



Archdiocese of Birmingham

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vivian Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0DN

Telephone: 0121 464 2141

Email: [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

[www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.

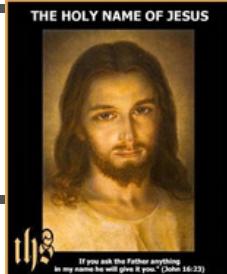


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

### January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - Curious and active



Dear parents and carers,

30th January 2026

It has been another wonderful week at St. Mary's, and I'm delighted to share some of the highlights with you. Our school continues to be a place filled with joy, purpose and community spirit, and this week has shown that beautifully.

#### Theme - Disciples of Jesus

Throughout the week, our learning and prayer life have centred on the theme "Disciples of Jesus." Together, we have reflected on how Jesus called ordinary people—people just like us—to follow Him and bring His light into the world. At St. Mary's, we strive to live out this mission each day. Our children have been thinking carefully about how they can show the love of Jesus through their words, their actions and the way they treat one another. It has been inspiring to see them embrace this message with such sincerity and kindness.

#### PTA

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful PTA for their continued dedication and support. Their fundraising efforts and the film evenings they organised this week have brought so much enjoyment to our children. Having an active PTA makes a real difference: it strengthens our community, enriches school life and helps us provide additional opportunities and resources that benefit every child. We are truly grateful for all they do. Please do get involved with our PTA.

#### Year 5 Prayer Service

We ended the week with a beautiful prayer service led by Year 5, dedicated to 5M's class saint, St. Maximilian Kolbe. The children spoke with such reverence and maturity, sharing reflections on courage, sacrifice and love. It was a moving reminder of the values we hold dear as a school family.

#### Safeguarding reminder

Finally, thank you for supporting our safeguarding procedures. Please ensure that all children are supervised at the gate until it is opened by a member of SLT at 8:30Am. If you require childcare before this time, Kidz.comm is open and available. For everyone's safety, children must not be left unattended outside the school. Adults please remain with your child, until that gate opens.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you a happy weekend,

**Mrs Yorke**, Headteacher



# Catholic Life

*This week's Gospel and Prayer*

*Matthew 4:19-20*

*'And He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

*Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.'*



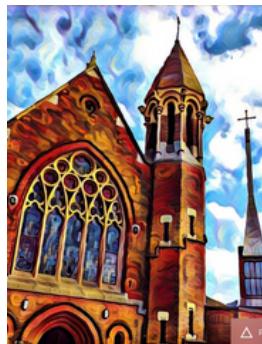
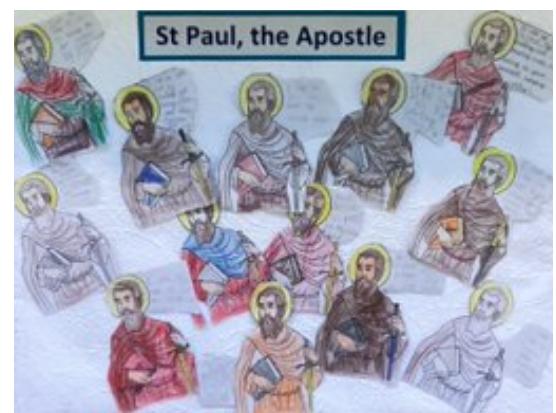
Reflecting on this week's Gospel message, the children:

- **Know** that Jesus called the Disciples to a life of more – they would have a deeper purpose.
- **Understand** that when we hear Jesus' call and choose to follow Him, He shows us who we truly are and leads us into God's amazing plans.
- **Choose** to trust and follow Jesus.



Year 2 Mass - 28.1.26

Year 2 led a beautiful Mass this week, celebrating the life and mission of St Paul. Their confidence, reverence, and joyful participation made it a truly special moment for our school community.



Our next Mass: – Reception Mass 04.02.26

**Presentation of our Lord**

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Reception will be leading us in our Mass joined with their Year 6 Buddies.

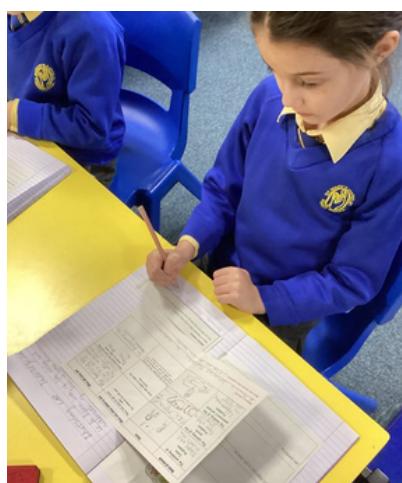
All parents are welcome to join us.



