



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.

## May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Stewardship'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Eloquent and Truthful'



Dear parents and carers,

3rd May 2024

Lots of wonderful learning has taken place this week and I hope that you enjoy looking at the pictures each week in the newsletter and following us on twitter. We endeavour to showcase all the wonderful things your child/ren are doing whilst they're in school. We are now in the month of May, and therefore we will be crowning Our Blessed Mother Mary after our Ascension Mass on Thursday 9th May. You are most welcome to attend Mass, at 10am, with us on that day and then to follow our procession to our prayer garden, where we will be crowning our lady. This year, we are asking that any flowers donated to school for Our Lady are potted plants.

Please may I remind everybody to park courteously around the school site when dropping off their children and picking up. Some of our local residents are elderly, sick, vulnerable and have become really upset by the parking situation. It is such a shame that the good name of the school is being brought in to question when parents are doing this and sometimes being verbal towards our neighbours when they are challenged. We are a Catholic Community and teach the children Gospel values - please help us to live what we preach to the children and to always be courteous.

A reminder too that school is closed on Monday because of the Bank Holiday and we will return to school on Tuesday 7th May. Enjoy the extra day off and fingers crossed the weather picks up. Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Yorke

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

*John 15 : 1-8*

*'Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, bears fruit in plenty".'*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Staying connected to Jesus helps us to bear good fruit.
- The Holy Spirit can grow 'fruit' in our lives like love and kindness.
- Praying, listening to the Gospel and receiving the Eucharist help to keep us connected.

*Father in Heaven,*

*We thank you for your Son, Jesus.  
Through Him, With Him, In Him,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
All glory and honour are yours,  
for ever and ever  
Amen*

### *Catholic Life in School*

#### *Year 3 Mass - 1.5.24 - SS Philip and James*

*We learnt so much about St. Philip and St. James the Less in this week's Mass. Thank you Year 3 for leading us on Wednesday.*



#### **Whole School Mass - The Ascension of our Lord and May procession**

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Thursday 9th May 2024**, starting promptly at **10:00am**. All children and staff will be attending Mass.

All parents and parishioners are welcome to attend on this Holy Day of obligation.

*Reception news: -*

Reception loved observing caterpillars this week and learning about their life cycles



*Year 1 news: -*

Year 1 have been making equal groups in their maths lessons this week



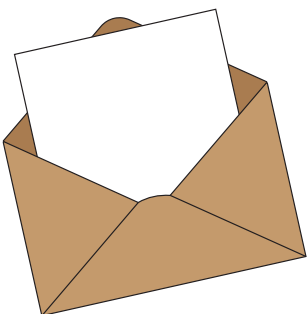
*Year 2 news: -*

This week, Year 2 explored the school grounds looking for micro habitats in Science



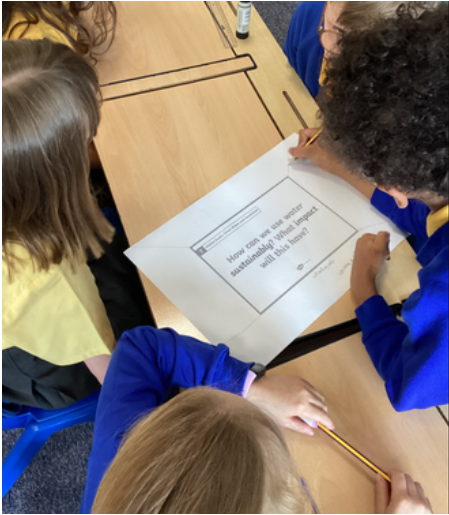
*Year 3 news: -*

In English, Year 3 have been identifying the features of a letter and explaining why these features are important



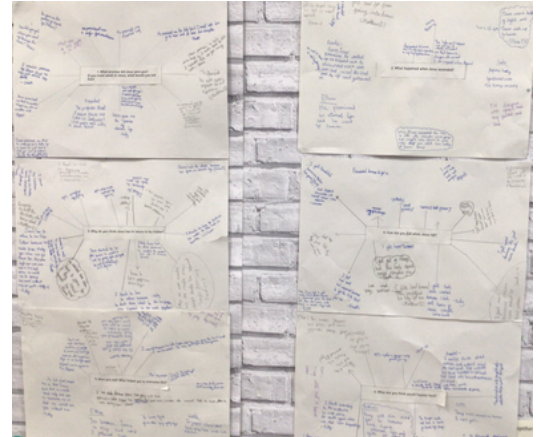
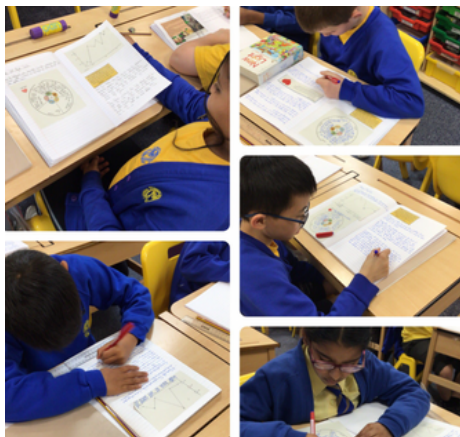
### Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about the global need for clean water and its uneven distribution in Geography this week



