



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.

March is dedicated to St. Joseph

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Faith-filled and hopeful'



15th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Good afternoon. For those celebrating this weekend, I wanted to wish you a very happy St. Patrick's day!

This week we have taken part in British Science Week and the theme this year has been 'Time'. Alongside some wonderful learning and live lessons, KS2 children have also been given the opportunity to take part in the 'Big Plastic Count' - we are interested in finding out how much plastic is thrown away.

Thank you to all of our parents who came to our Mothers' Day Inspire event in school. Following feedback, the event was moved to being across one day, so that working parents, who have more than one child in one year group, could attend without missing multiple days off work. We also changed the event to also include curriculum areas for those parents who wanted to know their child's curriculum more. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, so thank you. We continue to act on feedback for future events and I thank you to those who have completed the feedback questionnaire. Next week, we are raising awareness about Down Syndrome and on Thursday 21st March, children can wear mismatched and bright socks to school - the more colourful the better.

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

2 Chronicles 36 : 23

"The Lord, the God of Heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the Earth; He has ordered me to build Him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah.."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- God made a promise that He will always be with His people.
- The Holy Spirit is God's presence in the World and within us.
- We can bring more of God's presence to the World as we Give, Act and Pray this Lent.



God our Father,

Thank you for being close to us!

*Help me to make time to be in your presence.
Show me how I can share your love and presence
with others.*

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Reception Mass - 13.3.24 - 4th Week of Lent

Reception class showed gratitude for all that they were thankful for in this week's Mass. We rejoice because God knows each one of us and loves us very much.



Whole School Mass - 5th Week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 20th March 2024, starting promptly at 9:30am. All children and staff will be attending Mass.

All parents are welcome to attend.



Catholic Social Teaching Building the Kingdom Options for the Poor and Vulnerable



Reception class have found out more about the Charity that they are supporting this Lent - Focus Birmingham. They made shakers for the people with visual impairments to enjoy.



THE
BIG
LENT
WALK

Year 5 completed their Big Lent walk, this week, carrying buckets of water to raise awareness of water poverty.

Our Lenten Journey

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

-Pope Francis



Lent prayer... in school

Charity: - **CAFOD** Just oneworld

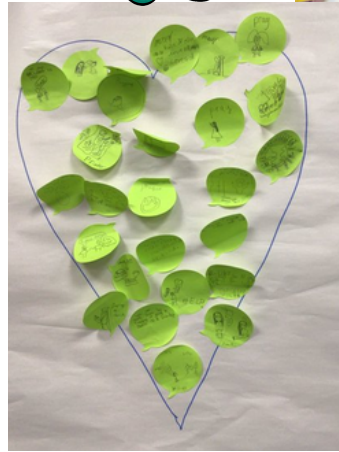
KS2 are walking 200km for CAFOD this Lent - please sponsor us!



<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-big-lent-walk2025>

£82

raised so far



Prayer & Liturgy



Gratitude



Thank you Year 4 for organising our collection for homeless charities.

*Supporting our Lenten charities: -
FOCUS Birmingham, CAFOD, homeless charities...*

**Year
R**

Reception class will be baking cakes to sell at our Easter bonnet parade. Children will bake the cakes at home with their parents and money made will go to local charity - FOCUS Birmingham



**Year
1**

Year 1 will be visiting our residents at Heathcote House during Lent - gifting them with their time. The children are looking forward to reading, singing and playing games with the residents.



**Year
2**

Year 2 will be inviting members of the parish and local community in to school for a special tea party to celebrate their learning about Queen Victoria



KS2

KS2 are taking part in The Big Lent Walk! All KS2 children will be asking for sponsorship to walk 200km collaboratively over Lent. Your donations can change lives! All money raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.



**Year
5**

Year 5 will be learning about rivers in Summer and water distribution around the World. They will explore the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' This Lent, Year 5 will complete their Big Lent CAFOD walk, carrying buckets of water, to raise awareness of water poverty.



**Year
4**

Additionally, Year 4 children will continue their collection for homeless charities. Year 4 have been reading 'The nightbus hero in class' and would like to support local homeless charities during Lent - they will be asking for donations and working closely with parents.



**Spiritual
Council**

Community tidy up - litter picking in our local area around St. Mary's and high street - parents welcome to join us! Staff too!



Lent Reflection

Almsgiving is a practice that brings us into communion with one another in ways that extend beyond fasting and prayer. By caring for the needs of those around us, we are participating in the merciful work of the Church to provide for our brothers and sisters and in doing so, we become more connected to God and to one another.

