



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

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121 464 2141

Email: enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

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.

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Curious and active



Dear parents and carers,

9th January 2026



All of the staff and Governors of St. Mary's wish you a very Happy New Year and may God bless our families, school, children and staff as we venture through 2026. I do hope that you had a lovely break with the children and have come back feeling refreshed.

A new term of learning

We have begun a new term of exciting learning across the school. Curriculum maps for this half-term are now available on our website, and I encourage you to take a look so you can see what your child will be exploring in class.

Catholic Social Action and RE focus

This half-term, our Catholic Social Action theme is caring for our poor and vulnerable, helping children understand how they can show compassion and kindness in their daily lives. In RE, we continue to celebrate the Christmas season by focusing on the Epiphany, reflecting on what we can learn from the Shepherds and the Kings who visited Jesus. We have seen some beautiful examples of prayer this week, much of it led confidently and reverently by the children.

Virtues for this half-term

Our virtues focus for this half-term is to be curious and active. We are encouraging the children to ask thoughtful questions, explore new ideas and take an active role in their learning and in the world around them; applying this to all aspects of their lives.

Snow Day Learning

Due to the snowy conditions today, home learning was set for all children. It has been wonderful to see the lovely learning being sent in, as well as the joy the children have had playing in the snow. I hope you have all made special memories together.

Keep warm and safe over the weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school at the normal time on Monday morning. Take care,

Mrs Yorke, Headteacher



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer

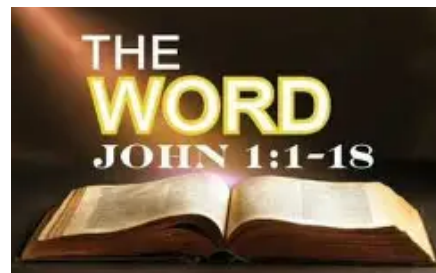
John 1: 1-18



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message, the children learnt:

- God has plan for them. We have been on His mind since the beginning of time;
- Jesus was present with God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit from the beginning of creation;
- God always keeps His promises.



Year 3 Mass - 07.1.26

Year 3 led us in a wonderful Mass this week as we celebrate the Epiphany together. The children read really well and sang beautifully; and created lovely art work to show their learning.

The Epiphany.

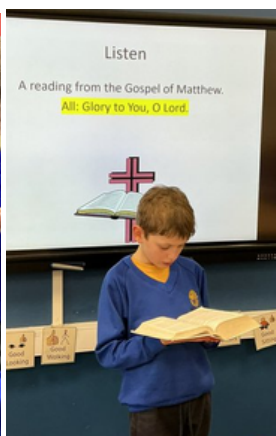


Our next Mass: - Year 1 Mass

The Baptism of our Lord

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 14th January 2026**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 will be leading us in our Mass, and Year 2 will also be in attendance.

All parents are welcome to join us and we ask that you sit in the old part of the Church.



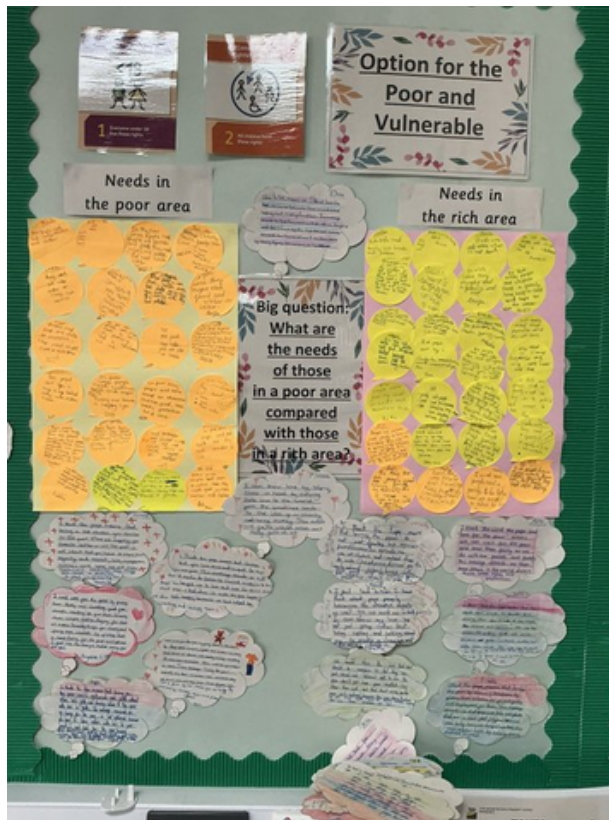
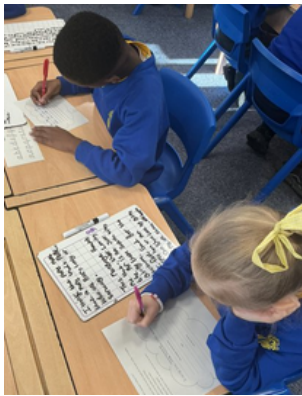
Prayer

