



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.

December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Family and Communities'

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



Dear parents and carers,

16th December 2022

We break up for Christmas today and we give thanks for the term we have had, the times shared and the learning that has taken place. This Sunday, we light our fourth candle on the advent wreath. Our final purple candle symbolises 'peace' and we are reminded of the message of the Angels 'Peace on Earth, good will to all'. School has been great this week with our nativities, EYFS/KS1 theatre trip, carol service, Christmas Mass and celebration assemblies. The children (and staff) are very excited to break up now and to enjoy time with family and friends. The staff return to school a day earlier than the children for our INSET day. Children will return to school on Wednesday 4th January at the normal time. Please can I remind you that the school gate closes at 8:45am. Any children arriving after 8:45am receives a late mark. I really do hope that you have a blessed and restful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Mrs Yorke



This week's Gospel and Prayer

Matthew 11:2-11

"Go back and tell John what you hear and see...the Good News is proclaimed... and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus is the Good News and the one we have been waiting for.
- We can be a gift to others by sharing the Good News through our words and actions.
- We can continue what we have started by making our pilgrimage a life-long journey

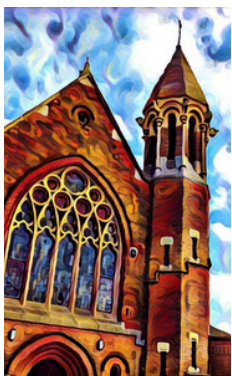
Father God,

As our lifelong pilgrimage continues, may our journey be filled with prayer, penance, charity and solidarity. With the help of your Holy Spirit, may our words and actions make us your witnesses throughout the world. We ask this through Jesus our Lord. Amen

Catholic Life in School

Whole School Mass - Christmas

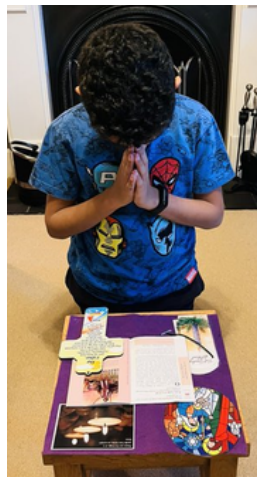
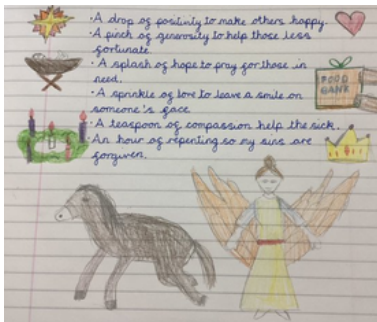
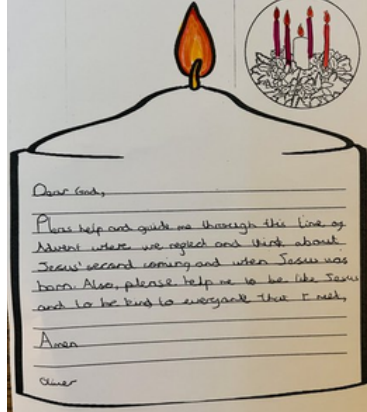
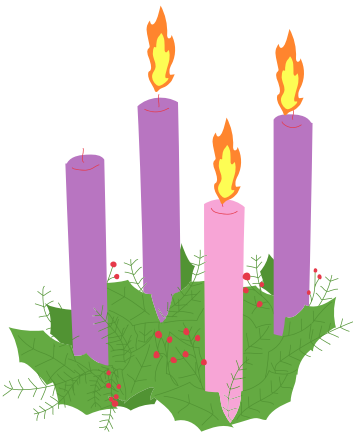
Today, the entire school gathered for our Christmas Mass. It was a lovely way to close our Autumn term.



Third advent candle

The third Sunday of Advent symbolises Joy with the "Shepherds' candle" reminding us of the joy that the shepherds felt when they heard the news of our Saviour's birth.

Advent prayer... at home



Reception/KSI Theatre trip

Our younger children had a lovely trip to the MAC yesterday to see 'The Bear'



Building God's Kingdom

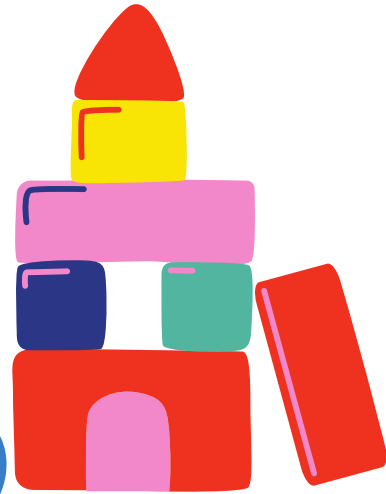
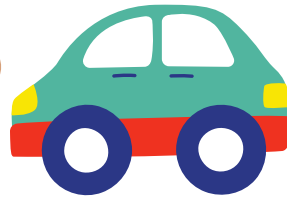
Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas



CHRISTMAS
TOY APPEAL



Thank you for your donations. The toys will make a real difference to children who have very little this Christmas.