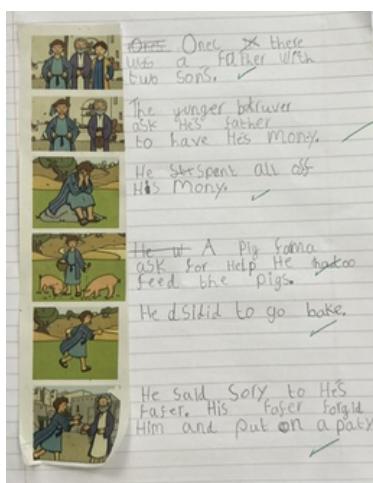
# Catholic Life

Look at our wonderful RE learning this week: -

## Remarkable RE



Year 2 have been looking at the words and actions of Jesus in his miracles.



Year 1 have written about the parable of the Prodigal Son and the importance of forgiveness.



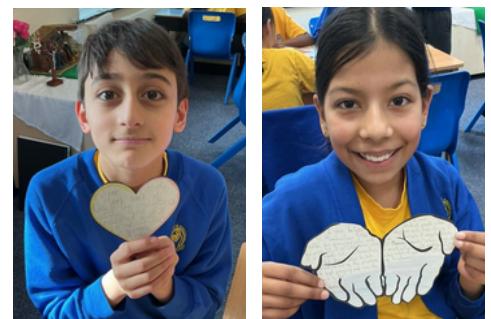
These children have really stood out this week and received a Remarkable RE award from Miss Heath.



Year 6 have been revising their knowledge of the seven sacraments, finding stories in the Bible linked to each sacrament.



Year 1 listened to the Bible story of Jesus calling his first disciples. They then considered how they can also be a follower of Jesus.



Year 5 preparing for their prayer service with thoughtfulness and compassion.



## Year 5 Prayer Service - 30.01.26

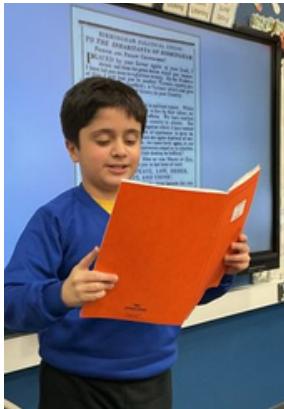


Year 5 led a beautiful prayer service today for their parents in dedication to 5M's class Saint Maximillian Kolbe. It was wonderful to show how prayer is led by the children and give the parents opportunity to join in.



# CURRICULUM

## St. Mary's loves to **Write!**



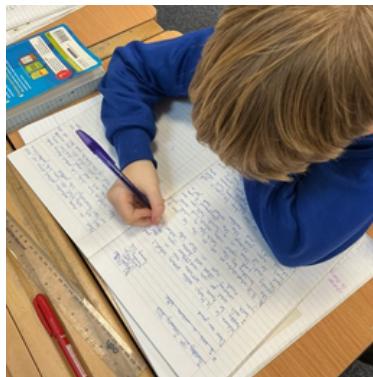
Year 6 have loved writing and performing their persuasive speeches about the Great Reform Act.



And in English, Year 6 have written wonderful non-chronological reports.



Year 1 have been writing adjectives to describe a pear.



Year 5 have been writing welcome letters for refugees this week. They have taken on feedback, editing and redrafting.



Year 4 have explored the features of online articles and how to access information.



Reception class have been writing speech bubbles for their superheroes.



## Our **Physical Education** lessons and other opportunities keeps us fit, healthy and happy!



Some of our Year 5 children represented our school in a range of athletic events from long jump and javelin, to chest throws, obstacle courses and relay races.



Year 3 have been using dribbling and passing skills in their hockey lessons this week.



Reception have been using high and low movements in their gymnastics lessons.

## Mental Health Week - WB 2.2.26

Children's Mental Health Week is coming up and we will begin our work next week.

The theme is: - This is My Place.

During this week, we will explore the idea of belonging and what it means for children and young people to feel part of something - whether that is their family, their school or their friendships.



### Year 6 Harborne Library Visit - 03.02.26

Year 6 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

6R will leave at 8:45am

6O will leave at 10:15am

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.