We have seen strong child-led prayer on the theme of the Epiphany, this week.

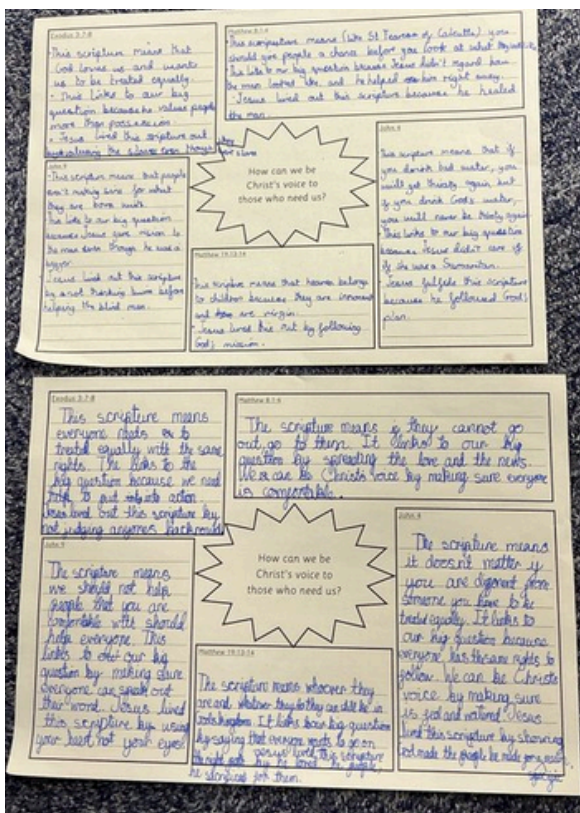


Catholic Life

Launching our new theme of 'Options for the Poor and Vulnerable'



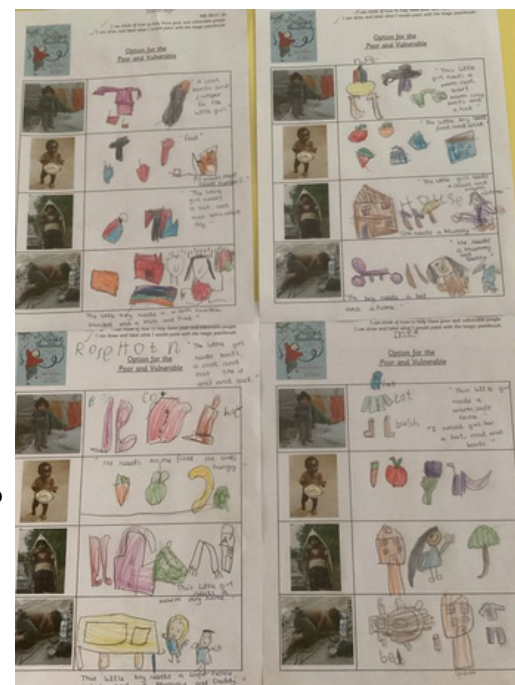
Year 4 and Year 5 have launched their stunning starts with some big questions to answer...
What are the needs of rich and poor people? What is the difference between a 'want' and a 'need'?



Year 6 have explored the question – 'how can we be Christ's voice to those who need us?'



