



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.

April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Solidarity and the Common Good'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Curious and Active'



Dear parents and carers,

6th April 2023

We have come to the end of another term and we're all ready to break up and celebrate Easter. The most important day in our faith. We have had such a special Holy Week in school, as we have been led by the children to Jesus' cross through our prayer and liturgy. Year 3 showed us the importance of servant leadership in their recreation of the Last Supper. Year 4 taught us about the anguish Jesus felt in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he was betrayed by one of his own and arrested. Year 5 helped us reflect on all those involved in the persecution of Jesus and how Pilate 'washed his hands' of the whole affair. Today Year 6 led us in our stations of the Cross, and it was lovely to see so many parents and members of the Parish, in the Church. On Sunday, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection and on behalf of the Governors and all the staff, I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Included in this newsletter are key dates for the Summer term. Please continue to check the dates page of the newsletter for any additions to these dates as the weeks go on. As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, there are two more potential strike days planned for Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. I will write to parents on the Monday that we return to school with details of how 'open' we are as a school. I can confirm that we will be open for Year 1 on Thursday 27th April and that their trip to the farm will go ahead.

Next half-term, we will spend time learning about King Charles and his Coronation ahead of the Bank Holiday. We have a community and school project that you can get involved in as part of the children's Easter homework. Please look at the section in the newsletter about the King's Coronation work to find out how you can help your child in their learning. Have a marvellous break and we will see you in 2 weeks time on Monday 24th March (normal time).

Mrs Yorke

This week's Gospel and Prayer

Philippians 2: 8-9

"Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high."

What are the Stations of the Cross?

The Stations of the Cross – or the Way of the Cross – is a Lenten devotion which helps us to reflect prayerfully on Jesus' final steps on the way to his crucifixion and death. It marks 14 different stages of Christ's Passion from the moment he was condemned to death, to receiving the Cross and then the events on the walk to his crucifixion.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to show our love for you. Prepare our minds, hearts and souls to follow You on Your final journey on the road to Calvary. Thank you Jesus for being our friend and for dying for us. Give us strength to carry Your cross with You.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 3 School Mass - 3rd Week of Easter - Votive St. Mark

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 26th April 2023**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 will be leading our Mass and Year 1 will also be attending. All parents are welcome to attend.





Palm Sunday

*"Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!"*



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 set our scene: -

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they waved palm branches...



The Last Supper

*"Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you are proclaiming the death of the Lord"*

Year 3 showed us the love of Christ. Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples and washed their feet at the Last Supper. Year 3 set us a Go Forth - how can we serve others?



The Garden of Gethsemane

"The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"

Year 4 helped us to reflect upon the events that took place in the Garden of Gethsemane and then Peter's denial. We were asked to consider how Jesus was feeling as he prayed to His Father in Heaven.



Good Friday

"My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world"

Year 5 re-enacted Jesus' trial and sentencing to death. They encouraged us to reflect on how by washing his hands of Jesus' blood, Pontius Pilate sentenced him to death.



The Stations of the Cross

"Truly this was the Son of God"

Year 6 retold the Stations of the Cross and linked the suffering of Jesus, to the suffering and persecution that still takes place today.



We are so proud of our amazing RE learning this week...

Our Palm Sunday work...