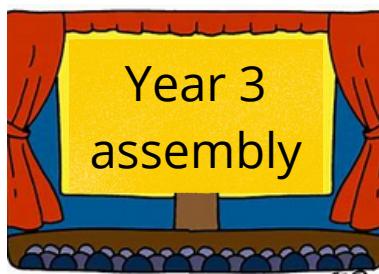
### NSPCC Number Day - 6.2.26

On Friday 6th February, we are taking part in the NSPCC Number Day! During the day, children will be taking part in exciting maths activities. We are inviting children to 'Dress up for digits.' This can be an item of clothing with a number on it! Or you could get creative and design your own! We are asking for a donation for NSPCC of £1, which can be paid on school gateway. Thank you



### Year 1 Grove Park Fieldwork Visit - 06.02.26

Year 1 will be visiting Grove Park next Friday to undertake fieldwork. The visit will take part during the school day and no transport is involved. Please ensure that children are suitably dressed for the weather on this day e.g.: warm coat with a hood etc.



### Year 3 Assembly - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 -

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 3 children into school on Friday 6th February, for their year group assembly.





# Online SAFETY WEEK

WB 9.2.26



## Year 4 trip to Bosworth Battlefield – 9th February

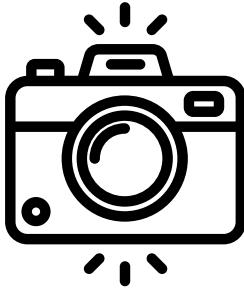
This trip has been carefully planned to complement the children's ongoing studies of the Romans in Britain within their History curriculum. Throughout the day, the children will engage in three immersive teaching sessions: Boudica, Roman Walk, and Roman Archaeology. Children should wear school outdoor PE kit and trainers; and dress suitably for the weather. They will return before the end of the school day.

### APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+		16+	
 Facebook	 Snapchat	 WhatsApp	
 Instagram	 Twitter		
 TikTok	 Kik		
 YouNow	 Yubo	 Sarahah	 MeetMe
 House Party	 Monkey	 YOLO	 LiveMe

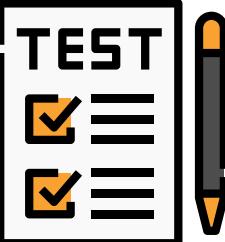
## Safer Internet Day – 10.2.26

Tuesday 10th February is Safer Internet Day. Children in school will learn about online safety and how the Internet can be used safely to make changes for the better. We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home. To help you with this, the UK Safer Internet Centre created some free activities and information for parents and carers a couple of years ago, which are available at: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



## Class Photos – 10.2.26

Children to wear full winter uniform on Tuesday 10th February as they are having their Year group photos taken. Full uniform is yellow shirt, tie, school jumper or cardigan, grey school trousers, skirt or pinafore, and black smart shoes. No PE kit to be worn on this day.



## Other key dates

### SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from **Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026**.

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

## Signposting for half-term activities

This section is to sign-post activities that are taking place over half-term, which you may wish to engage with. As a school we are only sign-posting not necessarily endorsing these clubs.

Previous attachment

**THE STRINGS CLUB**

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[www.thestringsclub.org](http://www.thestringsclub.org) | 0121 296 9204

BUY WOMEN BUILT

### Celebrating Achievement

We're incredibly proud of Abigail in Year 6, who will be representing England in the World Dance Cup in Dublin this July with LaPelle Academy of Dance.

We wish her all the best for the competition.

And she has recently achieved her green belt in Karate too. Keep shining and using your God-given gifts

Abi. Well done you!



# Safeguarding information

## SAFE GUARDING

### Parent Webinar – County Lines and Criminal Exploitation

**3rd March 2026 – 7pm to 8.30pm**

Ivision Trust (formerly Pace), a national charity working to keep children safe from exploitation, is offering a free interactive webinar for parents about criminal exploitation with a focus on county lines.

**What you will learn:**

Learn what county lines is

Understand what is happening in your local area

Learn how exploiters groom children

Understand the signs that your child might be at risk

Know where to access support and advice if you have concerns

The webinar will be interactive and there will be an opportunity to ask questions, share concerns and connect with others. The session will be delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation and they will share their experience along with providing advice on the risks.

To book, please visit: <https://ivisiontrust.org.uk/webinars/>



protecting  
children, supporting  
families

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 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:



Laura Noone  
Lead DSL  
DHT



Louise Yorke  
Headteacher



Jade Preedy  
AHT



Rachel Jones  
Senior Teacher



Sharon Tame  
School  
Counsellor



Rachel Richards  
EYFS Lead



Shania  
Birchenall  
SENDCo

## 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 -

### Attendance

Week 26/1/26-30/1/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	97	93	98	98	99	99	95	97	97	100	99	99	96	100
Lates	2	1	2	4	3	7	6	3	0	2	2	0	3	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year					97.2%		School Target					97%		

Well done 4J and 6O: - Our attendance champions!

