



Archdiocese of Birmingham
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
 SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price M.Ed.

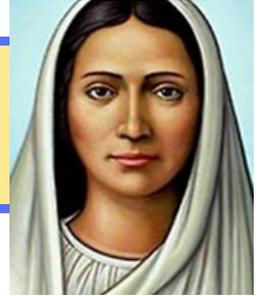


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

September is dedicated to Mary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'The Dignity of the Human Person'

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



16th September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a wonderful week in school. It all began with a focus on Education Sunday and we prayed for all those in Education, the teachers and the pupils, praying that God watches over us this academic year.

School life is beginning to feel 'normal' again and we have been able to host after school clubs and attend Mass.

This term, we have planned for class assemblies to take place again and we have two dates for parents' evening booked in - please see key dates at the bottom of the newsletter.

I am really enjoying getting to know the staff, families and pupils at St. Mary's and wish you all a lovely weekend.

Miss Louise Price

This week's Gospel and prayer

Mark 8:27-35 "Who do people say I am?"

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

- Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins and rose again to give us new hope and life forever.
- Jesus wants us to give our lives to following Him.
- We should expect the unexpected on our personal journey with Jesus, knowing that Jesus is with us every step of the way.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for your sacrifice for us on the cross.

Thank you for rising from the dead to bring us new life forever.

Your plans are so much bigger than ours!

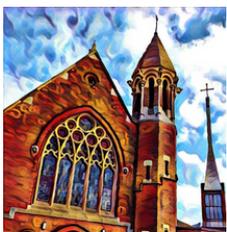
As we follow you, help us to trust you and expect the unexpected.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 6 Mass - Holy Name of Mary

Year 6 led us in a beautiful Mass on Wednesday dedicated to the Holy Name of Mary. It was wonderful to celebrate Mass in Church with the parents.



Year 5 Mass in Church - 22.9.21 at 9:15am

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 22nd September, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and **parents are welcome to attend** (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



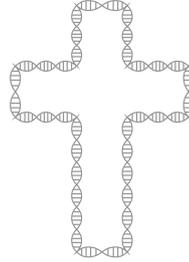
"The One who was to come would be an anointed teacher, who would be able to speak "a word in season", the right word at the right time, to the weary."

In school this week, we have been completing work about Education Sunday. The theme has been 'a word in season' and we have been giving thanks for our teachers in school and our greatest teacher and role-model Jesus.



National CAFOD 'Go Green' Assembly

On Thursday, all children took part in the National CAFOD assembly which focused on creation and environment.



Collection for Afghanistan refugees and asylum seekers

Thank you for all your kind donations of food and toiletries. The children did a tremendous job of sorting them in to boxes and the younger children drew pictures to welcome refugees to the country. The donated items were taken to the Sanctuary today.



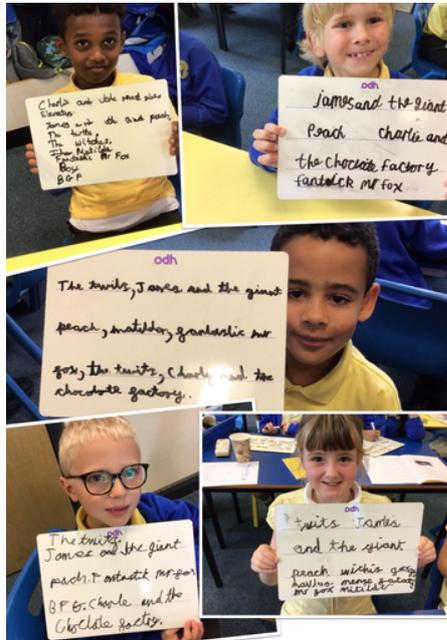
Old Uniform for Swop-shop

The prefects have organised and bagged up unused school uniform and this has been sent to Rubery schools Swop Shop. The donations help families who find it difficult to provide school uniform to their children. Thank you to those who have supported the swop-shop so far.