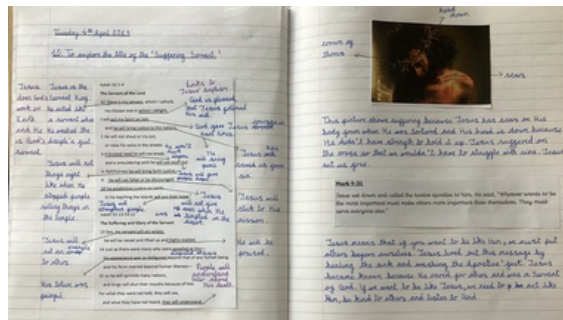
Our Last Supper Work



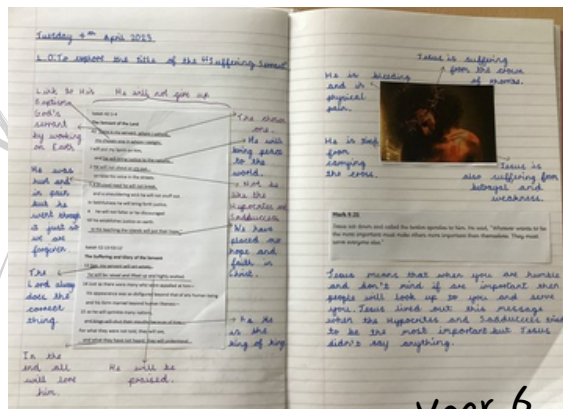
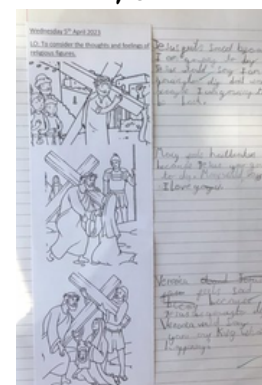
Our Garden of Gethsemane work



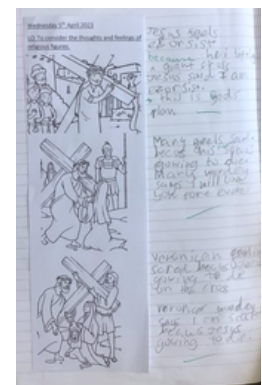
We examined Jesus' title, The Suffering Servant



Year 1



Year 6



Other Easter Activities

Thank you to the PTA for organising our Easter raffles and for purchasing the Easter Eggs for the children.



Reception class were wonderful in their Easter Bonnet parade. Amazing dancing and singing!



This half term, each year group has done something 'extra' as part of their Lent work. Thank you to all those who have sponsored so far...

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-marysb17>

The children have taken part in the Big Lent Walk. We have walked an impressive 200km and have raised £320 so far. We're incredibly proud of the children.



Year
R

Reception class have been praying for those who need our prayers. They have said prayers for: those within our school, parish and community. They have written how they can show love on hearts and used this in a prayer service with their parents. Every child has written promises for how they can be loving and make changes in Lent.



Year 1

Year 1 have been caring for our school environment. They have been picking up any litter that is in our playground and making sure that the plants are being watered. Caring for God's planet begins with caring for the school.



Year 2

Year 2 have been fundraising for WWF to support polar bears and Bengal tigers. They wrote persuasive letters to Mrs. Yorke and designed their own fundraising day. We are custodians of the planet and have been given the task from God to care for His creatures.



Year 3

Year 3 wanted to help the local community and decided to go litter picking throughout Lent in the local area. The children did a great job at keeping our local community clean.



Year 4

Year 4 have collected donations for St. Chad's Sanctuary, as part of their Lent charity work.

Trainers
Jumpers/hoodies
T-shirts
Underwear
Jeans

Urgent appeal
for men's clothing
in Birmingham

- all sizes needed
- good condition pre-loved or new
- given straight to those in need
- want to donate? see [StChadSanctuary](https://www.stchadssanctuary.com/index.php/donations) [StChadSanctuary](https://www.stchadssanctuary.com/index.php/donations)
- or contact us on info@stchadssanctuary.com 01212333127



Year 5

Year 5 have learnt about the world water crisis and have explored the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' The children completed their CAFOD walk whilst carrying buckets of water to raise awareness of water poverty. What an amazing cause!



Year 6

Year 6 have been attending the Dementia drop-in group at the Parish Centre every Thursday morning in small groups to play games and speak with the residents. They have brought such joy to the residents, who have asked for us to continue going after Easter.



Individuals / groups

Other groups of children have also collected for charity too and have developed their own business models with all profits going to charity.



Raffaella, Payton, Ben, Alex, Daniel and Anna created their own fundraising page, selling badges, hats and bookmarks. They raised £170.50.





Another amazing Power Project about Extreme Survival from Year 3. Great work Fera. Your teachers and Mrs Yorke were very impressed with your hard work.

The week we return - WB 24.4.23

Year 1 School Trip - 27th April 2023

As part of next term's topic, Year 1 are visiting Dudley Zoo. Please make sure that your children are on time for school and wearing their school PE kit, waterproof coat and trainers.

The children will be provided with a packed lunch.

We are using school fund to subsidise part of the payment.

Thank you to those who regularly give to school fund.

The children will return to school at 3:45pm.

Please check our twitter page for updates.



Strike Action - Thursday 27th April 2023

As it stands, it is likely that strikes will go ahead for two more days next half term.

