



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: 'Dignity of Work'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Attentive and Discerning'



Dear parents and carers,

7th February 2025

*This week, we have considered ways to improve our mental health and well-being; and ways that we can make ourselves and others happy. On Tuesday, the children wore colours to represent the different emotions that they may feel from time to time: joy, anxiety, fear and so forth... Throughout the week, they have learnt more about recognising how they feel and how their brain and body reacts with these emotions.*

*We are currently in need of further OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) resources to replenish our stock for lunchtimes. We are looking for the following donations: -*

✓ **More dress up, toys, role play, arts and crafts materials or any outdoor toys.**

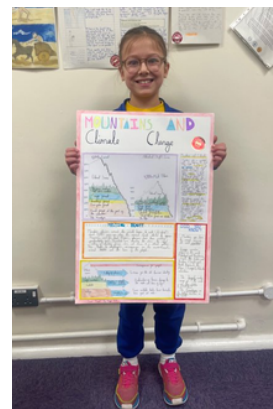
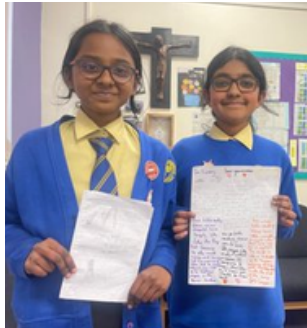
✗ **At this time we do not need any more pots, pans or kitchen equipment.**

*The children really enjoy their OPAL lunchtimes and I invited local Headteachers over yesterday to observe our successful and active lunchtimes; they were impressed to see first-hand the range of activities available to the children.*

*Please take care with what snack you send the children in with for their break time. We have children with various allergies and we have noted that our very kind children like to share their snacks, which may not always be safe or in keeping with dietary requirements. We are seeing more unhealthy snacks coming in to school too. Ensure that snacks are healthy i.e. a piece of fruit, and talk with your children about not sharing their food with others.*

*We break up at normal time on Friday 14th February - that's one more week to get your home learning in. Keep safe this cold weekend, and I will see you all on Monday.*

Mrs Yorke





# Catholic Life



Luke 2:30

*This week's Gospel and Prayer*

*'For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared'*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus is the promised Saviour of all
- Jesus is the Light of the World
- We can see Jesus with eyes of faith through knowing Him; growing our friendship with Him
- Jesus invites us to spread His light to others through our words and actions



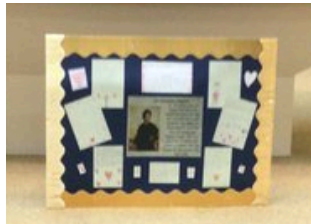
Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure.

Amen



Year 4 Mass - 5.2.25  
- St. Josephine Bakhita

Year 4 led us in a beautiful Mass all about 4J's house Saint - St. Josephine Bakhita. We learnt so much more about one of our class Saints. Thank you Year 4.



Our next Mass: - Reception class - Our Lady of Lourdes

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 12th February 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Reception class will be leading this Mass with their Year 6 buddies.

All parents are welcome to attend.



## Home Learning

Wonderful home learning this week, with two of our children re-enacting a whole Mass. Complete with bread, pretend wine, prayers and readings. An incredible display of knowledge and faith. Well done Joseph and Florence.

## KS1 Prayer and Liturgy

Mrs Russell and KS1 children taught us more about the Presentation of Our Lord, by acting out the story and answering questions.





# Catholic Life

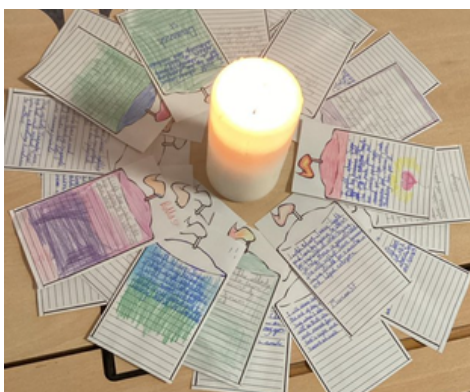
## Faith in Action



Having learnt about homelessness, Year 4 were excited to present their donations to Esther from St. Basil's Charity, to help local young homeless people.



After learning all about how Father Hillary helps our parish community, the children in Reception wanted to make him some 'get well soon' cards to take when he blesses the sick.



Year 5, reflected on how they will share the light of Jesus as they thought more about the celebration of Candlemas.



Year 6 led a beautiful meditation on Jesus the Light of the World to celebrate Candlemas.



Year 2 had a fabulous afternoon, with their parents, for the Indian inspire workshop. The children performed their Bollywood dance and then created an Indian inspired wrap for DT. The children then created thank you cards with their parents.