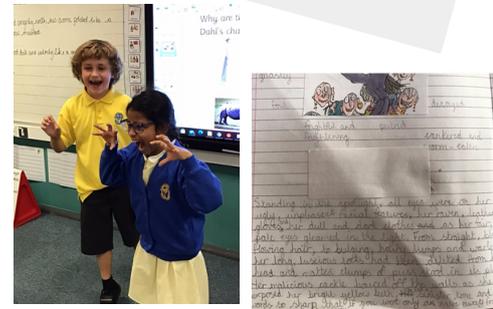


This week's news

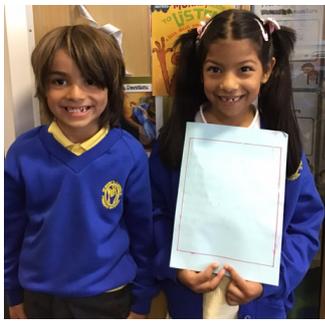
Monday was 'Roald Dahl story day' and the children have enjoyed exploring his stories and learning about the characters.



The competition for designing a Roald Dahl villain is up and running. Please give your entries to your teacher by Friday 22nd October 2021.

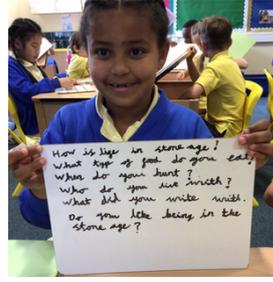
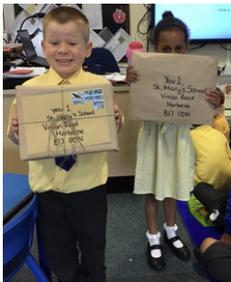


Across the whole school, children have been campaigning to represent their classes in the School Council. There were some wonderful manifestos and a lot of thought went in to them. Well done children and well done to those who were voted in as School Council representatives.



Exciting theme lessons in school

Whether it be Arctic exploring, the Great Fire of London, the Stone Age or invasion of the Romans, the children are having a fantastic time finding out about past times in their theme lessons.



Reception news: -

Reception classes are developing their gross motor skills and have become expert builders. They have had lots of fun outside this week.



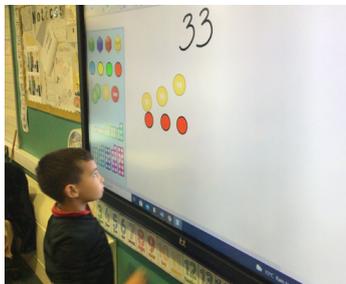
Year 1 news: -

For their Science topic this week, Year 1 have been on a nature walk, observing the changing seasons and collecting leaves. They then created tree pictures to show the different seasons.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been working hard in Maths lessons, learning place value, and in their Science lessons, learning about which materials are water proof.





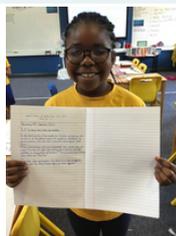
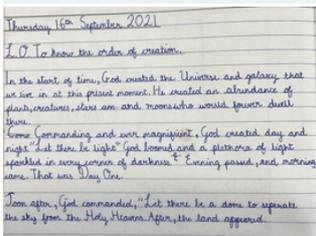
Year 3 news: -
In Science, Year 3 have been exploring properties of rocks.

Year 4 news: -
Year 4 are enjoying their cricket lessons with Bishop Challenor.



Year 5 news: -
Pen licenses are on everybody's mind in Year 5

Year 6 news: -
Year 6 have been finding out about what life is like in Secondary School.



Next week

Season of Creation

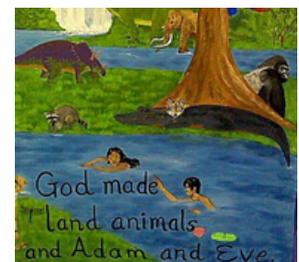


We continue our 'Season of creation' work with planned collective worship over the next couple of weeks which will be led by Miss Price. It is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of creation, to explore with children the message of Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'* and decide how we can all work together for the good of our 'Common Home'.

Each child (and staff member) will write their name on a leaf for our creation display in the foyer, so that every person in school is represented in our mission to look after the planet - 'our common home'.

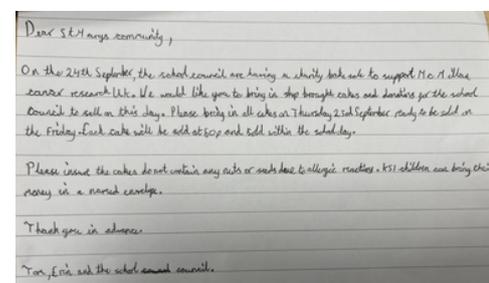
Super Science Learning Day

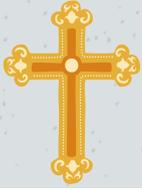
To fully embrace in our work on creation, we are hosting a super science learning day in school on Tuesday 17th September. Each year group have an element of the creation story to explore in more detail, with exciting Science investigations to find out more about how the World came to be.



