



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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.

February is dedicated to the Holy Family

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Dignity of Work'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Eloquent and Truthful'



17th February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a lovely end to the half-term and a fantastic final day in school, which included a Victorian day for Year 1, reptiles in Year 2, a beautiful Year 3 assembly, a magnificent cake sale for charity and so much more. After half-term break, I will resend our school uniform policy as we have a handful of children, who are not wearing their ties and have an incorrect hair style. Please may I remind you of expectations for uniform: - Girls' hair must only be one colour - they can not dye it or have two-toned braids. Boys' hair must be mostly one length, any cuts must blend. No shaved lines or patterns. If hair is long enough to be tied back, then it needs to be tied back. No large bows or hair accessories and earrings can only be studs (one pair only). I thank most parents who support school by ensuring that their children are wearing the correct uniform. As a school, we want to stand out and wear our uniform and the St. Mary's badge with pride. Teachers too wear the uniform when teaching PE, and on trips, in solidarity that we belong to one school and one family. Those children not following the policy, may not be chosen to represent school at events as they are not in the correct uniform. I would like to extend support for any parents who need extra uniform - please speak to a member of staff if you require any items. I would like to thank parents for the support we have received this half term and I hope that you all have a marvellous half-term break.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Matthew 6: 5-6

"Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you".

Jesus, be the centre,

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Lent is an opportunity for a fresh start, to make sure Jesus is at the centre of our lives.
- We can put Jesus at the centre during Lent by making time to GIVE, ACT and PRAY.

As I start my journey through Lent, I welcome you into my heart. Be my guide as I GIVE to others.

Be my strength as I ACT by making good choices.

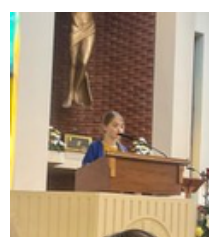
Be my friend as I PRAY and get to know you more.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 6 Mass - 15.2.23

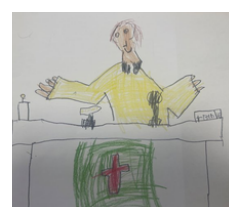
Year 6 led us in a Mass for St. Peter. The choir sang the Responsorial Psalm beautifully and Reception children were fabulous supporting their Y6 buddies.



There will be no Mass on Wednesday 1st March

YR Mass - 2nd Week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 8th March 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Reception children will be leading our Mass alongside their Year 6 buddies. All parents are welcome to attend.



Reception news: -

Reception class have been learning all about St. Mary's Church, Fr. John and the work he does in the community as part of their Dignity of Work learning



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 enjoyed playing games as part of their Victorian day in school.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 enjoyed learning about reptiles in their Science lessons.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning about the significance of Shrove Tuesday and even had the chance to eat some pancakes.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been role playing 'First Aid Heroes' scenarios.



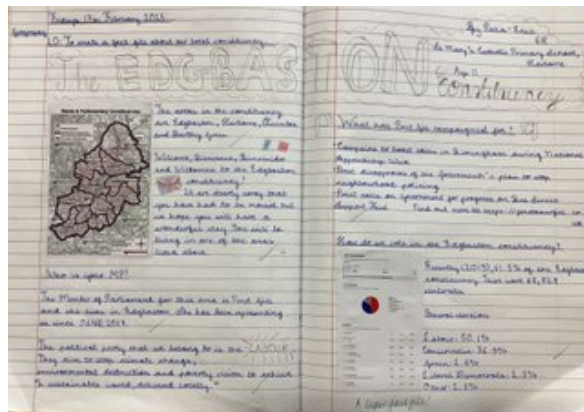
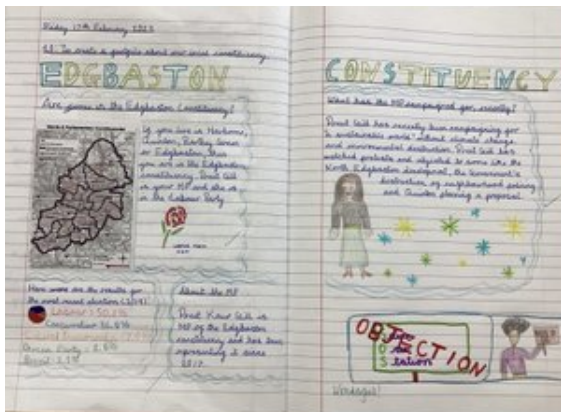
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 made wonderful river models, showing how a river is formed from its source to its river mouth. All of the models showed creativity, attention to detail and fantastic learning.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 wrote wonderful fact files about our local constituency in Edgbaston.