# Mental Health Week



Thank you to our School Councillors for organising our dress down day, for mental health awareness

On Tuesday 4th February, children came in to school dressed as an Emotion Colour.

The School Council organised what colour the classes were:-



anxiety



embarrassment



The staff enjoyed a sweet treat for mental health week too - because it is important to look after each other, so that we can be at our best for the well-being and mental health of the children.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Friendly February 2025	1 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone	4 Invite a friend over for a 'Yes break' (in person or video)	7 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour	10 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while	13 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others	16 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust	19 Think someone and tell them how they made a difference to you
	2 Look for good to write particularly when you feel frustrated with them	5 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost	8 Focus on being kind rather than being right	11 Smile at five people you see and brighten their day	14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you	17 Support a local business with a positive online review or offer to help	20 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help
	3 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life	6 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself	9 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing	12 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun	15 Briefly listen to what people say without judging them	18 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today	21 Be gentle with someone who is struggling to apologise
	11 Tell a loved one about the gratitude that you see in them	14 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why	17 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones	20 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them	23 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today!		
	12	15	18	21	24		
	13	16	19	22	25		
	14	17	20	23	26		
ACTION FOR HAPPINESS <b>Friendlier February 2025</b> Happier · Kinder · Together							



# Online

# SAFETY

# WEEK

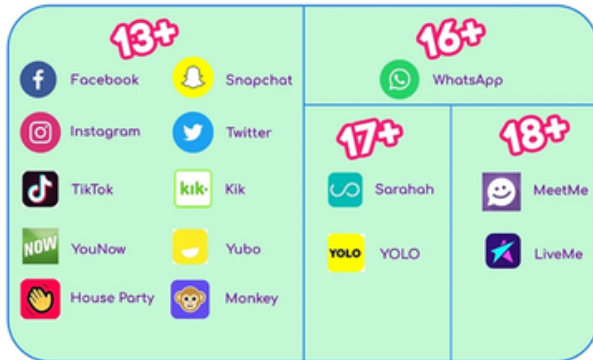
## NSPCC Number Day - 10.2.25

On Monday 10th 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



OpenView  
Education  
TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

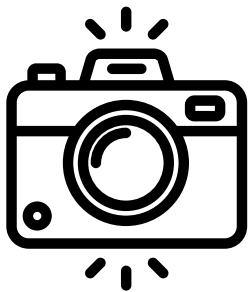
## APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS



## Safer Internet Day - 11.2.25

Tuesday 11th 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:

[saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents](https://saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents)



## Class Photos - 11.2.25

Children to wear full winter uniform on Tuesday 11th 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.

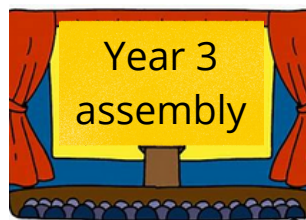


## Year 4 trip to Bosworth Battlefield - 12th February

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.

## Year 3 Whole Year Group Prayer Assembly - 14.2.25

Year 3 parents - please join us for Year 3 assembly on Friday 14th February. The doors will open at 9:10am for a prompt start at 9:15am. The children look forward to seeing you.



hope

## Football

Our fantastic boys have won two games this week. Yesterday's game saw a 7-2 win for the team against Chadvale; and tonight a 16-1 win against Norfolk House.

Every team played brilliantly and St. Mary's cannot wait to play our remaining league and cup matches. Well done boys!



## Tennis

Our Year 3 and Year 4 children had an incredible time at Bournville this week, participating in a festival of tennis skills.



## Community news

Ofsted Registered

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

# PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

Harborne Academy, Harborne Road, B15 3JL  
 Standard Day 9am-4pm - £20  
 Extended Day 8:15am-5pm - £25  
 4 year olds- 8:15am-12:15pm or 1pm-5pm - £12.50

Tax Free payments and Childcare vouchers accepted.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
 or visit premier-ed.com/holiday-camps

Premier Education

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Premier Education

# FOOTBALL CAMPS

Harborne Academy, Harborne Road, B15 3JL  
 Standard day 9am-4pm - £20  
 Extended day 8:15am-5pm - £25  
 Half day (4 year olds)- 8:15am-12:15 OR 1pm-5pm - £12.50

Tax Free payments and Childcare vouchers accepted.

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Trustpilot  
 ★★★★★  
 Based on over 20,000 reviews

### Signposting for half-term activities

This section is to signpost activities that are taking place over half-term, which you may wish to engage with. As a school we are only sign-posting these.

