



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.



November is dedicated to the Holy Souls.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Families and Community'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Intentional and Prophetic'

Dear parents and carers,

15th November 2024

We have had a week where the learning has focused on celebrating Other Faiths, promoting an understanding of how faiths and beliefs can work alongside each other as we live out our virtues and mission statement. I share some of our learning within this newsletter. Linked to this, we have also been talking about 'respect' during our Anti-bullying week. Our children know that they must tell somebody if ever they see bullying, so that it can be stopped. Bullying should never be kept quiet and we should respect each other.



We are now beginning to think about our approach to Advent, which will be upon us in a couple of weeks. St. Mary's works alongside a group of primary schools and Bishop Challoner Secondary School. Collectively, we are known as the Tolkien group of schools. During Advent, we work together to try to help and make a difference for our Birmingham families.

We have two initiatives running as a cohort of schools: -

1) We have our **'toy appeal'** running again this year and we are asking for new toys to be donated to this, so that we can support families in Birmingham this Christmas. If you would like to support, please send in new toys, unwrapped over the next month.

2) St Catherine of Siena Primary School, in Great Colmore Street B15 2AY, support **Birmingham Christmas shelter** every year. This year, the school will open between 24th-28th December to serve those who need food and clothing. Last year, 400 guests received fresh clothes and toiletries in those four days. St Catherine's have asked our schools to support by collecting items for the Birmingham Christmas Shelter - they need: - toiletries, biscuits, crisps, cordial, clothing. If you would like to support, please bring any donations to the school office over the next few weeks.

I appreciate that times are difficult. I have always found that the families of St. Mary's are incredibly generous. Please feel no obligation to give if you need to provide for your family first. However, I thank those of you in advance, if you feel able to support in helping us with the above Charity work.

I thank you for your patience whilst school systems are being fixed and updated - we're nearly back to normal. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Yorke

We pray for those who have died in November





Catholic Life



This week's Gospel and Prayer

Mark 12:38-44

"A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny."

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

- the generosity of our hearts is more important than outward shows of generosity.
- God provides so we can be generous with others
- we don't need to have much to be generous with what we have,

Prayer suggestions and activities: -

During November, the Month of the Holy Souls, we pray for all those who have died and for the holy souls in purgatory that they will enter the kingdom of Heaven. We give thanks for their example and witness of being intentional and prophetic throughout their lives to their vocational calling. We join our prayers with the Communion of Saints.



Remembrance and Holy Souls



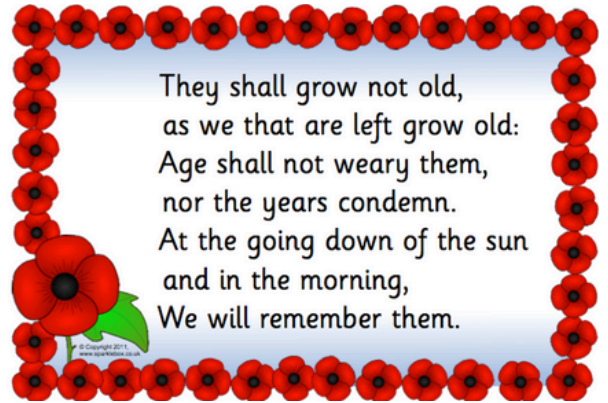
We will remember them...

John 15 : 13

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

We remember before God, and commend to Him, those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew; and whose memory we treasure; and all those names of people who we do not know; who lived and died in service and faith of the Lord.

We pray for peace in our World. Amen.



They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.

We gathered as a school for our 2 minute silence on 11.11.24 at 11am



Y4 Mass – St. Andrew – 20.11.24 at 9:15am

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 20th November 2024, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 4 children will be leading our Mass and Year 3 children will attend too.





