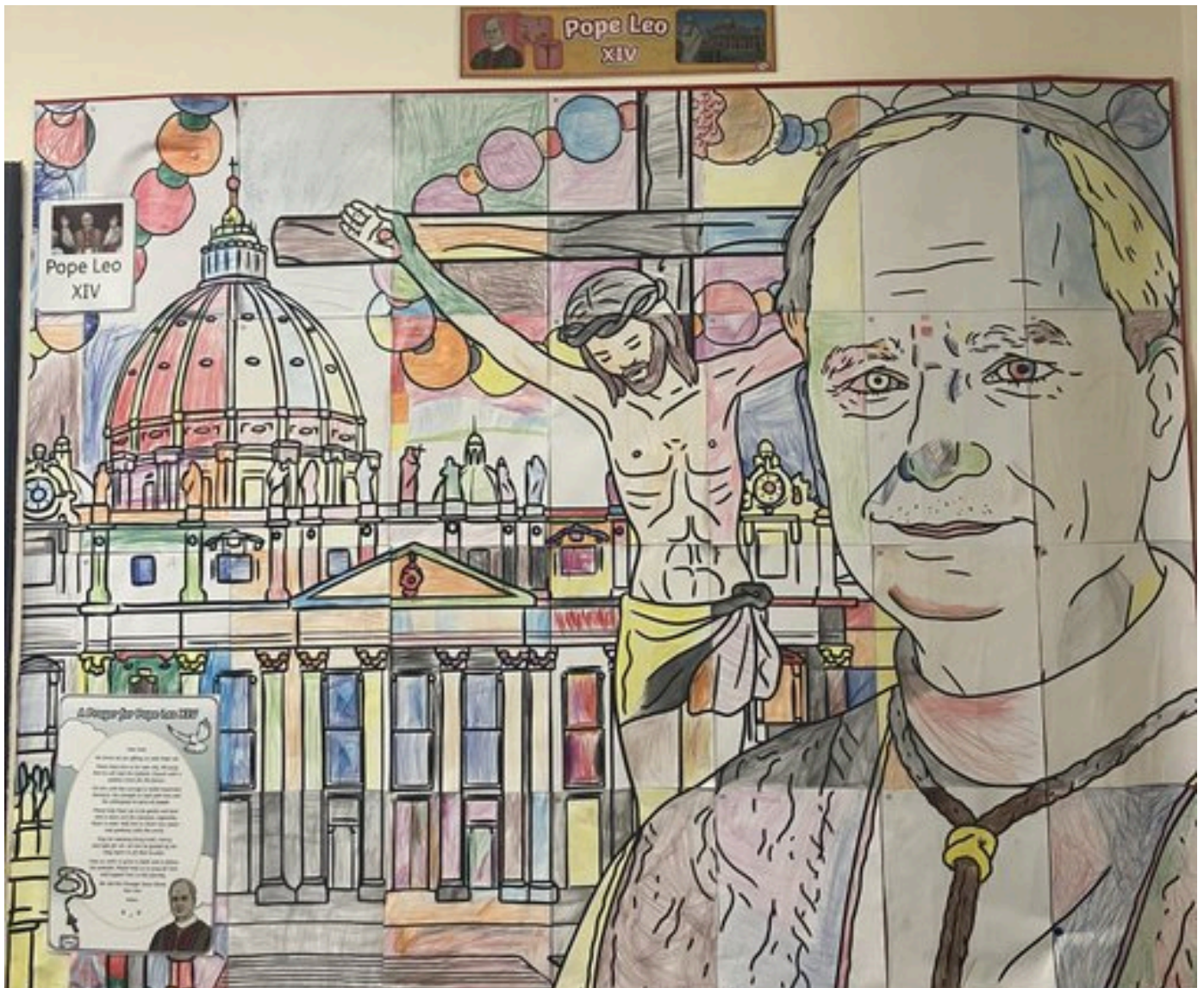


Year 6 have found scripture to support teachings about eternal life.

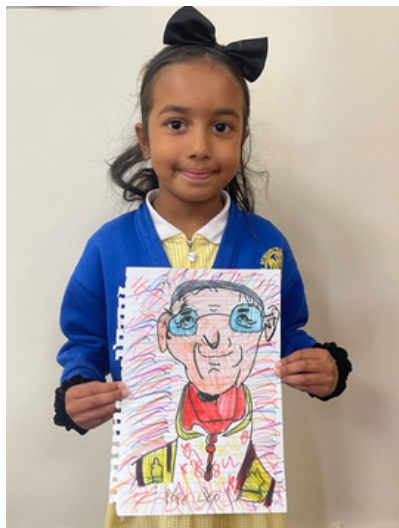
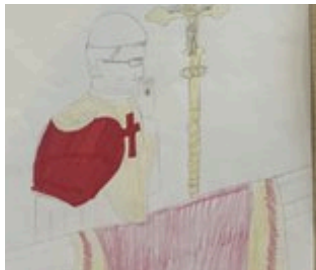


OUR AMAZING ART WORK FOR POPE LEO XIV

Year 1 have worked together on a creative project to learn more about Pope Leo XIV creating this display for their classroom...



we're also receiving individual pieces of art work...