### Year 5 news: -

This week in RE, Year 5 discussed the events of Jesus' Ascension and reflected on the feelings of the witnesses and Jesus' promise of Eternal Life



### Year 6 news: -

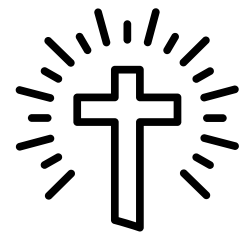
Year 6 created some wonderful Japanese inspired art work with Mme. Baile this week



# ART



# Catholic Life



## Stewardship in Action

Children in Year 2 have been inspired to create A 'litter club' following their English lessons on the text 'Please Help Planet Earth'. What wonderful stewardship girls!



## Prayer Bags in dedication to Our Lady

Your paragraph text

For the month of May, the Spiritual Council have organised the prayer bags in dedication to Our Lady.

Please use the prayer bags to pray together as a family.

Please also send us or tweet your photographs of how you use the prayer bags.





We are inviting children to show their devotion to Mary by bringing in pot plants and flowers for her during this month. We will be crowning her in our May procession next week.



# May and the Rosary



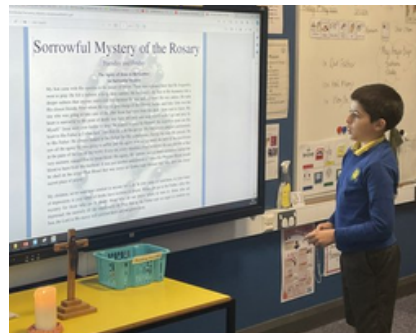
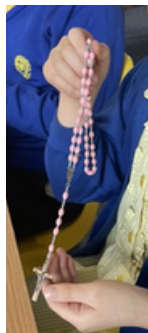
Year 2 are praying the Joyful Mysteries throughout May.



Gabriele has been praying to Our Lady at home using our school prayer bag.



Year 5 are using Rosary Beads as they pray the first of the Glorious Mysteries this week.



Year 6 are reviewing all of the mysteries as they pray the Rosary.



You can use this website to pray the Rosary at home...

<https://www.catholic.org/prayers/mystery.php>



# Child-led Collective Worship

Each week, the children lead prayer and liturgy in their classrooms for their peers. The children select the focus which may be based on the Gospel for the week; Saints feast days; our Patron St. Mary; our Building the Kingdom theme or something that has happened in the news or our local community that needs our prayers at this time. Here is a selection of our child-led prayer this week.

## Feast day St. Philip and St. James

Happy Feast day to St. Philip and St. James today. Year 3 led our Mass this week dedicated to them and a group of Year 4 boys led prayer in the classroom today. St Philip and James... Pray for Us!



## Devotion to Our Lady



Year 2 children have focused on Mary this week in their Prayer and Liturgy sessions.

## Open our eyes, Lord

Year 2 have used our prayer garden this week to reflect on Thomas' feelings and the need to see Jesus with his own eyes to believe the resurrection.



## Prayer Leaders



Each day, children have the chance to lead our 4 daily prayers and the Angelus in KS2. Kai was today's prayer leader in 5M.



Extra-Curricular



Congratulations to our U11 boys' football team who have finished in 2nd place in the Harborne District League this season! We are very proud of you all.



OPAL Update



On Friday, we officially opened our OPAL Shed with a ribbon cutting ceremony. We are so grateful to our wonderful PTA for funding our shed! Thank you.



**We love OPAL!**

Don't just take our word for it - listen to what the children have to say ...

