



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'



24th September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We have had another busy week in school where we have been focusing on the 'season of creation' and the Science behind God's creation. Thank you for the donations to our Macmillan Cake Sale this week - it was very successful in school - and we appreciate everybody's support. Now that we are a few weeks in, please can I remind you about the uniform policy as I will be enforcing this after half term, to give you time to make sure that your child has the correct items for school. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Louise Price

This week's Gospel and prayer

Mark 9:30-38 "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all"

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

- 'Greatness' isn't about winning or being the best.
- Instead Jesus sets us an example to follow: to be in great in God's sight, we must put others first.

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us our gifts and talents.
 Help us to remember that true greatness comes not from winning,
 but from putting others first.

Amen

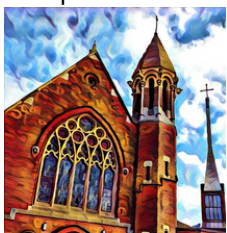
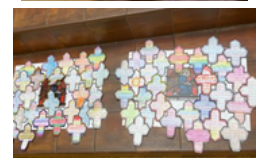
Catholic Life in School

Year 5 Mass - St. Matthew

Year 5 led us in a beautiful Mass on Wednesday dedicated to St. Matthew - who was a sinner before he was a Saint.

What a perfect example he is to us!

It was wonderful to celebrate Mass in Church with the parents.



Year 4 Mass in Church - 29.9.21 at 9:15am

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 29th September, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 4 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).

SEASON OF CREATION
MONTH
 SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 4

Super Science Learning and Creation focus...

Miss Smyth led assemblies at the start of the week, which linked our Science learning to creation. We then held a super science learning day in school on Tuesday. Each year group took an element of the creation story and explored the Science behind it, in more detail.



SPIRITUAL COUNCIL

We would like to introduce you to our newly formed Spiritual Council. They are looking forward to leading the prayer life of the school. Ambassadors of the faith.



Macmillan Cake Sale

Macmillan Cake Sale

I would like to say a massive thank you for the cakes that were donated to our Macmillan cake sale. We sold the cakes this morning and raised for the Macmillan appeal. The School Council did a wonderful job promoting this in school.



This week's news

*Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Bergenzi
 We wish you every happiness in your marriage.
 May God guide you in your new journey and
 bless you each day.*



Reception news: -

Reception have been busy painting self-portraits, reflecting on being made in the image and likeness of God and making animal masks as part of their creation work.



Year 1 news: -
Have been enjoying their Super Science work.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been writing exciting diary entries in role as Samuel Pepys.



Year 3 news: -

As part of their RE 'belonging' unit, Year 3 visited the Church to learn all about Baptism.



Year 4 news: -
Year 4 used water colouring to create their own water cycles.

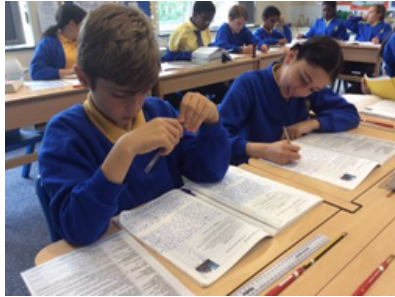
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have spent time discussing their favourite books



Year 6 news: -

We have new purple editing pens in Year 6 and the children have been busy editing their work, making improvements.

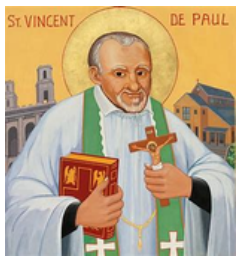


Next week

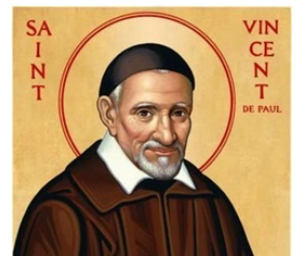
Season of Creation

We are continuing our learning for the 'Season of creation' this week with collective worship 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' Enyclical, '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'.

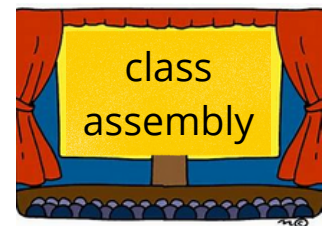


On Monday 27th September, the Catholic Church remembers Saint Vincent de Paul, the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor.



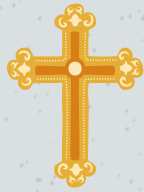
6L Class Assembly

We are looking forward to welcoming parents back in to school, beginning with 6L's class assembly next Friday. Please wear a mask when you are in the school building. Arrive from 9am for a 9:15am start.