Other Faiths Week



Reception learnt about the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi and how it is celebrated



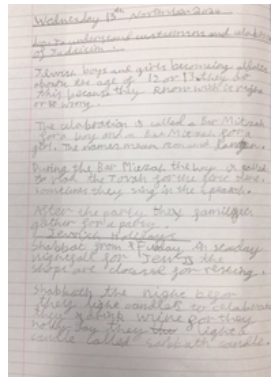
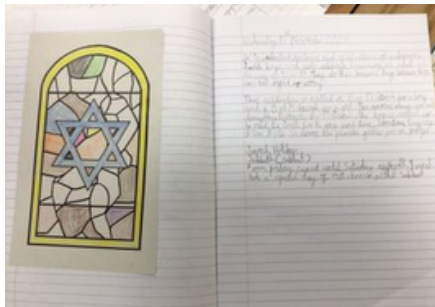
Year 2 have enjoyed learning more about Hindu worship, including special signs and symbols.



Year 1 have been learning about the Hindu faith and enjoyed making Rangoli patterns.



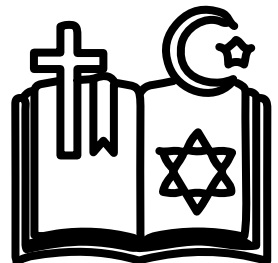
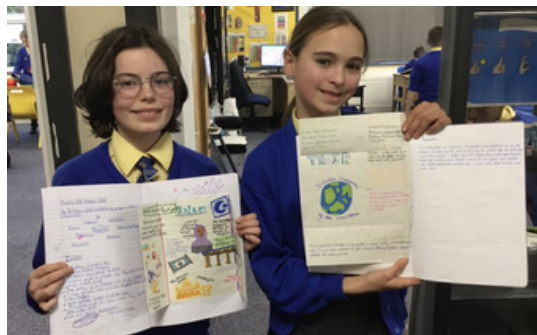
Year 4 expanded their knowledge about Judaism.



Year 3 have been learning all about Judaism and the customs and celebrations of the Jewish faith.



Year 6 looked at the importance of human dignity in the Islamic religion. They created their own posters.



Year 5 created posters to showcase their understanding of Islam

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2024

**CHOOSE
RESPECT**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Monday 11th to
Friday 15th November

**ODD SOCKS
DAY 2024**
Tuesday 12th November

#OddSocksDay

#ChooseRespect



The whole school came in wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique!

How can I help my child if I think they're being bullied?

- Open up a conversation. ...
- Listen to their experience. ...
- Give them time before talking if they need it. ...
- Check in with them. ...
- Keep a log of the bullying. ...
- Help them build up their self-esteem. ...
- Encourage them to spend time with peers who treat them well.

**Let a member
of staff know**



Monday 18th November - Non School Uniform Day

On Monday 18th November, St Mary's School and PTA are asking for donations for the Christmas Fayre. The children can come to school wearing non-uniform and bring in the following items...

Reception



Chocolate or sweets for the tombola.

Years 1, 2, 3



Christmas Stockings - filled with sweets / little treats. Take a new pair of socks, roll one sock up and put into the other, fill the sock with treats, sweets, hair accessories etc... Secure with an elastic, tie or ribbon.

Years 4, 5, 6



A bottled drink - alcoholic or non-alcoholic for the Tombola (Unopened and in date please).

Finally, if you are doing a clear out before Christmas and have any pre-loved items that you would like to donate, they would be greatly received (toys, books, gift sets, jewellery, crockery etc) You can deliver any of your donations into school or the Priory between 8-4 Mon-Fri over the next 2 weeks.

Class 4M Other Faiths Visit Singers Hill Synagogue 19.11.24

On Tuesday 19th November, Y4M will be visiting Singers Hill Synagogue to enhance their learning about Judaism.



Year 6 Harborne Library Visit - 19.11.24

Year 6 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.
6O will leave at 9:00am
6R will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 6 staff know.



KSI Theatre Visit

'Finding Santa'

Thursday 21st November 2024

On Tuesday 19th November, KSI have their theatre visit! How exciting!

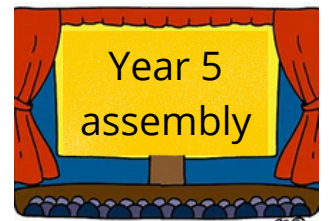
On the day of the trip, your child will need to wear their school uniform as usual. We will travel to the theatre by coach and return to school for lunch in the afternoon.