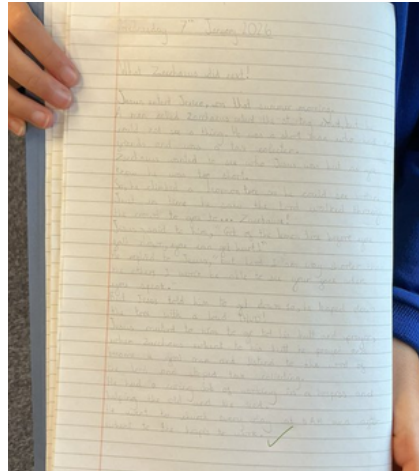
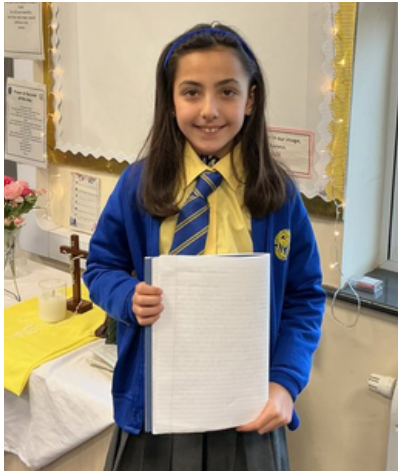
A teddy bears picnic in Year 1 but some of the teddies had more food than the others. Is this fair? How can we make it fair?



Reception class have been talking about and drawing pictures of how they would help poor and vulnerable children.

Catholic Life

Look at our lovely RE learning this week: –



Year 5 wrote imaginative pieces about Zacchaeus' story and Year 6 explored and compared the different Gospel accounts of the Christmas narrative.

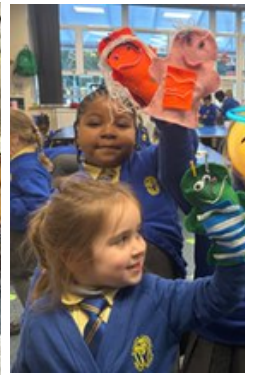
Virtues – Curious and Active



Children have been learning that being curious means developing a genuine desire to explore, ask thoughtful questions and seek deeper understanding about the world around them. They are encouraged to wonder, investigate and approach new ideas with enthusiasm. Being active teaches them to use their gifts to make a positive difference — taking initiative, getting involved, and acting with purpose to help others and contribute to their community.

CURRICULUM

We've seen some wonderful **DT** this week!



Year 1 investigated three different ways of attaching fabric together: stapling, gluing and pinning. They then used this knowledge to evaluate and decide upon the best method for making puppets.



Year 6 deepened their understanding of how structures are strengthened, stiffened and reinforced by studying the design of Anderson shelters. They learned to select appropriate tools, materials and joining techniques, applying these with accuracy and increasing independence. They then used this knowledge to design, make and evaluate their own shelter models, reflecting on how well their finished products met their design criteria and purpose.





Snowy fun



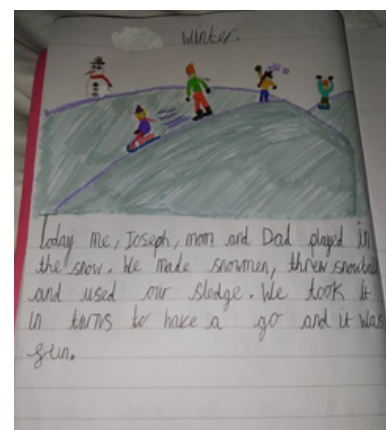
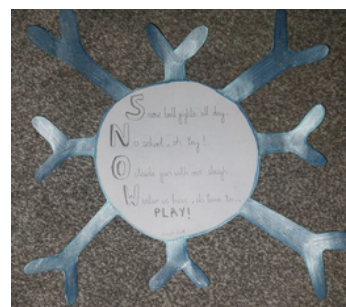
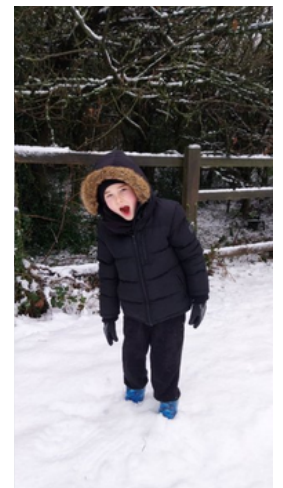
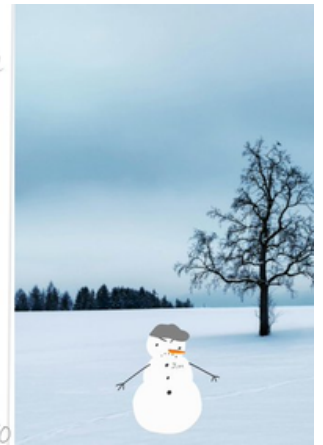
It has been lovely to see the joy that the snow has brought to the children.
Here are a few pictures from this week.