Almsgiving

scripture

*"When he looked up, he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, 'I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest' -
Luke 21*

reflection

Charity, or almsgiving, is an outward sign of Christian love for others. It is not a time to boast, but it is a time to give what we can to those who are less fortunate. It is not how much we give but how much we are willing to sacrifice in the support of something that would benefit others. Acts of kindness, donations to charities and raising money are different examples of how we can be charitable. Our school mission 'loving all people' is being lived in our charity work this Lent - thank you for supporting the children to raise money for those in poverty.

open question

How will you show love and be charitable, this Lent?

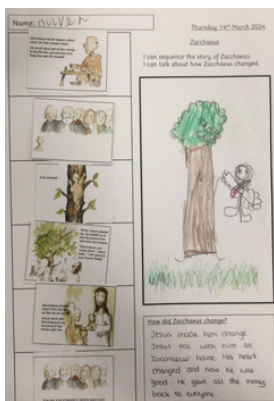
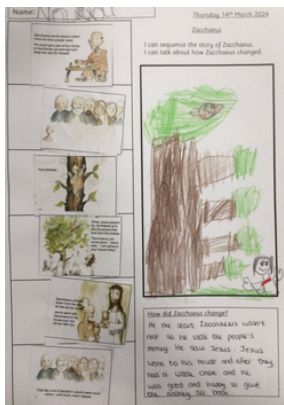
Task

A Creative Reflection You are invited to express how you will show love and be charitable. It could be through a picture, poem, prayer, artwork
Share your creations with us. All collective work will be displayed in the school hall.



Reception news: -

Reception sequenced the story of Zacchaeus in RE this week and drew some wonderful pictures!



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been measuring objects using a ruler.



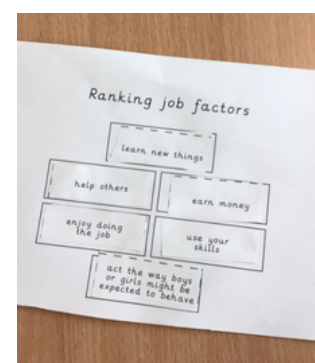
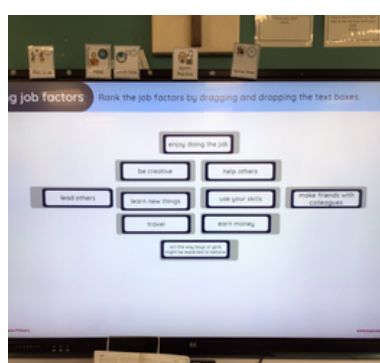
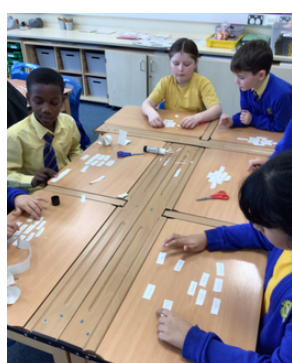
Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been using their observation skills in Science this week and thinking about whether larger bulbs will produce larger plants.



Year 3 news: -

In PSHE this week, Year 3 have been discussing what stereotypes exist for certain jobs.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about play scripts and acted out the scenes in groups.



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 investigated how moths adapt to their environment over time in Science this week.



Year 6 news: -

Inspired by Monet, Year 6 used oil pastels to create wonderful pictures of the Houses of Parliament.



British
Science
Week
2024



8-17 March

British
Science
Week
2024



Celebrating the diverse people
and careers in science & engineering

#SMASHING
STEREOTYPES
@ScienceWeekUK

This week, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of British Science Week.

Year 6 have been researching theories as to why the dinosaurs became extinct! They presented their research on scientific posters.

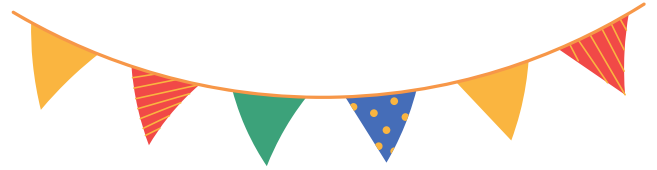


Following on from this, Year 6 boys also gave a video presentation explaining the role of a paleontologist. Well done, boys!



Year 3 have been learning about their amazing brains and how we learn new things! They learnt neurons in their brains send signals within their bodies. they found out that over time, our brains can change based on our experiences and the number of connections grows.

We've had some fantastic entries for our Science Week poster competition. The theme for the entries is 'Time' and submit your entries before the end of term if you've not yet entered.