# Signposting - Online Zooms to support parents



## February 2025 Newsletter

FACE delivers online support via zoom for parents across the UK  
Talks are 90 minutes long, £24 each - Book Online at [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Thursday  
20th Feb

19:00 - 20:00  
FREE



### FREE SESSION Supporting Healthy Screen Use

A range of steps that can help minimise the harms from screens

Monday  
3rd Feb

10:00 - 11:30  
£24

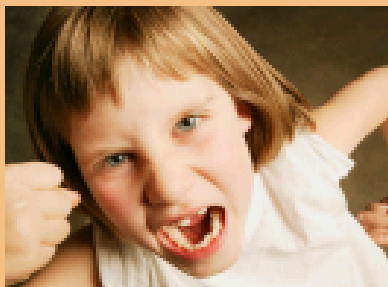


### Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday  
11th Feb

19:00 - 20:30  
£24



### Facing Defiance

Specific strategy to help parents manage defiant and challenging behaviour, especially aimed at ADHD, ODD and PDA conditions, 5 to 12 years old.

Tuesday  
18th Feb

19:00 - 20:30  
£24



### Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness

Get the facts and know the harms about these two drugs so you can hold an informed conversation with your teens.

Tuesday  
25th Feb

19:00 - 20:30  
£24



### Understanding the Teenage Brain

A 'must see' for all parents and teachers of teens and pre-teens. Explains why teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.

[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

[info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

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 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:



Amy Davis Deputy Headteacher Lead DSL	Louise Yorke Headteacher Deputy DSL	Rachel Jones Senior Teacher DSL	Rachel Richards EYFS Lead DSL	Sharon Tame School Counsellor DSL	Laura Noone AHT DSL	Jade Preedy AHT DSL
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Alternatively, email [DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

## 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 03/02/25-07/02/25**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	97.6	89.3	98	97.3	97	97.8	91.3	100	100	97.3	96.6	95.3	97.2	100
Lates	2	1	3	6	4	4	3	1	1	1	4	6	2	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%			School Target				97%	

**Well done 3T, 4J and 6O: - Our attendance champions!**



# Dates for this half-term

Spring theme -

Spring I Virtues

WB 10.2.25

10th February 2025 - all day

11th February 2025 - all day

11th February 2025 - all day

12th February 2025 - 9:15am

12th February 2025 - all day

12th February 2025 - 8:45am

14th February 2025 - 9:15am

14th February 2025 - end of day

Dignity of Work

Grateful and Generous

Online Safety Week

Number day - wear digits

Photographer in school to take group photos

Safer Internet Day


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

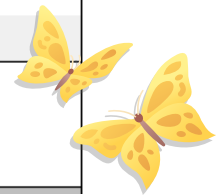
Year 4 visit to Bosworth Battlefield

Utilita Arena Pathway to Podium Competition - chn going receive letter

Year 3 Year group Assembly

Break up for half-term break - normal time

<b>Spring Term</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>
	<i>Half-term</i>
	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>



## INSET DAYS

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Spring theme -

Spring II Virtues

24th February 2025 - all day

24th February 2025 - 8:45am

25th February 2025 - am

26th February 2025 - 9:15am

26th February 2025 - evening

28th February 2025 - all day

Dignity of Work

Attentive and Discerning

INSET DAY - school closed to children

Children return to school at normal time

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

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

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

Pet Day - animal theme dress up - see separate letter

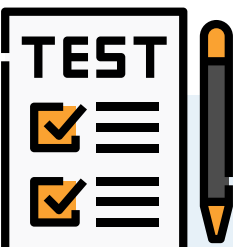
## Other key dates

### SATs Week for Year 6

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from

**Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May 2025.**

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



# Star of the week

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

Year RB	Billy	<i>For being a positive role model in Reception!</i>
Year RT	Emilia	<i>For being a generous and caring member of RT!</i>
Year IF	Harry	<i>For trying hard to improve his handwriting and his dedication to his role as rights respecting monitor!</i>
Year 1L	Zulekha	<i>For her kindness to all and living out our school virtues!</i>
Year 2E	Jayden	<i>For being a polite, kind and hardworking member of 2E!</i>
Year 2G	Shawn	<i>For making a fabulous Indian inspired wrap!</i>
Year 3L	Harley	<i>For being a super role model and trying his best in all of his learning!</i>
Year 3T	Janssen	<i>For showing beautiful walking both outside and around the school! Well done!</i>
Year 4J	Noah	<i>For perseverance with more challenging questions in Maths!</i>
Year 4M	James	<i>For being a lovely role model of good behaviour and hard work for his classmates!</i>
Year 5F	Emanuel	<i>Always setting a fantastic example of behaviour in class and around the school!</i>
Year 5M	Scarlett	<i>For amazing reflections of the scripture in her own life!</i>
Year 6O	Luke	<i>For his consistently positive approach to all of his work!</i>
Year 6R	Kate	<i>For her wonderful efforts and perseverance in maths!</i>