The vast amount of teachers at St. Mary's are NEU members and are in the process of deciding whether they wish to strike,

if unions do not come to an agreement. School will be partially open and Year 1 will be in for their school trip - I will let you know if school is open to any other year groups, when I know the details of which staff are striking. Please make alternative arrangements for childcare, if the school is closed for your child.

WB 24.4.2023

Year 4 have been collecting for St. Chad's Sanctuary as part of their Lent fundraising. They will be taking the items to the Sanctuary on Friday 28th April 2023.

If anybody has anything that they wish to donate for the Sanctuary, please bring it to school WB 24.4.2023.



Lego donation for school

The children have requested for more lego to be purchased for them to play with at break times in school.

We would gratefully receive any donations of lego as we look to increase the amount we keep in school for wet breaks.

Thank you



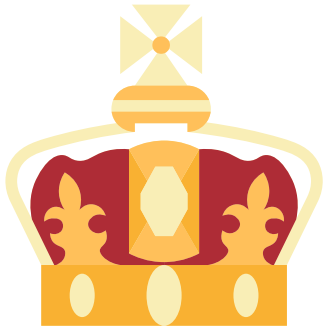
The King's Coronation – WB 01.05.23



Easter Homework

Family Tree

In preparation for the children's learning during Coronation Week, we would like children to explore and create their own family tree to share with the class. This is a fun project to do with your child over Easter break.



Easter Homework

Coronation Art work competition

The community in Harborne loved the Queen's Jubilee artwork so much, they have decided to share children's artwork on the High Street again. If your child would like to create a piece of coronation artwork, i.e a portrait of the King, please could this be brought into school on Monday 24th April.



Dance Workshops

St Mary's are hosting dance workshops for the Coronation on Wednesday 3rd May and Thursday 4th May.

Home project

Bake Off

St Mary's are doing their first ever bake off on Friday 5th May. All children are invited to enter the competition, which could be baking one large cake or cupcakes/smaller cake at home. The entries should be brought into school on the Friday morning. These will be judged and prizes will be given, before sharing the cakes in our celebration in the afternoon.

Please ensure that a list of ingredients used are brought in with the cakes and please do not use any nuts in your baking.



Own clothes day

On Friday 5th May, we are inviting all children to wear their own clothes: red, white and blue themed. We are asking for a £1.50 donation and this will go towards the Coronation Dance Workshops that all children will be taking part in.



Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)



Please note the following:

- Year 6 SATs take place **Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May**
- Year 2 SATs take place during the month of **May**
- Year 4 Times Tables Check from **5th June (3 week period)**
- Year 1 Phonics Screen Check takes place Week Beginning **Monday 12th June**

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

Summer uniform

Children should still be wearing their winter uniform, as the weather is still unpredictable and can be cold. Children may begin wearing their Summer uniform when we return after Easter...

Girls' Summer Uniform

- Yellow summer dress
- Black shoes



Boys' Summer Uniform

- Grey shorts
- Yellow polo shirt
- Black shoes

PE

- Blue shorts
- Yellow t-shirt
- Black, blue or white trainers / black indoor pumps



Staff News

Good Bye! Thank You



Mrs Woulfe



Mrs Miller

Mrs Woulfe our Reception Teacher and Mrs Miller our Administration Officer are both retiring from St. Mary's when we return to school after Easter break.

Mrs Miller's last day with us will be on **Friday 28th April**

Mrs Woulfe's last day with us will be on **Friday 5th May**.

Both members of staff have given so many years service to St. Mary's and we will miss them incredibly. We wish them both all the very best as they move on to the next chapter. Thank you.

Welcome back

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome back our staff who have been on Maternity leave. Mrs Richards, will be teaching Reception alongside Mrs Russell and Miss Detheridge. Miss Ruhan has also returned and will be working across all classes.