Extra-Curricular

Year 6 had a marvellous visit to St. Chad's Cathedral. They really enjoyed hearing from knowledgeable tour guides and celebrating Mass



Year 3 Assembly



Year 3 performed their assembly about love and kindness and the choosing of the disciples today. They were remarkable!



Half-term Break



TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY - SHROVE TUESDAY

Enjoy those pancakes!
Eat all the good stuff in your cupboards before Lent begins.



WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY - ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Wednesday 22nd February
The first day of Lent is a day of prayer and fasting. Catholics receive ashes on this day, a physical sign that marks us as Jesus' family.



Other News

Our cake sale for CAFOD Earthquake Appeal has raised an incredible **£670!**
Thank you so much for your generosity. We feel blessed by the way our school community has come together to help raise funds for our brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria.



Let's keep kids safe online

Date: Monday 27th February 2023

Time: 4:45-5:45pm

Location: St Mary's Catholic Primary

NSPCC Talk - Online Safety

Monday 27th February 4:45-5:45pm

Following on from our very successful coffee morning in school on Internet Safety Day, we wanted to offer an after school slot where parents can find out more about keeping their children safe online. The NSPCC are in school to speak with all parents on this subject on the Monday we return to school. It would be wonderful to fill the hall.



Celebrating reading - WB 27.2.23

During this week, we are not only celebrating books on one day, we have many enjoyable activities planned throughout the week to encourage the love of books.

This includes inviting an adult (parent/grandparent/aunty/uncle) in to read with the children in a given slot at the very beginning or end of the school day.

Strike Day - Wednesday 1st March 2023

As it stands, it is likely that strikes will go ahead on Wednesday 1st March. **IF** strikes do go ahead, school will close again for all children.

The vast amount of teachers at St. Mary's are NEU members and they have made known their intention to strike on Wednesday 1st March if unions do not come to an agreement.

Mrs Yorke will write to parents on return to school on Monday 27th February 2023 to confirm, but in the likelihood that strikes do go ahead, please do ensure childcare is available for your child/ren.

World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March 2023

We have planned lots of exciting events in school for World Book Day and have decided that this year will not be a 'dress-up day'. We have taken this decision for a number of reasons, one of which being that we do not wish this celebration of reading to be a burden on parents.

This is not to say that we won't dress up in future years. We are hoping to make each year unique with different themes - so there will be other opportunities for dress up in the future.

National Careers Week - Week beginning 6th March 2023

We are having a week in school where a range of careers will be celebrated.

We would like to get the children excited by the breadth of careers available to them when they are older. We welcome anybody who would be willing to talk to the children about a job they do.



Religious

Education



"During this Lent,
let us all ask the Lord:
Make our hearts like yours."

-Pope Francis



Next half term, each class will be studying 'Lent' in their RE lessons. Please see below for further information about what will be covered in each year group.

Year
R

In Reception, the children are introduced to some of the Church's customs for the Season of Lent, e.g. doing things for others. Children will hear about Lent being a special time of prayer and a season when Christians try to follow Christ by what they do. They will also learn about Lent being a time of saying sorry and asking God's forgiveness for things that they have done wrong.

Year
1

In Y1, we will develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Lent as a time of change and of growing to be more like Jesus by following his example. In the unit the children will explore various aspects of Jesus' message and ways in which Christians can apply these to real life situations. The children will also know that Jesus, in his words and action, gave people a chance to change, and that Lent is a special time when we too are given that same chance.

Year
2

In Y2, the children will develop their knowledge and understanding of the Season of Lent and the importance of the theme of forgiveness during this time. The children will have a greater understanding of the need to receive God's forgiveness and the qualities of a forgiving person. The children will be able to express the difficulties associated with being a forgiving person.

Year
3

In Y3, the children will learn to appreciate that during Lent Christians resolve to change and try to become more like Christ. The children will be introduced to new Gospel stories about Jesus bringing change into the lives of people he encountered e.g. those who were sick or in need.