Year 1 have been looking at time for science week!



British
Science
Week
2024



8-17 March

British
Science
Week
2024



Celebrating the diverse people
and careers in science & engineering

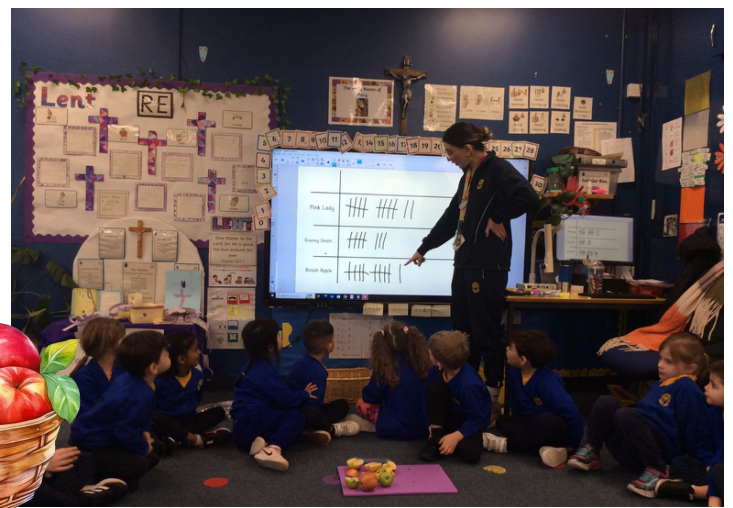
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STEREOTYPES

@ScienceWeekUK

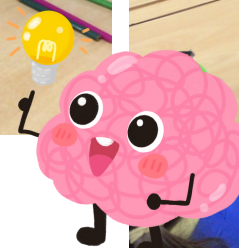
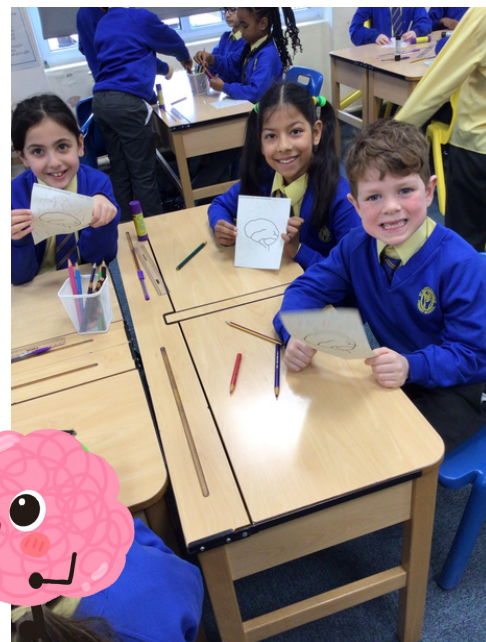
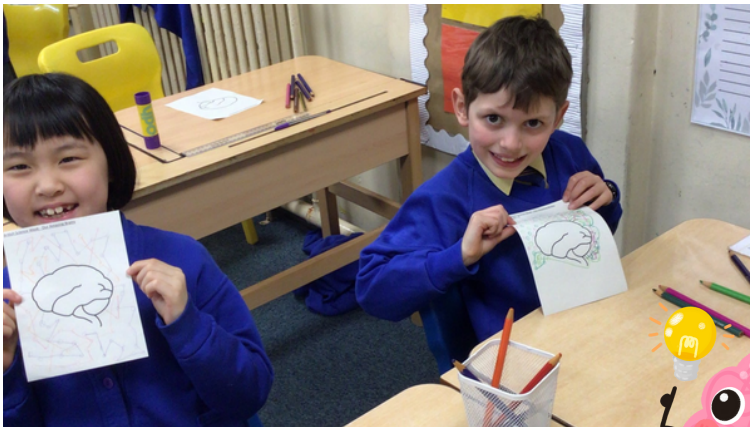
This week, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of British Science Week.



Year 2 scientists were in action using magnifying glasses to observe and describe a wide variety of seeds



EYFS have been busy learning about changes in apples for science week. They also used their senses to smell, touch and taste the apples and voted for their favourite!



Year 3 have been learning about their amazing brains and how we learn new things! They learnt neurons in their brains send signals within their bodies. they found out that over time, our brains can change based on our experiences and the number of connections grows.

Mothers' Day Inspire!

"Seeing my child in his school environment and having a part to play in this."

