



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.

## February is dedicated to the Holy Family

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Compassionate and Loving'



12th February 2024

Dear parents and carers,

We have now broken up for February half-term and the children will return to school on Tuesday 20th February at normal time. This week has been children's mental health week, and we have been thinking about how we can 'relax' and support our well-being. We have also learnt about staying safe online for 'Safer Internet Day'. Thank you parents, who came along to our tea and talk afternoon and for your input too. We have a busy half term coming up: Lent begins over half-term break and we will return to our Lent charity work, prayer services, parent workshops and a whole school retreat. I include details of our Lent charity work in this newsletter as I know many of you will wish to support us. Key dates can also be found throughout the newsletter and summarised at the end. I wish you all a wonderful break.

Mrs Yorke

### *This week's Gospel and Prayer*

Mark 1:35

*"In the morning, long before dawn, He got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there."*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus was busy but He prioritised prayer.
- Time away from busyness is important and it helps us to grow/recharge/gain strength.
- We too can find peace and strength when we spend time with God.



Our Father, Who art in heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name;  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen!

### Catholic Life in School

#### Y4 Mass - 07.02.24 - St Josephine of Bakhita

Year 4 led an intimate Mass for parents in the school hall this week. We learnt more about one of our class Saints - St. Josephine of Bakhita on the eve of her feast day.



#### Y6 Mass in Church - 21.2.24 at 9:15am - 1st week of Lent

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 21st February 2024, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 6 children will be leading our Mass and Year 5 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.

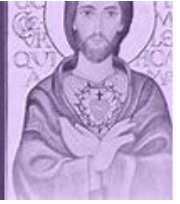


# Our Lenten Journey

## Religious Education

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

-Pope Francis



*Year 3 led a beautiful assembly to help us prepare for shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. They retold the story of Jesus being tempted in the desert and how we should try to resist temptation and be more like Jesus.*



## Lenten Prayer bags



*The Spiritual Council will be sending out Lent prayer bags on the Tuesday that we return to school. We hope that you enjoy using them with your children this Lent. Please tweet any pictures of them being used and tag us in*

[@StMaryB17](https://twitter.com/StMaryB17)

## Lent home learning

*Each week - we will be setting a reflection task for you to use at home as a family. Each reflection concludes with a creative task - which we will be asking for to complete our display in the hall... Our first theme is 'saying sorry' - are you able to explore this over half-term? What does it mean to say sorry?*

*See the reflection below...*



## Lent Reflection

*As we embark on our Lenten journey, we invite you to join in reflection and connection as a school family. During this season, we are reminded that there is no time like the present. During Lent we are given the opportunity to renew our relationship with God and one another, as it is a time to repent and seek forgiveness. It is a time to pray, to fast and to share what we have with others.*



# Sorry

### scripture

*"Well, now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation." -  
2 Corinthians 6:2*

### reflection

*Lent is a time when we try to get closer to God. One of the ways we can do this is by saying sorry for the times when we have made the wrong choices. It is important to remember that God still loves us, even if we have made the wrong choices, but we must say sorry and ask God for his forgiveness.*

### open question

*What are you truly sorry for?*

### Task

**A Creative Reflection** We invite families to express their thoughts and aspirations in creative ways. This could be through artwork, poetry, prayer, a short video, or any form that resonates with your family. Share your creations with us. All collective work will be displayed in the school hall.



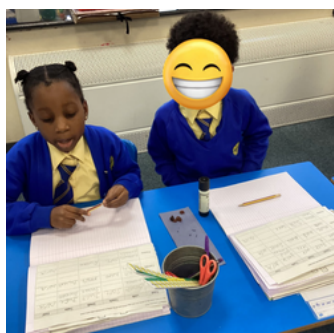
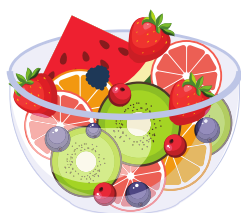
Reception news: -

Reception have had a busy week! From navigating obstacle courses in PE to mixing colours in Art.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been busy taste testing, in their Science lessons. The children used their senses to investigate the different fruit!