*I love every single thing!  
Y4 Girl*

*The best day is 'Parachute Day!'  
Y6 Boy*





**School closed - May Day - 6th May 2024**

*We are closed for the bank holiday on Monday 6th May.*



**Reception Harborne Library Visit - 7.5.24**

Reception will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

RT will leave at 8:50am

RB will leave at 10:20 am

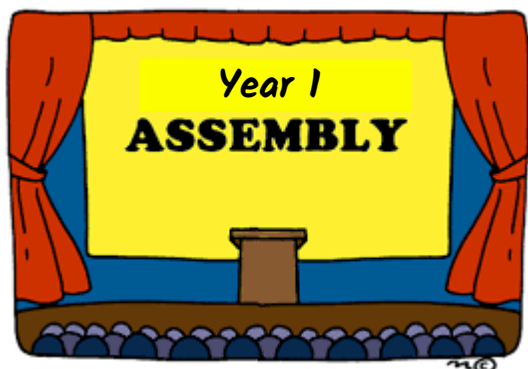
If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Reception staff know.

**Pot plants and flowers for Our Lady - May procession - 9.5.24**

*During the month of May, we invite children to bring in flowers as a sign of our love and affection for Our Lady. We encourage children to bring in pot plants that can be displayed on class prayer tables and then planted in the prayer garden at the end of the month.*



**Join us for Mass this Thursday at 10:00am for the Ascension Mass and May Procession**



**Year 1 Assembly - 10.5.24 at 9:10am**

Year 1 parents are invited to see their children in their assembly this Friday morning at 9:10am.

**PARTY WITH US**

**ST.MARY'S PTA SUMMER DISCO**

FROM 6.30-8.30PM

**FRIDAY 10TH MAY GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

MUSIC, DANCE, TOYS, ICE-CREAM, AND MORE!

ST.MARY'S PARISH CENTRE.  
£4 FOR CHILD  
£2 FOR ADULT

**PTA fundraising event  
St. Mary's PTA Summer Disco**

**Friday 10th May at 6:30pm**

Tickets are on sale from today.  
Contact your class Rep!





## Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May 2024**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **3rd June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 10th June**



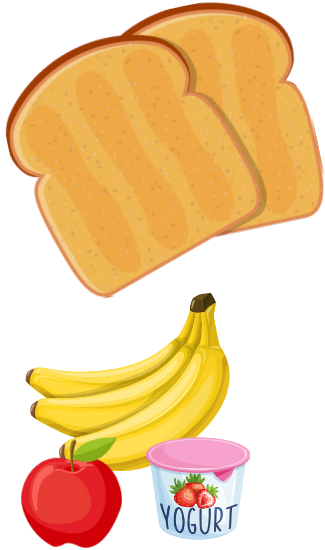
Please do not book holidays for any of the above dates. Further details will be given out nearer the time.

### Breakfast Club for Y6 SATs week

We will be running a *Breakfast Club* for Year 6 during their SATs week (Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May 2024) in the school hall – this is free and **for Year 6 only!**

Research has shown that children can concentrate and perform better in tests and exams if they are relaxed and have eaten beforehand. By attending, we can ensure that all children are in school on time, have had time to relax with their friends and feel settled.

**All Year 6 pupils are to attend breakfast club between 8:00am – 8:30am during this week. Thank you :)**



### Parish News

#### Consultation – Changes to Parish Mass times

Parish Sunday Mass times throughout the Archdiocese, and especially in our local Deanery (Birmingham South: Harborne, Quinton, Bearwood, Weoley Castle etc ) are under ongoing discussion. It is suggested that Mass times need to be staggered in order to allow one priest to cover two or more Churches for Sunday Mass. This is needed if/when a neighbouring priest is not available (sick, holidays, bereavement, death).

The changes will be implemented in the next couple of years....

Have your say after each Mass at St Mary's Pentecost Sunday May 18/19th.



#### St. Mary's Parish Fete

Please take note of the date for our Parish Fete. Complete with fancy dress, entertainment, food, drinks, stalls and a raffle.

We look forward to seeing many of our families and children.



*Carnival theme*

# Multi-activity camps

WHITSUN HALF-TERM



## PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS

**Premier Education** | **INSPIRING ACTIVITY**

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps](https://premier-education.com/holiday-camps)

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

### YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

**Venue:** Harborne Academy Harborne Road Edgbaston B15 3JJ

**Dates:** 28th May 2024- 31st May 2024

**Times:** 9am - 4pm (4 year olds allowed from 9am - 1pm)

**Price:** £18.84 full day (£12.30 for 4 year olds 9am - 1pm)

**Ages:** 4-11 (4 year olds 9am- 1pm)

**Additional info:** EARLY BIRD 30% discount ends on 1/5/24

#### PLEASE BRING

- A packed lunch
- Plenty of water
- Suitable clothing
- Loads of energy!