Thank you to everyone who attended our Mothers' Day Inspire Workshops this week - we are so pleased to hear how much you enjoyed them. Your feedback is gratefully appreciated and we will take on board your comments about how we can improve our workshops in the future.

Reception

Year 1



"Everything was perfect, we enjoyed the time together and the activities, we enjoyed the treats and drinks as well. Thank you."



Year 3



"Was lovely to see children in their own classroom showing off what they have been learning."

Year 4

Year 5



"Have the chance to bond with my child and see how confidently she moves along in the school."

Year 6

"Fully enjoyed the day. My son's face lit up when I walked in which was so lovely to see. I will a little apprehensive with gardening but we were all supported well & there were so many resources & plenty of equipment for all. Thank you all who arranged & organised this event. I will remember this always."



Council House Visit - 13.3.24

Our School Council visited the Birmingham Council House this week. They enjoyed a guided tour and spent time with the Lord Mayor.



Lord Mayor of Birmingham @BrumLordMayor · Mar 13
I had the honour & pleasure of talking to a class of students from @StMaryB17 school today 🧑🎓

Talking about the role of the Lord Mayor & how the city council works, it was brilliant to see young & aspiring children, who will undoubtedly grow up & be sat in this room again ➡️ SOON



Council House Visit - 15.3.24

Marking the 50th anniversary of Birmingham St Patrick's Day Parade and our charity support, Mrs Yorke attended the Council House on Friday morning at the request of the Lord Mayor. It was a wonderful celebration.





Parent Consultations - 18.03.24 and 19.03.24

Parent consultations are taking place next week. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please log onto eSchools to do so or contact the school office.

The appointments will last for 10 minutes only and please do not arrive any earlier than 5 minutes before your first appointment. Unfortunately, children attending the school will not be allowed to attend the appointment in the hall. We can look after them (but not pre-school children) in the Year 2 classroom.



SCHOLASTIC



The Book Fair is arriving next week!

The fair will be open to parents at the Parent Consultations on 19.03.24 and 20.03.24 and after school during the rest of the week for children with their adults.



Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 21.03.24

Year 3 will be visiting Harborne Library next Thursday.

3T will leave at 9:00am

3L 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 3 staff know.



Wear bright coloured socks on 21st March...

The #LotsOfSocks campaign exists to raise awareness about Down syndrome.

#LotsOfSocks help us to get people talking on World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), celebrated each year on 21 March.

All you need to do is choose some socks that are going to get noticed - they might be mismatched socks or your craziest and most colourful socks, whatever takes your fancy!

If someone asks you about your socks you can tell them, "I'm wearing them to raise awareness of Down syndrome".



RB Non-Uniform Day - 21.03.24

RB will be celebrating (belatedly) the feast day of their class saint - St Teresa of Calcutta. On Thursday, they will enjoy a day of celebration with their class and may wear their own clothes.



Free Gaelic Football Taster Session

Saturday 23rd March 1.30–2.30pm
Queensbridge, B13 8NB, Access off Moor Green Lane

Come and Join us for a fun-filled Gaelic football session for boys and girls aged 5–17!!

Please email attendance; stbrendansbirmingham@gmail.com

Brendans GAA Birmingham

@st_brendans_gaabham

@BrendansGAA



Interested in Gaelic football?



To access any GAA course you need to have registered on the learning.gaa.ie portal

If you need to REGISTER a profile on the learning portal:

Using your phone camera: SCAN the 1st QR code, at STEP 1.

(Registering a profile is required to give GDPR consent for us to hold data and takes about 3 mins. The rest is a click tab process so it's very easy).

If you already have registered a profile – Log in to the portal and proceed to STEP 2.

STEP 1	STEP 2
<p align="center">Registration</p>	<p align="center">Enrolling on course</p>
<p>Use your mobile phone to SCAN this QR code so you can register on the learning portal:</p>	<p>Log on to the portal using your email and password.</p> <p>SCAN the QR code below and enter the Enrolment Key (CASE SENSITIVE) and that is you registered on the course:</p>
	
<p>or access the Learning portal using this URL:</p> <p>https://learning.gaa.ie/user/register</p>	<p>ICGG Dual Birmingham April 2024 Enrolment Key: BIRApr24 or access the course using this URL: https://learning.gaa.ie/lms/course/view.php?id=17657</p>

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



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 11/03-15/03

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96	93	96	96.6	92	99	98	99.3	96.3	92	96.3	97	98.7	99.3
Lates	5	3	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	2
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%			School Target				97%	

Well done 3T and 6O: - Our joint attendance champions!