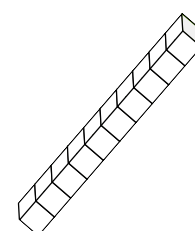
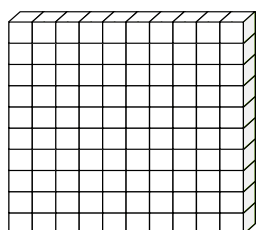
Year 2 news: -

Year 2 had a fantastic time making Indian inspired wraps in DT.



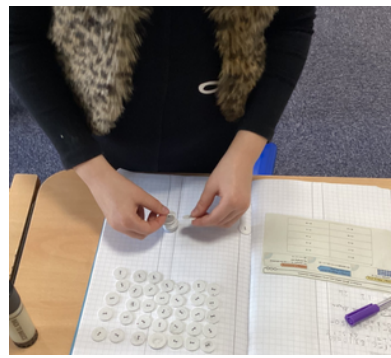
Year 3 news: -

In Maths, Year 3 used Base 10 to compare lengths in centimetres and metres.



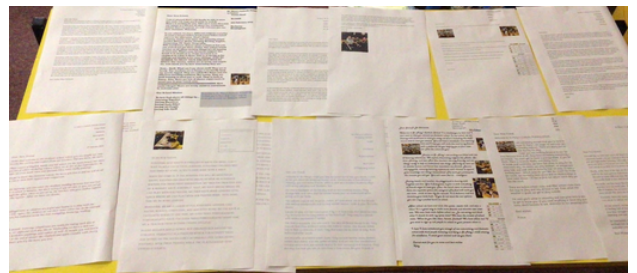
## Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been using counters to make arrays in Maths this week.



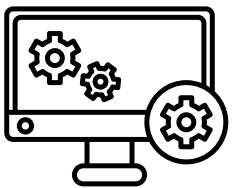
## Year 5 news: -

This week, Year 5 wrote a letter to a refugee child who may be joining our school. The children published their letters by typing it into Word and Publisher



## Year 6 news: -

In Computing this week, Year 6 used programming language to create shapes and patterns, and repeat instructions.



*Sunday, we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes and also the World Day of the Sick.*

*Pope Francis said: "To Cure the Sick, to Welcome Them, to Serve Them, is to Serve Christ" A Blessed feast day and healing prayers for everybody in our school community.*

### *Prayer for the Sick*

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need.

Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence.

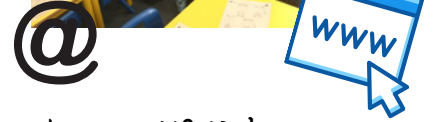
Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits.

May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed.

# Safer Internet Day 2024



Reception listened to the story of Chicken Clicking and learnt about how to stay safe online.



Miss Thompson launched Safer Internet Day in our Gospel Prayer and Liturgy - she reminded the children about some top tips to stay safe online and who children can speak to if they have any concerns.



Did you spot our staff members on X? We're sure you realised that these aren't genuine pictures but can you tell what's real online and what isn't?



Year 3 took part in a fantastic live lesson about AI.



Year 6 designed their own 'positive influencers'!



Year 5 also took part in a live lesson with over 650 schools learning about AI and how to stay safe online.



## We ❤️ Animals!



We were overwhelmed by your donations for the Pet Shower on Wednesday. Thank you so much for all that dressed up and donated - £250 was raised towards vet bills and a beautiful array of gifts given for the animals.



In preparation for OPAL, Coach Redmond has led some fantastic activity sessions! Coach Redmond set up a variety of 'OPAL' style play opportunities and encouraged children to be creative, think innovatively and problem solve.



We are still collecting these items!  
Please do bear us in mind if you have a sort out over half term!

Plastic or wooden kitchen utensils (no knives or sharp utensils)	
Old clothes - children's dress up or adult day clothes e.g.: hats, shirts, skirts, scarves	
Old pots and pans (no lids)	
Small world toys e.g.: cars, people, planes, trains, animals etc	
Haberdashery e.g.: fabric scraps, ribbons etc	