Mrs Richards



Miss Ruhan



Three days of Holy Week at St. Mary's
 Join St Mary's Parish for the 'Three days of Holy Week': Holy Thursday 7.30pm Mass and Adoration; Good Friday 3pm Passion of the Lord, - and 7.30pm Stations of Cross; Holy Saturday 8.30pm Easter Vigil and Mass, with Reception of 10 adults into the Catholic Church. Easter Sunday Masses: 9.30am (children); 11.30am and 5.00pm



Sacramental Preparation – Year 3 and Year 6

Both the First Communion sessions (Yrs 3) and Confirmation sessions (Yrs 6) begin Saturday 29th April in the Parish Centre, at 9.30am and 11.30am respectively. Confirmation parents meet Tuesday 25th April, 8.00pm

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 27th March – 31st March

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99%	95%	98.3%	90.3%	98.7%	95.3%	95.7%	97%	99%	98.3%	93.9%	95.5%	94.3%	93.7%
Lates	14	9	2	9	6	0	6	14	5	2	6	4	2	7
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.6%			School Target			97%		

Well done YRB and Y4J: - our Attendance Champions

Summer theme -

Summer 1 Virtues

24th April 2023 - all day

WB 24.5.2023

26th April 2023 - 9:15am

27th April 2023 - all day

27th April 2023 - all day

28th April 2023 - am

28th April 2023 - pm

1st May 2023 - all day

2nd May 2023 - all day

WB 2.5.2023 - all week

3rd May 2023 - 9:15am

5th May 2023 - all day

5th May 2023 - am

5th May 2023 - am

8th May 2023 - all day

WB 9.5.2023 - all week

10th May 2023 - 9:15am

WB 15.5.2023 - all week

15th May - 17th May - 3 days

16th May 2023 - am

17th May 2023 - 9:15am

19th May 2023 - all day

19th May 2023 - am

19th May 2023 - 9:15am

WB 22.5.2023 - all week

22nd May 2023 - 1:45pm

24th May 2023 - pm

24th May 2023 - 7pm

25th May 2023 - all day

26th May 2023 - all day

26th May 2023 - am

26th May 2023

Solidarity and the Common Good

Curious and Active

Children return to school on Monday at normal time

Last call for donations for St. Chad's Sanctuary (Y4 fundraiser)

Y3 Mass in Church (and Y1 attend) - parents welcome

Potential strike day - expect school to only be partially open

Y1 trip to the zoo (going ahead)

2G visit to library

Y5 Lego Robotics Challenge in school

School Closed - May day bank holiday

Potential strike day - expect school to only be partially open

Coronation celebrations in school (including competitions)

Y4 Mass in Church (and 32 attend) - parents welcome

Own clothes day for Coronation Party in school

2E visit to library

Fire Service visit in school for Year 4

School Closed - Coronation bank holiday

Year 6 SATs week - Year 6 children must be in school every day

Y5 Mass in Church (and Reception classes attend) - parents welcome

Mental Health Week and Walk to School Week

Year 6 residential to Alton Castle

RT visit to library

Whole School Mass for Ascension and May Procession / crowning of Our Lady

Mental health 'feel happy' dress up day

RB visit to library

Year 1 Year group assembly for parents

Year 2 SATs week - Year 2 children must be in school every day

Year 6 children/parent Confirmation workshop in school

Bishop David to visit school ahead of the Confirmation

Confirmation Mass for Year 6 children

Class 5M visit to Sarehole Mill

Class 5F visit to Sarehole Mill

1F visit to library

Finish for May half-term (normal time)

Dates for next term

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Robyn	<i>fantastic efforts in the Easter Bonnet Parade</i>
Year RT	Esme	<i>being so kind and helpful and having a lovely smile for everyone</i>
Year IF	Aaron	<i>trying really hard in his RE work and using his super manners</i>
Year IL	Joshua	<i>working really hard this week and being very thoughtful</i>
Year 2E	Sebastian	<i>working extra hard this week and giving a massive effort</i>
Year 2G	Ella	<i>being hard working in every lesson</i>
Year 3L	Alfie	<i>excellent participation and knowledge of addition and subtraction of measures</i>
Year 3T	Joseph	<i>kindness to others and super duper home learning</i>
Year 4J	Jack	<i>making good choices throughout the week</i>
Year 4M	Jayne	<i>producing a super story in Exciting Writing</i>
Year 5F	Peyton	<i>portraying Caiaphas beautifully during our prayer and liturgy service</i>
Year 5M	Joshua	<i>fantastic reading and enthusiasm during our Prayer and Liturgy Service</i>
Year 6O	Gaspard	<i>a sincere performance in the role of a Guard in the Stations of the Cross</i>
Year 6R	Charles	<i>helping others really well this week and concentrating well in all lessons</i>