Year
4

In Y4, the children will further explore some of the customs and practices associated with the celebration of the Season of Lent. Through the life and teaching of Christ they will learn about prayer, fasting and almsgiving and the forgiveness that God offers to those who believe in him. The children will know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of the gift of forgiveness. They will understand that the Beatitudes of Jesus provide a guide for Christians to follow Christ by the way they live their lives.

Year
5

In Y5, the children will think about the concept of 'temptation' as they study the temptations of Jesus. Children will be given the opportunity to reflect on what nurtures and damages human relationships they will study some important texts from the New Testament about Christian living and will learn about the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a Sacrament of Healing and God's forgiveness.

Year
6

In Y6, the children will be given some opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as important Lenten activities. They will examine the teaching of Jesus about these things and think about why they might be important activities for Christians today. In this unit children will also explore the Church's teaching on the forgiveness and God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will know about the importance attached to asking for God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and understand how the Examination of Conscience can help people prepare to celebrate this Sacrament.

PRAY

The children are leading prayer services for their parents during lent
9:00-9:30 on the following dates



Year 6 - Friday 3rd March
Year 5 - Wednesday 8th March
Year 3 - Tuesday 14th March
Year 2 - Friday 17th March
Year 1 - Wednesday 22nd March
Year 4 - Thursday 23rd March
Reception - Thursday 30th March

*Supporting our Lenten charities: -
CAFOD, Water Aid and Migrant Help in Edgbaston.*

*At St Mary's, we are working together, to take on the Big Lent Walk!
The whole school will be walking 200km in 40 days throughout Lent.
Therefore, each class will contribute to this total and will walk 9 miles.
This will begin after half term.*

*We are taking part in this walk as part of our Lenten charity work.
We will be supporting CAFOD and raising money to fight global poverty.
Any donations to this cause will be greatly appreciated.*

All donations will go to CAFOD.

*If you are happy to donate, you can donate via the
link below.*

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-marysb17>



SCHOOL FUND

giftaid it



Our School Fund is a vital source of income for our school. It pays for the 'extras' such as Christmas activities, theatre or performances as well as subsidising school trips.

Contribution to this fund is entirely voluntary and we are very grateful to those parents who regularly support the school in this way.

However, in the last few years the amount of school fund received has dropped quite significantly. There are probably many reasons for this, but perhaps the most obvious is remembering to send in a donation every year, half term or term.

Several parents make their contribution by standing order and we are very grateful to them all. As we have been accepted as a charity for tax purposes, we can claim the tax on donations to school fund

by parents who are taxpayers if those parents sign a Gift Aid Declaration.

This means that for every pound you give we get an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation to go further.

Consequently, by setting up a standing order for say, £2 per month per family, you will guarantee the school a monthly income on which we can reclaim tax.

Over the past 18 months, school fund has supported some of our larger improvement projects, including: -

Curriculum Related (activities & resources) - £5,207.87

New Early Reading Scheme - £8,099.09

Pupil Retreats - £1,958.00

Outdoor/Grounds Improvements - £852.00

Our PTA is also a massive support fundraising for projects in school. We have some new big projects in mind for the future and with shrinking school budgets, we can only do this with your support.

Please get involved if you are not yet supporting school fund and are able.

Ask the office for more information and gift aid forms.

Sometimes - charity starts at home!

Thank you

Ash wednesday

Ash Wednesday Masses – Wednesday 22nd March 2023
Wednesday of Half Term, 22nd February is **ASH WEDNESDAY**, with Masses and Ashes at 8.30am, 12.00 noon and 6.00pm in St Mary's Church, with Stations of the Cross straight after the 6.00pm Mass.



Walk with me

On the Piety Stall in St Mary's Church Porch: the daily **WALK WITH ME**, together with the children's Lenten daily Calendar are available. Also there is an A4 coloured sheet of the Stations of the Cross, for children and adults, to help you pray daily in Lent



Lenten Confessions: 8:00pm

Lenten Confessions: are every Saturday in the Church, 10.30 to 11.30am, - with a date for a special Penitential Service to be announced after half-term.