# Dates for Spring term 2026

## Spring theme -

### Spring 1 Virtues

WB 2.2.2026

3rd February 2026 - am

4th February 2026 - 9:15am

6th February 2026 - all day

6th February 2026 - 9:15am

6th February 2026 - 10:45am

WB 9.2.26

9th February 2026 - all day

10th February 2026 - all day

**10th February 2026 - all day**

11th February 2026 - 9:15am

13th February 2026 - end of day

## Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

### Curious and Active

Children's Mental Health Week

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

Reception Mass in Church (with Y6 buddies in attendance) - parents welcome

Number day - wear digits

Year 3 Year group Assembly

Year 1 visit to Grove Park

Online Safety Week

Year 4 school trip to Bosworth Battlefield

Safer Internet Day

**Class photo day - ensure children are in full uniform**

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

**Break up for half-term break - normal time**

## Spring theme -

### Spring 2 Virtues

23rd February 2026 - 8:45am

24th February 2026 - am

25th February 2026 - 9:15am

25th February 2026 - pm

27th February 2026 - 2:30pm

WB 2.3.26

4th March 2026 - 9:15am

5th March 2026 - all day

6th March 2026 - 9:15am

10th March 2026 - am

11th March 2026 - all day

11th March 2026 - 9:15am

13th March 2026 - all day

16th March 2026 - 9:15am 1:15pm

17th March 2026 - am

17th March 2026 - pm

18th March 2026 - 9:15am

19th March 2026 - pm

20th March 2026 - all day

## Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

### Intentional and Prophetic

**Children return to school at normal time**

Year 4 library visit - 4M (8:45) and 4J (10:15)

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

Oliver Twist workshop for Year 6

Reception parent workshop about Maths

Careers Week / Vocations week

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

World book day - dress as your favourite book character

Year 2 Year group assembly

Year 3 library visit - 3L (8:45) and 3T (10:15)

Reception school trip to Attwell farm

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

Year 2 trip to Black Country Living Museum

Mothers' Day Inspire Event in school

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

Parent Consultation Evening

Reception Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome

Parent Consultation Evening

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

24th March 2026 - am  
 24th March 2026 - 1:30pm  
 25th March 2026 - 9:30am  
 26th March 2026 - 9:00am  
 27th March 2026 - 6:30-8:30pm  
 WB 30.3.26  
 30th March 2026 - pm  
 1st April 2026 - 1:45pm  
 2nd April 2026 - 11:00am  
**2nd April 2026**

Year 5 library visit - SF (8:45) and SM (10:15)  
 Year 6 Confirmation Workshop with parents  
 Whole School Mass - parents welcome  
 Year 6 prayer service for parents  
 PTA event - Spring Disco in Parish  
 Holy Week  
 Reconciliation Service for children in Years 4/5/6  
 Reception class - Easter Bonnet parade  
 Year 6 Stations of the Cross in Church for KS2 and parent  
**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

## Term Dates:- Academic Year 2025-2026

<b>Spring Term</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>
<b>Summer Term</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>

### School Closed:

- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 - May Bank Holiday**

### INSET DAYS

- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**
- **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026**
- **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026**



# Star of the week

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

Year RB Eleesha For working really hard in her Phonics!

Year RT Arvy For fabulous independent writing this week!

Year 1F Vishvesh For his wonderful re-telling of parables in RE

Year 1L Summie For always trying hard in every lesson and writing lovely sentences in English.

Year 2E Ava For writing super sentences in English this week. Well done Ava.

Year 2G Anthony For having a fabulous first week at St. Mary's!

Year 3L Shawn For always trying his best in everything he does and being a fantastic role model!

Year 3T Angela For settling in well, showing an excellent attitude to learning.

Year 4J Ruby For being kind and helping others, she is a great role model!

Year 4M Aryanna For excellent manners, kindness and wonderful attitude to learning.

Year 5F Ravi For his effort in class and in his reading for our Year 5 Prayer Service.

Year 5M Alicia For both her well researched Mountain posters and her enthusiasm for her learning!

Year 6O Azucena Incredible focus and a true role model to others

Year 6R Isla For writing a fantastic persuasive letter in Exciting Writing! Keep it up!