October - Pray the Rosary

Next Friday is the first day of October - and we will be praying the rosary in school. This is a good time to pray and meditate on our Lord's life, faithfully witnessed by Our Blessed Mother. The rosary is the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the 'Glory Be'.



Church Opening Times and Masses

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. Sunday Masses, both 9.30 and 11.00 are well attended, – but the 5pm and the two Saturday Masses 12 and 6 are less well attended and have spaces.



About Being Catholic Course St. Mary's Church

The *About Being Catholic* programme, for those interested in knowing what Catholics believe so as to be able to help the children, begins Thursday 30th September at 7.30pm in the St Mary's Parish Centre, – with masks and social distancing.



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.

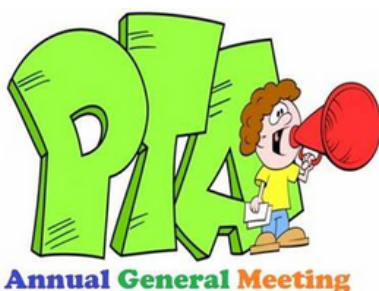
Please put your entry in the box on the piety stall before October 19th.

(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.



Homework

The school is currently in the process of reviewing homework. Following COVID, there have been lessons learnt and changes to expectations. We will provide more information in the upcoming weeks.



Coats

As the weather is changeable now, please ensure that your child comes to school with their waterproof coats.

Additional school clubs

We have several school clubs running in school now

Before school clubs

Wednesdays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4
Thursdays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y4, Y5 and Y6
Fridays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2 and Y3 (*this club is full*).

After school clubs

Mondays (3:20 – 4:20) – Rugby – For Y1 and Y2 (to start after half term)
Wednesdays (3:30–4:30) – Netball – For Y5 and Y6
(3:30 – 4:30) – Football – For Y6
(3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y3
Thursdays (3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y4, Y5, Y6



PE day

Please make sure that children are still wearing PE uniform on the days that they are wearing their PE kit in to school. PE uniform is the Gold t-shirt, Royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and **black trainers**.

Healthy Snacks

Please may we remind all parents that only healthy snacks are permitted in school – your child may have a piece of fruit at break time. Do not send your child in with crisps, sweets or chocolate as they will not be able to consume this on site. Please also be aware that we do not allow nuts, in order to reduce the chance of children with allergies from having a reaction.



When should my child self-isolate or miss school?



YES

- If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PRC test, **NOT** a Lateral Flow test.
- If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PRC test.
- **If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.**



NO

- All children **MUST** attend school unless they are ill.
- From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid.
- Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.

Dates for the diary

22nd September 2021 - 9:15am -

24th September 2021 - all day -

29th September 2021 - 9:15am -

1st October 2021 - 9:15am -

5th October 2021 - 9:00am -

6th October 2021 - 9:15am -

11th October 2021 - all week -

13th October 2021 - 9:15am -

14th October 2021 - 7:00pm -

15th October 2021 - 9:15am -

18th October 2021 - all week -

19th October 2021 - after school -

20th October 2021 - 9:15am -

21st October 2021 - morning -

21st October 2021 - 9:15am -

25th October - 29th October -

Y5 Mass in Church (Y5 parents welcome).

Macmillan cake sale (for children only) in school.

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome).

Year 6L Class Assembly in School.

Early Reading Workshop for parents in School.

Y3 Mass in Church (Y3 parents welcome).

Mental Health Awareness Week in school.

Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome).

PTA AGM meeting in school hall.

Year 6F Class Assembly in School.

Book Fair in school.

Parent Consultations.

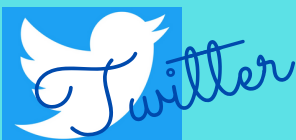
Reception Welcome Service in Church (YR parents welcome).

Photographer in school.

Parent Consultations.

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.

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	Agatha	For being a wonderful artist when drawing a picture of her family
Year RL	Jessica	Being a kind friend to all the other children
Year 1F	Michael	Produced a wonderful storyboard in English lesson
Year 1L	Yadiel	For having a fantastic week in Year 1
Year 2F	Safa	Incredible exciting writing as Samuel Pepys
Year 2L	Paulos	For wonderful story telling with shadow puppet
Year 3F	Harry	Having a can-do attitude to everything he does
Year 3L	Ivan	For being a fantastic role-model to others
Year 4F	Rufus	Great contributions to our Science learning and always being helpful
Year 4L	Victor	Amazing work in topic, in role as Julius Caesar
Year 5F	Julia	For being such a helpful member of Year 5
Year 5L	Cinnamon	Bringing joy and enthusiasm to the classroom every day
Year 6F	Nicole	Enthusiastic participation in maths
Year 6L	Megan	Working really hard in English and improving her writing