Our 5\* Holiday Camps are the perfect place to keep your kids entertained over the Whitsun half-term.

Children can meet new friends, have lots of fun, and create wonderful memories!

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before - from dodgeball to cricket, basketball to archery.

**Book now** for a half-term full of fun!

### CAMPS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!

**TREAT YOUR FRIENDS TO 20% OFF...AND GET 20% OFF TOO!**

\*T&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.

**Trustpilot**  
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# Football camp

WHITSUN HALF-TERM



## PREMIER FOOTBALL CAMPS

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Children can meet new friends, have lots of fun, and create wonderful memories!

For football fans, our sport-specific camps are the perfect way to spend the school holidays.

**Book now** for a half-term full of fun!

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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



#### Being unkind online

*Talk to your child about how they speak to other online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness...*

*Here are some examples of what being unkind online looks like to talk to children about:-*

- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies

#### 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 29/04/24-03/05/24**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	97.5	96.2	95.4	100	92.9	94.1	97	98.3	97.5	97.5	94.5	97.5	92.3	97.4
Lates	2	2	5	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.3%		School Target				97%		

**Well done 1F: - Our attendance champions!**

# Dates for next term

Summer theme -

Summer 1

6th May 2024 - all day

7th May 2024 - am

9th May 2024 - 10:00am

10th May 2024 - 9:15am

WB 13.5.24

**WB 13.5.24**

16th May 2024 - 2:30pm

17th May 2024 - all day

17th May 2024 - all day

21st May 2024 - am

22nd May 2024 - 9:15am

24th May 2024

Stewardship

Eloquent and Truthful

May Day Bank Holiday - school is closed

Reception class visit to Harborne library (8:50 RT and 10:20 RB)

Whole School Ascension Mass and May procession - parents welcome

Year 1 Year group Assembly

Mental Health Week

**Year 6 SATs Week**

Year Reception Year group Assembly

'Feel happy' dress down day - wear the clothes that make you feel the most happy - PTA treat too!

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:50 1F and 10:20 1L)

Reception Mass ONLY for Reception parents in school hall

Break up for half-term break - normal time

Summer theme -

Summer 2

3rd June 2024 - all day

**WB 3.6.24**

4th June 2024 - am

4th June 2024 - 2:30pm

5th June 2024 - 9:15am

5th June 2024 - 2:30pm

7th June 2024 - all day

**WB 10.6.24**

WB 10.6.24

11th June 2024 - am

12th June 2024 - all day

12th June 2024 - 9:15am

13th June 2024 - all day

14th June 2024 - pm

**17th June - 19th June**

19th June 2024 - 9:15am

25th June 2024 - am

2nd July 2024 - am

Stewardship

Learned and Wise

Children return to school at normal time

**Year 4 Multiplication check window - 3 weeks**

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (8:50 3T and 10:20 3L)

RSE talk for parents - KS1

Year 1 Mass ONLY for Year 1 parents in school hall

RSE talk for parents - KS2

World Ocean Day

**Phonics check for Year 1 this week**

Money Week

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (8:50 2E and 10:20 2G)

Sarehole Mill Trip - YSF

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

Sarehole Mill Trip - YSM

Year 6 Fathers' Day Inspire

**Year 6 residential**

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 2 classes attend) - parents welcome

Reception class visit to Harborne library (8:50 RB and 10:20 RT)

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:50 1L and 10:20 1F)

# Star of the week

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

- Year RB Brando Absolutely fantastic work on number bonds to 10 this week!
- Year RT Issac Always being such an enthusiastic, friendly member of RT!
- Year IF Tina Excellent contributions in Maths.
- Year IL Elizabeth For being a kind and thoughtful member of the class!
- Year 2E Agatha For both caring about our world and organising a Y2 litter picking club (completely on their own) to collect plastic that may otherwise end up in our oceans. Fabulous!
- Grace
- Year 2G Liam Amazing effort in all of his lessons, especially Maths!
- Year 3L Ben His super Maths learning!
- Year 3T William Always helping his friends and his brilliant contributions to our science experiment
- Year 4J Sam Showed care for the younger children by making sure they went in through the doors after break time before him.
- Year 4M Nathan For his effort in his English setting description.
- Year 5F Shaun Being very active in class discussions
- Year 5M Harry Engaging in all subjects across the curriculum and being an amazing help in class.
- Year 6O Sam For a well written instructional text
- Year 6R Rufus Being an excellent Steward of God's creation with his pen recycling scheme