Jimmy the
Snow
man

Jimmy is a snowman
Unfriendly to every man
He isn't kind
And he doesn't mind!
Jimmy was a snowman
He hates every man
Don't mind him
Jimmy's dim
Jimmy was a grumpy
old snowman

Marian 60





Year 4 Harborne Library Visit - 13.1.26

Year 4 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

4M will leave at 8:45am

4J will leave at 10:15am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 4 staff know.



Early Reading and Phonics workshop for parents of Year 1 children - Tuesday 13th January at 2:30pm

On Tuesday 13th January at 2:30pm, we are hosting an Early Reading and Phonics meeting in the school hall. In this meeting, we will be sharing information about our phonics program - Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised and how you can use the resources to support your child with their reading at home.

Menu

Selection of Sandwiches (ham, egg mayonnaise, cheese or Jam)
Mini cheese & Tomato pizza (served warm)
Savoury chicken meatball (served warm)
Mini cocktail sausage roll (served warm)
Selection of salads

Vegetarian / vegan options

Selection of Sandwiches (egg mayonnaise, cheese or Jam)
Mini cheese & tomato pizza (served warm)
Quorn vegan dippers (served warm)
Vegan sausage roll (served warm)
Selection of salads

Sweet treats

White chocolate & raspberry cake
Scone with jam & cream
Butter flapjack
Mini chocolate muffin
Fresh fruit salad

Refreshment

Cranberry Mocktail (cranberry juice, orange squash and sparkling lemonade)



Afternoon tea themed Lunch in school - 15th January 2026

If your child isn't normally school dinners, but would like to have our Afternoon-tea menu - please let the school office know via Gateway by 12th January 2026.



Year 6 SATs

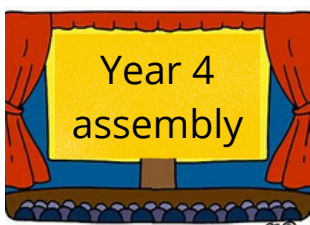
Parent Workshop

Thursday 15th January at 2:15pm

If you have a child in Year 6, who is due to take their SATs in May, please join us for our parent workshop on

Thursday 15th January at 2:15pm.

You will have the chance to work with your children and listen to how we prepare your child for SATs and ask any questions about access arrangements and how you can support at home.



Year 4 Assembly - Friday 16th January 2026 -
We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 4 children into school next Friday 16th January, for their year group assembly based on the baptism of our Lord.



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. 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 05/01/2026-09/01/2026

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	91	89	99	94	93	90	94	95	98	97	96	95	92	97
Lates	3	4	2	7	4	14	7	5	2	3	0	1	1	5
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%		School Target				97%		

Well done 1L: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for Spring term 2026

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

5th January 2026 - all day

7th January 2026 - 9:15am

13th January 2026 - am

13th January 2026 - 2:30pm

14th January 2026 - 9:15am

15th January 2026 - lunch

15th January 2026 - 2:15pm

16th January 2026 - 9:15am

20th January 2026 - am

21st January 2026 - 8:45am

22nd January 2026 - 9:15am

23rd January 2026 - 2:30pm

26th January 2026 - 8:00am

27th January 2026 - am

27th January 2026 - am

27th January 2026 - 3:30pm

28th January 2026 - all day

29th January 2026 - 3:15pm

30th January 2026 - 9:00am

WB 2.2.2026

3rd February 2026 - am

4th February 2026 - 9:15am

6th February 2026 - all day

6th February 2026 - 9:15am

WB 9.2.26

9th February 2026 - all day

10th February 2026 - all day

11th February 2026 - 9:15am

13th February 2026 - end of day

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Curious and Active

Children return to school at normal time

Year 3 Mass in Church (and Year 4 classes attend) - parents welcome

Year 4 library visit - 4M (8:45) and 4J (10:15)