The PTA will provide a snack for the children to enjoy at the theatre



Year 5 Assembly

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 5 children into school next Friday 24th October, for their year group assembly based on Christ the King.



Other news

Reading Update

Thank you to everyone that attended the recent Book Fair.

We have raised £515 to buy new books for the school.

thank you



Play resources

We are delighted with our new wagons to support Outdoor Play and Learning sessions at break time and lunch time. The children are looking forward to using the resources to support their play.



SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER

**12.00
to
3.00pm**

ST MARY'S PARISH / PTA

CHRISTMAS FAIR

**PARISH HALLS
VIVIAN ROAD, HARBORNE**

- * Santa's Grotto *
- * Bottle Tombola *
- * Chocolate Tombola *
- * Christmas Stockings *
- * Mulled Wine & Mince Pies *
- * Festive Sandwiches & Drinks *
- * Stalls: Books, Jewellery, Toys, Fancy Goods,
Glass, China & Pottery, Cakes,
Jams & Chutneys *

Free Admission (£4 for Santa's Grotto)



CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

Come and join us on Wednesday

December 4th 7-9pm

in St. Mary's Parish Hall.

Make your own Christmas wreath

Everything included plus a glass of
mulled wine & a mince pie

£25 per person

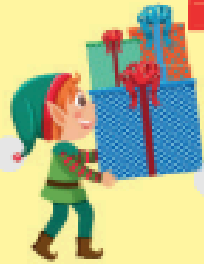
All proceeds go to St. Mary's RC primary
school

We have been asked to support the Birmingham Irish Association Initiative again this year, to provide toys for children who in Birmingham who may not receive a Christmas present this year. Our families and staff have always been so generous at supporting this initiative.

Details can be found below: -

Toy Appeal

Christmas 2024



Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years



COLLECTION DATES:

Monday 4th November - Thursday 12th December

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL





School Fund

Our School Fund is a vital source of income for our school.

It pays for the 'extras' such as Inspire workshops, curriculum resources, Christmas activities, theatre or performances as well as subsidising school trips.

These 'extras' are enjoyed by all year groups at St Mary's throughout the year.

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.

We understand that some families may find donating to us difficult, especially with the current cost of living crisis. With that in mind we have decided to alter the way our donations are done and hopefully make it easier to maintain.

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 25p from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation to go further.

Consequently, by setting up a standing order for say, £2 per month per child or £5 per month per family for parents with multiple siblings who attend St Mary's, you will guarantee the school a monthly income on which we can reclaim tax.

Please consider this option seriously. If you feel unable to sign up to a monthly payment, why not pay a one-off payment of £20 per child per year or £50 per family per year, again with a Gift Aid declaration.

A Gift Aid declaration and standing order form has been emailed out to our families. If you wish to gift aid your donations then please complete and return these to school at your earliest convenience.

*For those families who **do** wish to gift aid, we have set up the account listed below for donations.*

Account Name: St Marys School Fund – Gift Aid Account

*Sort Code: **30 - 19 - 14***

*Account Number: **03595246***

As always, we are extremely grateful for the support that we receive from the parents at St Mary's and appreciate you helping us be able to put on these events and treats for the children, which hopefully make their time at St Mary's more fun and memorable. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school. We ask you to be assured of the confidential manner in which the school will treat your details.

Chess competition

*Congratulations to William and Noah who received Individual positions from the chess competition:
1st - St Mary's (William)
2nd - St Mary's (Noah)*



We're incredibly proud of you

And well done to all children who played Chess and represented St. Mary's - your accumulative points meant that St. Mary's won the competition overall.



Open Day 2024



Last Thursday, we opened our doors to welcome potential Reception parents. We offered tours of the school and an opportunity to ask questions about life at St Mary's. Both sessions were very well attended and we are blessed to have such interest in our school. The parents were led around by our prefects and I must say they did an incredible job! We received so much positive feedback about our fantastic tour guides and our beautiful school. Thank you children and to everyone involved!