Katy and Rufus did an amazing job collecting for our advent charities at the nativities. We've raised £507.27 for Haven Community Projects. Thank you for your generosity.



We raised £100 for the Royal British Legion when we sold poppies in November. Thank you.



We have used some of the money we have for school fund to help subsidise trips and buy new books for the children to read next term. Thank you to those who give to our school fund.



Nativities

It has been a joyous week in school. The children have enjoyed performing the nativities this week to you and we have received such lovely messages for the staff. We are glad that you enjoyed them. Thank you for the hours of support learning lines and song lyrics and helping to prepare costumes. It was all worth it!

Reception

CHRISTMAS STORY

Reception class are so excited for Jesus' birthday.



Years 1 and 2

BORN IN A BARN

There's a good amount of commotion in a Bethlehem stable, when a baby is born.



Years 3 and 4

SUPER STAR

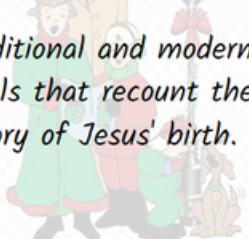
Who is the true super star of Christmas?



Years 5 and 6

CAROL SERVICE

Traditional and modern carols that recount the story of Jesus' birth.





St Mary's Parish Christmas Mass times:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th: 6.00pm (Family Mass);
8.30pm - Solemn 'Midnight' Masses;



Christmas Day 25th: 9.30am (Family Mass, with Nativity Tableau)
- all children can dress as Angels or Shepherds for the 9:30am Mass
11.30am (Christmas Mass).



Parish Penitential Service

On Tuesday 20th December at 7.00pm in St Mary's, visiting priests
will be ready to hear your 'confession'!

Other News

We have applied for a grant to help fund our
upcoming Forest School with Tesco.

If you would like to help us collect the most blue
tokens, you can shop at the Quinton store and use
your blue token to vote for us. Spread the word with
your families and friends that if they shop in Tesco,
Quinton, to use their blue token for St. Mary's.

Tesco Shopping - Quinton



Winter Mini Reading Challenge 2022 - Harborne Library



The Winter Mini Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter
holidays, with a free-to-access website featuring rewards for reading and reviewing books.

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple. Children read at least three books of their choice between
1st December 2022 and 20th February and add them to their online profile at www.wintermini.org.uk

Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter
Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

You'll find loads of other great resources on the website too, including games, book reviews,
reading activities and content from the best children's authors and illustrators around. For parents,
there is a Home Zone and Library Zone on the website with more information and top tips. Harborne
Library also have a Facebook page so that parents can keep up to date with news and
opportunities. Look out for special competitions for book bundles and much more!



It launches on 1st December and runs until 20th February, so sign up now!

NO 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. We are also having complaints that parents are blocking / parking in private roads.

Many of our residents are elderly and this is not acceptable. 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

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

SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May 2023.

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

This is an Operation Encompass School

KEEPING SAFE

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



I am sure that many of you would have followed on the news this week the tragic incident which took place on Sunday at Babb's Mill Lake. We would like to express our deepest sympathies and send our condolences to the families, friends and wider community. We join in with the prayers that are being said across Catholic Churches and echo the words of the Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, head of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.

"My heart goes out to all those affected by this tragedy and on behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham I offer my deepest condolences to the families and friends who have lost loved ones."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is urging everyone to be especially cautious around open waters during the current extreme weather conditions that Britain is facing. We will continue to teach about the dangers of icy water, railway lines and so forth in school and know that you will reaffirm these messages at home.



Stay up to date with everything that is happening at St. Mary's by following us on our Twitter Page and giving us more likes!!!

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.

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 5th Dec – 9th Dec

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O	
%	87.6%	92.1%	96.3%	87%	98%	98%	98.3%	95%	98%	98.3%	92.9%	94.5%	89.3%	91%	
Lates	10	7	2	5	4	6	5	14	1	8	7	7	3	9	
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.2%		School Target				97%			

Well done Y3L and Y4M: - our Attendance Champions

4th January 2023 - all day -

6th January 2023 - 9:30am -

11th January 2022 - 9:15am -

Children return to school

Whole School Epiphany Mass - parents welcome

Y2 Mass in Church and Y1 children attend

Dates for next term

I will send out further dates via our twitter feed.

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Emerson	being an absolute superstar this week and learning to write his name
Year RT	Rory	always working hard at his learning and helping other children too
Year IF	Meredith	trying really hard with her spellings
Year IL	Imogen	always working hard in her learning and being a fabulous role model
Year 2E	William	a lively and expressive performance in the KSI nativity
Year 2G	Sienna	consistently outstanding learning all term
Year 3L	Maya	having a great attitude to learning and always trying her best
Year 3T	Sam	his superstar dancing in the Nativity
Year 4J	Annabel	a truly superstar performance and bringing Christmas joy
Year 4M	All of 4M	an outstanding Nativity performance and being equally brilliant!
Year 5F	Erin	consistently outstanding learning and behaviour all term
Year 5M	George	outstanding maths work and investigating fractions this week
Year 6O	Nesta	singing her heart out in the Carol Service
Year 6R	Milly	stepping in at the last minute to play Mary in our Carol Service and doing a wonderful job!