WB 18.4.24

World Down Syndrome Day - 21st March 2024 Sunflowers & Socks

In March - we create awareness for those who have Down Syndrome.

World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The date, 21st March (i.e. the 3rd month of the year), was chosen to reflect the fact that people with Down Syndrome have 3 copies of chromosome number 21.

Down Syndrome is a naturally occurring genetic condition caused by an extra chromosome. Babies with Down Syndrome are born to parents of all ages, races, religions and background. Down Syndrome usually causes varying degrees of intellectual and physical disability, and some associated medical issues. Approximately half of all children born with Down Syndrome have a heart defect and approximately half have problems with hearing and vision. Everyone with Down Syndrome has a learning disability so it takes longer to learn new information and master new skills; most children with Down Syndrome will learn to walk and talk but they will do so in their own time. Many will use Makaton sign language to help them communicate.

We are marking World Down Syndrome Day again this year. At St .Mary's, we do encourage an inclusive and caring environment that welcomes diversity.

Now, to explain the sunflowers and socks...

*Down Syndrome UK run a **sunflower challenge** for World Down Syndrome Day. We have begun planting our Sunflowers today and will continue to plant them in to next week. As the children watch the flowers grow, they will reflect on that just like sunflowers, every child grows and blooms uniquely, in their own time.*



Rock your socks! *The idea of this campaign, which is observed around the world, is simply to get people talking about Down Syndrome. Socks were chosen as the basis of this international campaign because chromosomes are thought to look a little bit like pairs of socks. Wear your brightest, boldest and/or mismatched socks on **21st March** and when somebody asks you about them, tell them you are raising awareness of Down Syndrome.*



Thank you to all the staff, children and parents for supporting our World Down Syndrome Day celebrations and doing their bit to help raise awareness. Looking forward to seeing those socks next week.

Dates for this term

Spring theme -

Spring 11 Virtues

March

19th March 2024 - evening

20th March 2024 - 9:30am

20th March 2024 - evening

21st March 2024 - all day

21st March 2024 - all day

21st March 2024 - 9:00am

WB 25th March 2024

26th March 2024 - 2:00pm

28th March 2024 - 11:00am

28th March 2024 -

Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Faith-filled and Hopeful

World Down Syndrome Awareness Month - Grow your sunflower

Parent Consultation Evening

Whole School Mass in Church - 5th week of lent - parents are welcome

Parent Consultation Evening

World Down Syndrome Awareness Day - Wear Odd Socks

RT non-school uniform day for St. Teresa of Calcutta

Reception Prayer Service for parents

Holy Week

Reception Easter Bonnet Parade and cake sale

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

Break up for Easter holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

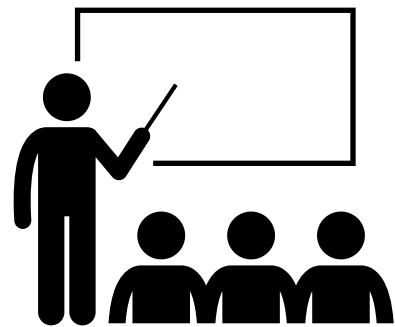
1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

SAVE THE DATE

2024-2025 dates

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3 rd September - Thursday 24 th October
	Half-term
	Monday 4 th <u>November</u> - Friday 20 th December
Spring Term	Monday 6 th January - Friday 14 th February
	Half-term
	Monday 24 th February - Thursday 17 th April
Summer Term	Tuesday 6 th May - Friday 23 rd May
	Half-term
	Monday 2 nd June - Friday 18 th July



INSET days are still to be confirmed by the Governing Board - please continue to check our school website for updates.

Star of the week

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

- Year RB Evan For his lovely manners in the classroom this week!
- Year RT Arabella For behaving beautifully in church during our class Mass this week!
- Year IF Patryk For being an excellent role model and always working hard!
- Year IL Freya For always trying her hardest in everything she does!
- Year 2E Wayne For always asking interesting questions in class discussions
- Year 2G Belle For being a beautiful role model
- Year 3L Ella For always trying her hardest in everything she does!
- Year 3T Alex For being attentive and being a considerate role model
- Year 4J Shiza For participation in class and growing confidence
- Year 4M Oscar For his super effort in his maths work!
- Year 5F Maya For consistent exemplary manners and resilience
- Year 5M Tiffany For being kind, caring and compassionate, and looking after her teacher!
- Year 6O Elizabeth For always coming into school with a big smile on her face and a warm greeting for her teacher
- Year 6R Eva For excellent work in English this week