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:



Amy Davis	Louise Yorke	Rachel Jones	Rachel Richards	Sharon Tame	Laura Noone	Jade Preedy
Deputy Headteacher	Headteacher	Senior Teacher	EYFS Lead	School Counsellor	AHT	AHT
Lead DSL	Deputy DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL

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 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 11/11-15/11

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96	95.6	98.6	95.3	98.6	95	94.6	100	94.3	97.3	98.6	97	97.3	98.3
Lates	4	3	3	3	3	4	1	0	2	1	4	4	3	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%			School Target				97%	

Well done 3T: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this half-term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 11 Virtues

18th November 2024 - all day

19th November 2024 - 10:00am

19th November 2024 - am

20th November 2024 - 9:15am

21st November 2024 - 10:30am

22nd November 2024 - 9:00am

23rd November 2024 - 12:00pm

25th November 2024 - 10:00am

26th November 2024 - am

27th November 2024 - 9:15am

3rd December 2024 - am

3rd December 2024 - 3:30-4:30

4th December 2024 - 3:30-4:30

4th December 2024 - 7:00pm

5th December 2024 - 3:45-4:45

6th December 2024 - 9:30am

9th December 2024 - 1:30pm

10th December 2024 - am

11th December 2024 - lunch

12th December 2024 - 9:30am

12th December 2024 - all day

13th December 2024 - all day

13th December 2024 - 9:00am

13th December 2024 - 6:45pm

13th December 2024 - 7:00pm

17th December 2024 - 10:15am

17th December 2024 - 2:15pm

18th December 2024 - 2:15pm

19th December 2024 - 2pm

20th December 2024 - 9:30am

20th December -

Families and Communities

Intentional and Prophetic

PTA non-uniform day in support of Parish Fete - bring sweets/bottles

Year 4M Synagogue visit

Year 6 visit to Harborne library (9:15 6O and 11:00 6R)

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

KSI Theatre trip to the MAC - 'Finding Santa'

Year 5 Year group Assembly

Parish Fete

Year 4J Synagogue visit

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 5F and 11:00 5M)

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

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4M and 11:00 4J)

PTA event - KSI Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

PTA event - Reception class Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

Annual Wreath making workshop in Parish Hall - £25

PTA event - KS2 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

Whole School Mass - Feast of Immaculate Conception in Church (Parents welcome)

Penitential Service for Years 4 - 6 (children and staff only)

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3L and 11:00 3T)

Christmas dinner day in school

Reception Nativity in Church (for parents)

Christmas jumper day in school

Year 3L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Lucy

Year 3 Prayer Service for all Year 3 parents

Choir sing for Carols by Candlelight - meet at school 6:45pm

Carols by Candlelight in St. Mary's Church (all welcome)

KS2 Theatre Visit at Malvern Theatre 'Sleeping Beauty'

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Assembly in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service in Church (for parents)

Whole school Christmas Mass for all children, staff and parents

Break up for Summer holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KSI 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	Aris	<i>For being such a kind and caring individual towards everyone in Reception!</i>
Year RT	Sebastian	<i>For trying really hard and making great progress in phonics and reading!</i>
Year 1F	Rogan	<i>For his beautiful reading this week.</i>
Year 1L	Kori	<i>For her excellent Rangoli design.</i>
Year 2E	Kenneth	<i>For being a kind and helpful member of the class</i>
Year 2G	Tobenna	<i>For always being a fantastic member of our class!</i>
Year 3L	Anya	<i>For always trying her best and showing kindness to others!</i>
Year 3T	Imogen	<i>For writing a beautiful, innovated poem about Remembrance Day.</i>
Year 4J	Ioan	<i>Really keen attitude to learning</i>
Year 4M	Sebastian	<i>Working hard to prepare child led prayer</i>
Year 5F	Azucena	<i>For being a wonderful role model and consistently striving for excellence</i>
Year 5M	Mussie	<i>For always being such a helpful member of the class</i>
Year 6O	Jack	<i>For creating a wonderful poem based on our war poetry</i>
Year 6R	Catherine	<i>For her consistently mature and positive approach to all her learning</i>