We need any last entries for our Pope art work by Monday please...

Go Forth

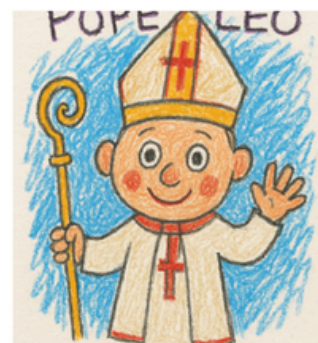
A little bit of homework...

Draw a picture of our new Pope – we will have a competition in each class, where we will choose one from each year group to send to the Vatican.

Write a message about St. Mary's that explains what it means to us that our new Pope is an Augustinian.

Create a prayer, piece of scripture, message of support for Pope Leo XIV.

Due Monday 19th May 2025



CELEBRATING OUR RE LEARNING

Remarkable RE Award



Well Done, Year 6!

Congratulations to our fantastic Year 6 children who have completed their SATs tests. We are all so proud of you and how hard you have worked, not just this week, but all year. Thank you to all the families who have supported the children and everyone who made SATs week run smoothly. Year 6 were incredible this week and we were blown away by their hard work, perseverance and calm demeanour.





As a special treat for Year 6 and indeed the rest of the school for working so hard; our PTA organised a special treat in school. Wanting to keep the treat educational, the children have had a day learning about fossils and dinosaurs.

Thank you to our ever present and hard working PTA for the opportunities they provide for the children; and to all our parents who support our PTA fundraising. Here are some of our favourite pictures.



Sporting Success

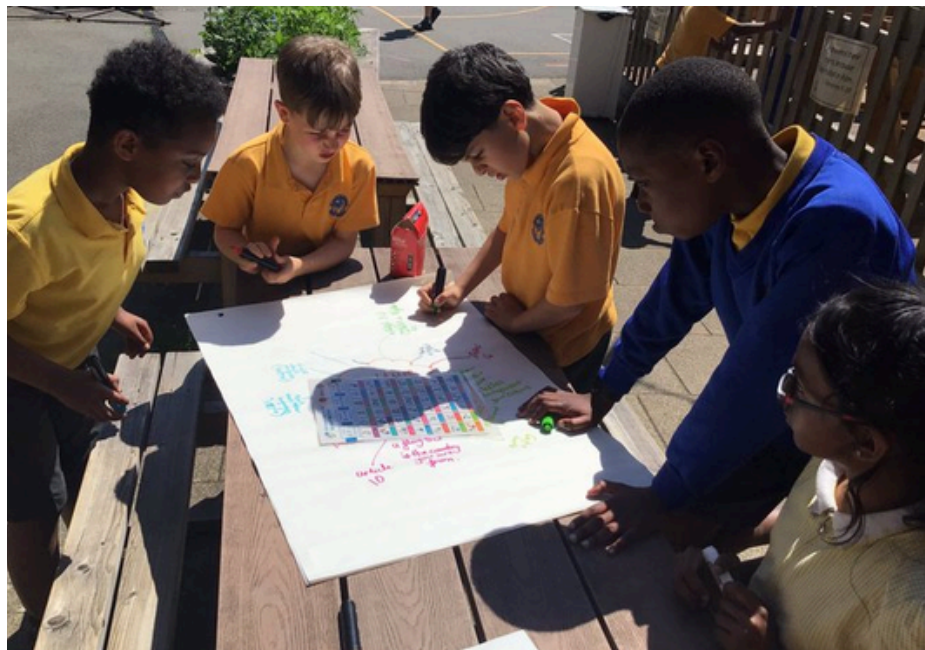


Well done to our girls football team, who played two matches this week. They drew their first match, coming from 2-0 down to 2-2, and won the second with an amazing 7-0!



Children as leaders

Rights Respecting Monitors



Our Rights Respecting Monitors are planning a Culture Day that will take place in June when we can all wear our traditional clothes to celebrate our similarities, differences and the fact that we were all created by one

God, in his image and likeness. Yet, we are all unique and this makes us interesting.

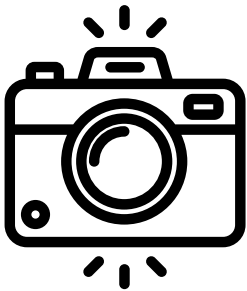
Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

Please note the following:

- Year 2 SATs take place **Monday 19th May – Friday 23rd May 2025**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **2nd June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 9th June**



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



Year 6 Leavers Photos – 21.5.25

Children in Year 6 will be having their leavers photos taken on Wednesday 21st May 2025.

Whether in Summer uniform or full winter uniform and tie, please ensure children are ready for their photos on this day.