Macmillan Cake Sale

On Friday 24th September, we will be raising money for the Macmillan appeal by hosting a cake sale in school. The School Council are arranging this and have written to parents separately to ask for donations.





Church Opening Times

St. Mary's Church opens weekdays at 8:30am for a twenty-five minute Mass.
The Church will stay open for prayer and candles till 4:00pm.

Guided Tour of St. Mary's Church



Not Catholic? Puzzled by what's in the Church or what your children tell you?
Or Catholic but can't really explain what you see or do in Church?

There will be a Guided Tour of St Mary's Church led by Fr John next **Thursday 23rd at 7.30pm**, when all that's typically Catholic will be explained: Statues, Shrines, genuflecting, holy water, kneeling/sitting/standing, Confessional, Tabernacle...and why does the priest wear different coloured clothes at Mass?? This is a one-off session

- the **About Being Catholic course** begins **Thursday 30th in the Parish Centre, 7.30pm**

First Holy Communion and Confirmation



St Mary's Parish First Holy Communion programme (for Year 3) and the Confirmation programme (Year 6) will begin in the Spring Term, every second Saturday, in the Parish Centre, 9.30-11.00am for Communion, 11.30 - 12.45 for Confirmation.



Certificate of Catholicity for Secondary School

If you are a parent of a Year 6 child, who will be requiring a Certificate of Catholicity (e.g. for St Paul's) and wanting Fr John to sign it, please note: he needs to know the family are regularly at Mass in St Mary's!

'Together we can make a difference' Competition

"Climate change is a global problem with serious implications. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." Pope Francis

Can you do a **poster, picture, story board or model to show what we can do to make a difference?**

These will be displayed in the porch and the church to give us all ideas of what to do.

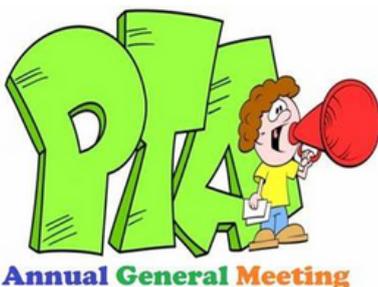
Please put your entry in the box on the piety stall before October 19th.

(Or you can give entries in to school). Please put your name and contact details on the back of your entries.

We hope there will be lots of entries from adults and children of all ages. Combined efforts from families or classes or groups of friends are also welcome. Size should be at least A4 but bigger posters are welcome too. The main end purpose is to have a great display in Church encouraging people to think about what steps they can take personally to reduce the increase in global warming.

If you need ideas check out the CAFOD website at cafod.org.uk

Other News



The first Annual General Meeting of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of the New school year will be on Thursday 14th October at 7pm. We look forward to welcoming new parents who would like to join the PTA in supporting the school run events throughout the school year.

Reminders



Please use book bags rather than rucksacks

Please can children attend school with their book bag and draw string PE bag.

The book bag has sufficient space for reading books and homework and the PE bag should contain pumps for indoor PE, that can be kept in school for the half term.

We are asking for this rather than the rucksacks as the rucksacks are too bulky and there is not enough space on the children's pegs for them all.

We will 'phase out' ruck sacks over the next few weeks and after half-term break it will be book bags only please.

Logo prints provide a service where book bags can be personalised if you wish for your child to have a bag that feels unique and special to them.



Jewellery



To ensure the safety of all children, we will only allow children to wear small stud earrings (not dangly earrings) and a watch, on the days that they are not doing PE.

On PE days we are asking that children do not wear any jewellery, so that it is not lost if they are asked to remove it for physical lessons. Thank you for supporting us with this, your child's safety is at the forefront of our uniform decisions. .

Y6 applications for Secondary Schools - apply before 31.10.2022

If you have a child currently in Year 6, please make sure that you have applied for their Secondary School.

If you live in Birmingham you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions **between 1 September and 31 October 2021.** |

It is important that you submit your application by 31 October 2021. Applications received after the national closing date of 31 October 2021 will be treated as late applications. Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools, and these applications will be processed after 1 March 2022, in accordance with Birmingham's coordinated admissions scheme.

Eschools

Eschools is a platform that teachers use to communicate with parents and set homework. This is checked regularly by teachers but not necessarily daily. Eschools is not the most efficient way to communicate with the Leadership team – please contact enquiry email or phone school for more urgent matters.