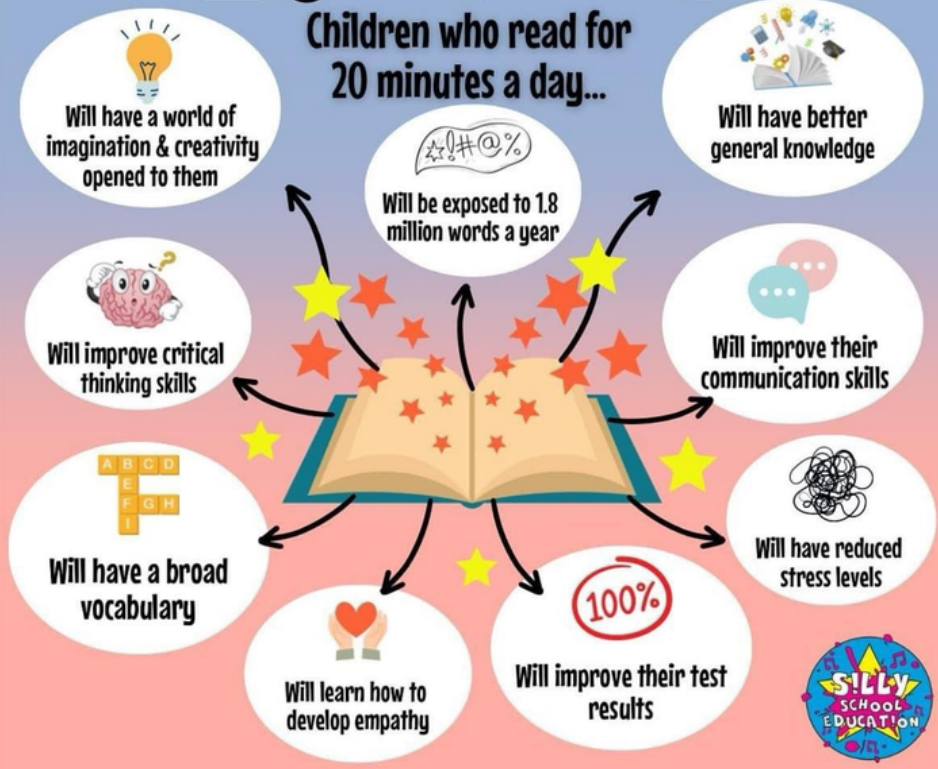
Children's Mental Health Week

For Children's Mental Health Week, we asked for you to share with us photographs of how and where you relax... we had some wonderful responses. Thank you to those who took part. Next week, we all get to recharge our batteries with half-term break.



# 20 is plenty!

Children who read for 20 minutes a day...



## 20 minutes a day

Research proves the benefits of listening to your child read for 20 minutes every day - this includes children who are in KS2. Reading with a parent has proven benefits for supporting well-being too. Remember - your child is never too old to read with you #StMarysReads



## Extra Curricular Activities

The refs were blown away with the standard of play from the children in this week's basketball tournament. Well done to everybody involved and great work in achieving 3rd place.





## WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY - ASH WEDNESDAY

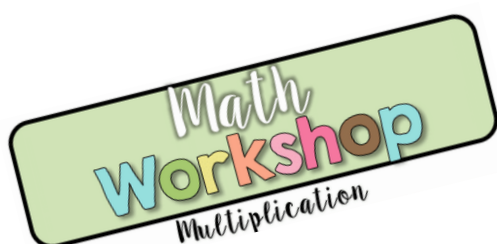
Lent begins during half term on Wednesday 14th February. The first day of Lent is a day of prayer and fasting, following Shrove Tuesday 'pancake day', the day before.



### INSET DAY - 19.2.24

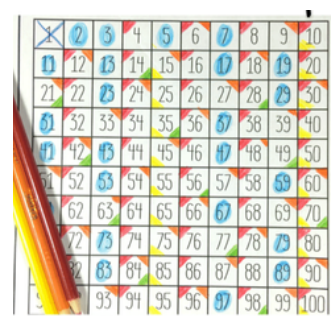
School will be closed to all children on Monday 19th February for a teacher training day.

We look forward to welcoming the children back for the start of the new half term on Tuesday 20th February.



### Multiplication check workshop for Y4 parents - 21.2.24 - 2:30pm

Year 4 parents - join us in the school hall on Wednesday 21st February at 2:30pm to find out more about the multiplication check that your child will be taking part in this year.



### Thinking Day - 22.2.24

On 'World Thinking Day' any Girl Guides, Rangers, Brownies and Rainbows can come to school wearing their Girlguiding uniform to show that they are committed to international friendship and understanding.



### Young Voices Concert - 22.2.24

Members of our school choir will be performing in the Young Voices Concert on this date. Children will be transported to the venue after lunchtime for rehearsal with their teachers.

Please refer to the letter sent for further details.