VE day celebration picnic – 23.5.25

To celebrate 80 years since the end of World War II, we are having a special celebration in school. Children can come in to school wearing WWII clothing; or red, white and blue. They should also bring in items to eat for our picnic on the afternoon and a picnic blanket if you have one at home.

Pot plants and flowers for Our Lady – Throughout May

During the month of May, we invite children to bring in flowers as a sign of our love and affection for Our Lady. We encourage children to bring in pot plants that can be displayed on class prayer tables and then planted in the prayer garden at the end of the month.



VE Day 80th anniversary celebration

When?

Friday 23rd May 2025 at 2pm

Where? School playground

What? Bring a picnic blanket and
your favourite treats (no nuts, fizzy
drinks or glass bottles)

How?

Dress up in war time clothes or
wear red, white and blue. Bring
flags to wave!

Free upcoming event for the public



Join us for a vibrant Vaisakhi celebration at Tally Ho!
Enjoy traditional sports, Gatka demonstrations,
community activities, delicious food stalls, and fun-
filled entertainment for the family & children.

Contact us: sikh_association@westmidlands.police.uk

Tally Ho Training Centre Pershore Road, Birmingham
B5 7RN (Limited parking available)

10 am till 5:30pm

Sat 24th May 2025

WHITSUN HALF TERM CAMP

Ofsted
Registered

HARBORNE
ACADEMY

PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

HARBORNE ACADEMY, HARBORNE ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B15 3JL
TUESDAY 27TH - FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025

STANDARD DAY 9AM-4PM - £20
EXTENDED DAY 8.15AM - 5PM - £25
HALF DAY (4 YEAR OLDS) 9AM-1PM - £12.50

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May Half Term Magic in Harborne: Music & Adventure for Ages 4–11

🎵 **The Strings Club Holiday Camps** return to **Harborne Academy, B15 3JL** this May Half Term for children aged 4–11 – and they're *not just childcare!* (Dad, Harborne, 2024).

🏆 Recently awarded "Platinum" for outstanding service, The Strings Club offers unforgettable days packed with:

🎸 **Morning Magic:**

- Guitar, violin and ukulele sessions led by expert teachers
- Free instrument hire to take home

🧙 **Afternoon Adventures:**

• **Ages 4–7:**

- Design Paddington-themed postcards
- Go on a "Bear Hunt" storytelling adventure
- Make dreamcatchers inspired by *The BFG*

• **Ages 8–11:**

- Build a playlist for favourite characters
- Take on Percy Jackson demigod trials
- Create maps of magical worlds

Why Choose The Strings Club:

- ✓ Tailored activities for 4–7 & 8–11s
- ✓ One-day to full-week flexible booking
- ✓ Ofsted-registered & accepts childcare vouchers
- ✓ 200+ 5★ parent reviews

📄 **Get an exclusive all year round 10% off 1**
code: **STMARYS2024**



THE STRINGS CLUB

HARBORNE ACADEMY, B15 3JL

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feefo 4.8/5 from parents

Make the school holidays unforgettable

- ✓ Tax Free & Childcare Vouchers
- ✓ 550+ 5* Reviews
- ✓ Free Instrument Hire
- ✓ Flexible Days & Hours to Suit
- ✓ 1 Adult to 8 Children Ratio

www.thestringclub.org | 0121 296 9204

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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 12/05/25-16/05/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	95	96	96.6	98.3	99.3	97	94.3	99.3	99.3	95.6	96.3	92.3	100	99.3
Lates	2	3	4	5	1	5	2	3	0	0	1	6	0	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.2%		School Target					97%	

Well done 6R - Our attendance champions!

Star of the week

Year RB	Martin	For writing a brilliant riddle about a minibeast in Literacy.
Year RT	Jack	For his fantastic independent writing about Superworm!
Year IF	Joseph	For writing an excellent set of instructions on how to look after the ocean, remembering his time openers and imperative verbs.
Year IL	Sophia	For always being a kind friend to everyone in her class.
Year 2E	Perla	For super reading and writing. Well done Perla!
Year 2G	Joshua	For being -hard working, kind and loving member of the class.
Year 3L	Theo	For always being a fantastic role model for others and completing his work to the best of his ability
Year 3T	Sarah	For increasing in confidence in class and becoming a fantastic role model.
Year 4J	Naveen	For a fantastic narrative based on the text 'The Last Bear'. Great use of descriptive and figurative language!
Year 4M	Dee	For working hard this week and being compassionate if a child needs help on a playground
Year 5F	Jhanvi	For being a fantastic role model in the class, showing excellent behaviour and contributing enthusiastically to all our class discussions.
Year 5M	Sam	For encouraging his friends to show appreciation and kindness, making staff to feel truly valued and cared for.
Year 6O	6O	For working so hard during their SATs and maintaining a really positive attitude!
Year 6R	6R	For working so hard during their SATs and maintaining a really positive attitude!