If your child needs a new password for Eschools, please contact the class teacher. If a parent needs a new password, please email school on forgottenpassword@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Again, this may take a few days to reset.

We encourage parents to keep their passwords safe so that they do not miss any key information.



Start of the day - 'Drop and go'

The gates will open at 8:30am. Miss. Price and/or Mrs. Davis will be at the yellow barrier.

End of the day - 'Pick up and go'

Please continue to be on time for pick up so that all classes are dismissed swiftly and safely.

3:10pm - Reception parents - walk down the drive on the **left** hand side.

Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

3:15pm - Year 1 and Year 2 parents - walk down the drive on the **right** hand side.

Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

If you are collecting children in the KS2 classes or the sibling group - please do not arrive until 3:20 to allow time for younger children to be dismissed first.

3:20pm - Sibling group - walk down the drive on the **right** hand side.

Your children will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

3:30pm - Year 3 and Year 4 parents - walk down the drive on the **left** hand side.

Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

3:30pm - Year 5 and Year 6 parents - walk down the drive on the **right** hand side.

Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

Please note: -

The school has a walking home policy that states that children should be picked up by the parents.

We encourage children to only walk home by themselves in the Summer term of Year 6.



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

Year RF	Aaron B	<i>For brilliant drawing and independent writing></i>
Year RL	Georgie	<i>Excellent Number work</i>
Year IF	Adadike	<i>For always trying hard in all of her learning and listening well.</i>
Year IL	Amelia	<i>Setting an excellent example for behaviour and being positive.</i>
Year 2F	Danny	<i>Brilliant retelling of the story of Noah.</i>
Year 2L	Adelise	<i>Creating and describing a fantastic new character.</i>
Year 3F	Helena	<i>For a positive attitude towards all of her learning.</i>
Year 3L	Olivia	<i>Contributing well to all lessons and keeping the virtues.</i>
Year 4F	Rome	<i>For being an exemplary role model in class.</i>
Year 4L	Gabriel	<i>An excellent attitude to learning, particularly in French.</i>
Year 5F	Lewin	<i>For a superb piece of writing about Grendel in Beowulf.</i>
Year 5L	Dhanyashri	<i>Having beautiful manners and helping a friend in need.</i>
Year 6F	Ryo	<i>Writing an excellent battle scene between Hercules and Cyclops.</i>
Year 6L	Batseba	<i>Always ready to learn and confidently contributing her ideas.</i>



COVID

Please remember if you, your child or any member of your household has **any symptoms** of COVID-19, do not send your children into school until they have had a PCR test. If the result comes back negative, then children can return to school if well enough, if the results come back positive, your child will need to isolate for 10 days after symptoms start and household members should take a PCR test.

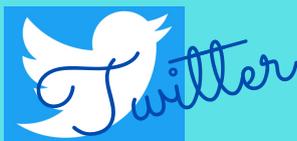
Thank you for your understanding with this.



Dates for the diary

22nd September 2021 - 9:15am -	Y5 Mass in Church (Y5 parents welcome).
24th September 2021 - all day -	Macmillan cake sale (for children only) in school.
29th September 2021 - 9:15am -	Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome).
1st October 2021 - 9:15am -	Year 6L Class Assembly in School.
6th October 2021 - 9:15am -	Y3 Mass in Church (Y3 parents welcome).
11th October 2021 - all week -	Mental Health Awareness Week in school.
13th October 2021 - 9:15am -	Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome).
14th October 2021 - 7:00pm -	PTA AGM meeting in school hall.
15th October 2021 - 9:15am -	Year 6F Class Assembly in School.
18th October 2021 - all week -	Book Fair in school.
19th October 2021 - after school -	Parent Consultations.
20th October 2021 - 9:15am -	Reception Welcome Service in Church (YR parents welcome).
21st October 2021 - morning -	Photographer in school.
21st October 2021 - 9:15am -	Parent Consultations.
25th October - 29th October -	Half term week.

Online Safety



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

This week in school we have been thinking about online safety. We have included some conversation starters that you can be having at home to support your children to use technology safely: -

- Ask your children to tell you what they enjoy doing online and what sites they visit regularly.
- Ask them about how they stay safe online.
- What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them?
- What is OK and not OK to share?
- Ask them if they know where to go for help, if something isn't right.
- Ensure that media used by your child is at the appropriate age limit.