Other News

ELECTRIC DREAMS 80S MUSIC NIGHT

ELECTRICDREAMSB17.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK

FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY
SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

HARBORNE'S BEST NIGHTS OUT! (B17)

"These are fun, safe local nights, cheaper than chips and bonus you can walk home." ★★★★★

HARBORNE VILLAGE SOCIAL CLUB

Profits go to local primary school PTAs: £2,500 raised in 2022!



PTA fundraising

Harborne Village Social club are running different evenings throughout the year.

Any profits raised are split between the PTAs of the local Primary Schools.

So if you are interested, you can have a great night out and support fundraising for the children at St. Mary's.

HARBORNE SLIPPY

INDIE NIGHT

HARBORNESLIPPY.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK

Saturday 22nd April
Saturday 21st October

GREAT MUSIC, GREAT CROWD, CHEAP DRINKS!

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.

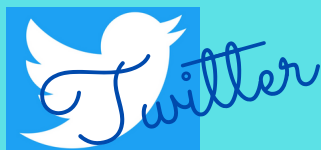
Pastoral Team

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



Is YouTube safe?

The NSPCC have produced this article discussing the risks associated with using YouTube and the safety settings and features that are available depending on how old your child is and what they do on YouTube. You can access the article here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/how-to-keep-your-child-safe-on-youtube>



Stay up to date with everything that is happening at St. Mary's by following us on our Twitter Page and giving us more likes!!!

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.

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. Davis.

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 6th Feb – 10th Feb

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	94.1%	93.1%	97%	96.3%	97.7%	95%	95.7%	98.3%	98.3%	98.7%	93.9%	97.6%	93.3%	97.7%
Lates	6	13	3	10	3	3	9	9	6	3	4	4	6	6
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.3%		School Target				97%		

Well done Y4M: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 2 Virtues

27th February 2023 - all day

27th February - 4:45-5:45pm

28th February 2023 - am

1st March 2023 - all day

2nd March 2023 - all day

3rd March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

WB 6.3.23

7th March 2023 - am

7th March 2023 - 9:15am

8th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

10th March 2023

WB 13.3.23

14th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

14th March 2023 - am

15th March 2023 - 9:15am

15th March 2023 - all day

16th March 2023 - all day

17th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

21st March 2023 - am

22nd March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

23rd March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

24th March 2023 - 9:15am

28th March 2023 - am

28th March 2023 - after school

29th March 2023 - after school

30th March 2023 - 9am-9:30am

WB 3.4.23

6th April 2023 - 11:00am

6th April 2023

The Dignity of Work

Eloquent and Truthful

Children return to school

Online Safety coffee evening for parents

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

POSSIBLE STRIKE Action

World Book Day

Year 6 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Careers Week

Y3 visit to Harborne Library

Reception Mass and Y6 buddies attend - parents welcome

Year 5 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Mothers' Day Activities in school

British Science Week

Year 3 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Y6 visit to Harborne Library

Y2 Mass in Church and Y1 children attend - parents welcome

Potential STRIKE Action

Potential STRIKE Action

Year 2 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Y5 visit to Harborne Library

Year 1 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Year 4 Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Y2 Year group assembly

Y4 visit to Harborne Library

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations

Reception Lenten Prayer Service for parents

Holy Week

Y6 Stations of the Cross in Church

Break up for Easter break!

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Ben	having a super week and creating an amazing drawing of Fr. John
Year RT	Edward	working so hard to learn all his letter sounds
Year IF	Max	having a great attitude and excellent passing skills in PE
Year IL	Ruby	being a wonderfully kind and caring classmate and always trying her best
Year 2E	Yadiel	being a kind and lovely friend
Year 2G	Eleanor	writing a wonderful wolf story
Year 3L	Marquis	attentive listening all week long and being an amazing example to others
Year 3T	Mussie	his kindness and support to all and thinking carefully about his choices
Year 4J	Kaya	excellent work on innovating the plot in Oliver Twist
Year 4M	Catherine	always having lovely manners and doing the right thing
Year 5F	Maggie	great attitude to learning and outstanding manners
Year 5M	George T	fantastic effort with his learning and super writing about rivers and flooding
Year 6O	Isabella	taking on feedback really well and producing some fantastic art
Year 6R	Grace	reading beautifully at Mass and generally being a wonderful role model to her class