### Year 1 Castles Dress-up day - 23.2.24

For their 'marvellous middle' - the children have been invited to come in to school in 'castles' dress up on Friday 23rd February 2024. They can come dressed as a king, princess, servant, jester or even the castle itself.

We look forward to seeing their marvellous creations.



*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 Field 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!*



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



### NO PARKING!



*Put the safety of our children and community first when parking.*

Thank you to our parents who are being considerate with their parking. Unfortunately, we do have some parents who continue to park illegally on double yellow lines and in no stopping zones; and blocking our yellow barrier. We are also having complaints that parents are blocking / parking in private roads. **I am currently in discussions with the Diocese and Police about this.**

Many of our residents are elderly and it endangers our children - this lack of care really is unacceptable.

Your information / car registrations are being passed on to the police and city council. Please report any illegal parking on:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report\\_an\\_illegally\\_parked\\_vehicle](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle)

### 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 05/02-09/02**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	98.6	96.6	99	91.3	94.6	98	97	99.3	91.6	98	98	98	93.5	98.6
Lates	12	4	15	7	4	6	3	1	7	3	7	5	4	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%		School Target				97%		

Well done 3T: - Our attendance champions!

# Dates for next half term

19th February 2024 - all day

20th February 2024 - 8:45am

20th February 2024 - 1:00pm

21st February 2024 - 9:15am

21st February 2024 - 2:30pm

22nd February 2024 - all day

22nd February 2024 - 4pm

22nd February 2024 - evening

23rd February 2024 - all day

27th February 2024 - am

28th February 2024 - all day

28th February 2024 - 9:15am

29th February 2024 - am

1st March 2024 - 9:15am

WB 4.3.24

WB 4.3.24

5th March 2024 - am

6th March 2024 - 9:15am

7th March 2024 - all day

8th March 2024 - 9:15am

8th March 2024 - all day

8th March 2024 - all day

WB 11.3.24

12th March 2024 - am

**12th March 2024 - all day**

13th March 2024 - all day

13th March 2024 - 9:15am

13th March 2024 - 10:00am

15th March 2024 - 9:00am

28th March 2024 -

**INSET DAY - school closed to children**

Children return to school at normal time

U9s boys/girls football tournament

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

Year 4 multiplication check parent workshop

World Thinking Day - Guides, Rangers, Brownies and Rainbows wear uniform

U11s football game

Young Voices Concert - will leave school after lunch (separate letter)

Year 1 Kings and Queens dress up day

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 SF and 11:00 SM)

Reception trip to Attwell Farm

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

Y3/4 badminton festival

Year 2 year group prayer and liturgy assembly for parents

Careers Week in school with key speakers

Pray for vocations to the religious life

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

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

World Book day - children may come to school dressed in their pyjamas

5-a-side girls football tournament

One Life Lent Retreat 'Remember Me'

International Women's day

British Science Week

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (9:15 2E and 11:00 2G)

**Mothers' Day Inspire workshops in school**

Malypics Day in school

Reception class Mass in Church (alongside their Year 6 buddies) - parents too

School Council visit to the Council House

Year 6 prayer service for 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**

# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Ava	<i>Fantastic RE learning this week!</i>
Year RT	Edward	<i>Always striving for excellence this week!</i>
Year IF	Damien	<i>For working so hard in maths!</i>
Year 1L	Cara	<i>Always working really hard in all areas of her learning!</i>
Year 2E	Harley	<i>For being such a kind and polite member of our class.</i>
Year 2G	Maya	<i>Always trying her best in all she does.</i>
Year 3L	Ioan	<i>For writing a great narrative based on 'The little match girl strikes back'.</i>
Year 3T	Alicia	<i>For a super performance as the Tempter in our Year Group Assembly.</i>
Year 4J	Brayden	<i>Has recently started at St Mary's and has settled in really well, making lots of new friends.</i>
Year 4M	Marquis	<i>For his effort and hard-working attitude in lessons.</i>
Year 5F	Luke	<i>Working hard throughout the year and being a superstar in cricket this half term</i>
Year 5M	Catherine	<i>Amazing improvement with Maths, especially in fractions!</i>
Year 6O	Lilly	<i>Consistently being a positive presence and great help in the classroom!</i>
Year 6R	Isaac	<i>For writing a fantastic modern scene retell of Macbeth.</i>