Year 1 Phonics and Early Reading Meeting for parents

Year 1 Mass in Church (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

Special lunch in canteen

Year 6 SATs workshop for parents

Year 4 Year group Assembly

Year 3 library visit - 3L (8:45) and 3T (10:15)

Early Writing Workshop for Reception parents

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 6 classes attend) - parents welcome

Year 4 multiplication-check workshop for parents

PTA meeting in school hall

Reception eye-screening check in school

Year 5 library visit - 5M (8:45) and 5F (10:15)

KS2 film evening

Year 2 Mass in Church (and Year 1 classes attend) - parents welcome

Reception classes and KS1 film evening

Year 5 prayer service for parents

Children's Mental Health Week

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

Reception Mass in Church (with Y6 buddies in attendance) - parents welcome

Number day - wear digits

Year 3 Year group Assembly

Online Safety Week

Year 4 school trip to Bosworth Battlefield

Safer Internet Day

Year 4 Mass in Church (and Year 3 classes attend) - parents welcome

Break up for half-term break - normal time

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

23rd February 2026 - 8:45am

24th February 2026 - am

25th February 2026 - 9:15am

25th February 2026 - pm

27th February 2026 - 2:30pm

WB 2.3.26

4th March 2026 - 9:15am

5th March 2026 - all day

6th March 2026 - 9:15am

10th March 2026 - am

11th March 2026 - all day

11th March 2026 - 9:15am

13th March 2026 - all day

16th March 2026 - 9:15am 1:15pm

17th March 2026 - am

17th March 2026 - pm

18th March 2026 - 9:15am

19th March 2026 - pm

20th March 2026 - all day

24th March 2026 - am

24th March 2026 - 1:30pm

25th March 2026 - 9:30am

26th March 2026 - 9:00am

27th March 2026 - 6:30-8:30pm

WB 30.3.26

30th March 2026 - pm

1st April 2026 - 1:45pm

2nd April 2026 - 11:00am

2nd April 2026

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Intentional and Prophetic

Children return to school at normal time

Year 4 library visit - 4M (8:45) and 4J (10:15)

Year 6 Mass in Church (and Year 5 classes attend) - parents welcome

Oliver Twist workshop for Year 6

Reception parent workshop about Maths

Careers Week / Vocations week

Year 3 Mass (and Year 4 classes attend) - parents welcome

World book day - dress as your favourite book character

Year 2 Year group assembly

Year 3 library visit - 3L (8:45) and 3T (10:15)

Reception school trip to Attwell farm

Year 1 Mass in Church (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

Year 2 trip to Black Country Living Museum

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

Parent Consultation Evening

Reception Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome

Parent Consultation Evening

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

Year 5 library visit - 5F (8:45) and 5M (10:15)

Year 6 Confirmation Workshop with parents

Whole School Mass - parents welcome

Year 6 prayer service for parents

PTA event - Spring Disco in Parish

Holy Week

Reconciliation Service for children in Years 4/5/6

Reception class - Easter Bonnet parade

Year 6 Stations of the Cross in Church for KS2 and parent

Break up for Easter Holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Term Dates: - Academic Year 2025-2026

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

School Closed:

- Monday 4th May 2026 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Friday 24th October 2025
- Monday 20th July 2026
- Tuesday 21st July 2026



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

Year RB	Tessa	For working really hard in phonics and handwriting!
Year RT	Matilda	For always trying her best in class and for being such a wonderful role model for others
Year IF	Joshua	For having a wonderful first week back, showing good behaviour and focus in his learning. Well done Joshua!
Year IL	Ivy	For having such a positive attitude towards learning.
Year 2E	Daniel	For trying hard in all lessons. Well done Daniel.
Year 2G	Ale	for trying hard with his behaviour!
Year 3L	Jayden	For always being a fantastic role model for others and always making the right choices!
Year 3T	Rakeb	For always showing amazing virtues
Year 4J	Sarah	For her working very hard in every lesson and always being a role model to others!
Year 4M	Anya	For showing kindness, respect, and being helpful every day!
Year 5F	Hannah	For putting in great effort in Maths! Well done!
Year 5M	Dee	For having a positive attitude towards her learning. Keep it up!
Year 6O	Isabella	Showing real resilience and maturity. I am so proud of you!
Year 6R	Emiliano	For showing fantastic leadership skills during DT and creating a brilliant Anderson shelter

