



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

www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price 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: - 'Grateful and Generous'



20th May 2022

Dear parents and carers,

This week, we have achieved so much in school... it is a wonderful term for the children as they grow in confidence with their learning, and look forward to school trips, summer fetes and sports events. It is particularly welcome after all the restrictions we have been living under following the pandemic.

Year 1 really enjoyed their trip to Warwick castle on Tuesday and Year 2 were fabulous as they took their statutory assessments. Well done children. Next week is another lovely week in school concluding with our Jubilee celebrations on Friday, where children can come in to school wearing red, white and blue. We break up on Friday 27th May for a week at normal school time. Our PTA are in the progress of planning a St. Mary's after school Summer event and need support to organise this, in the few weeks we have left. If you can help, please let me know. We are always looking for volunteers to support us with the many projects we have going on. I will see you all on Monday.

Miss Price

This week's Gospel and Prayer

John 13: 31-35

"By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus gives us a simple commandment to 'love one another'
- Solidarity and friendship in Christ is a way of following this commandment.
- We show that we are Jesus' disciples through our words and actions.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to walk together in your way.

Help us to love one another, just like you love us.

We are an Easter people and "Alleluia" is our song!

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Year 5 Mass - 5th Week of Easter

On Wednesday, Year 5 class led our Mass for the 5th week of Easter. Thank you to the parents who joined us.



Whole School Mass in Church - 25.5.22 at 9:30am - Ascension Crowning of Mary

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 25th May 2022, starting promptly at 9:30am.

Staff will be leading our Mass. All parents are welcome to attend.

(If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings and to sit in the old part of the Church on the left hand side).

Football and Netball matches

On Monday, our football and netball teams represented St. Mary's so well in our matches at Our Lady of Fatima School. It's great to have our competitions up and running again.



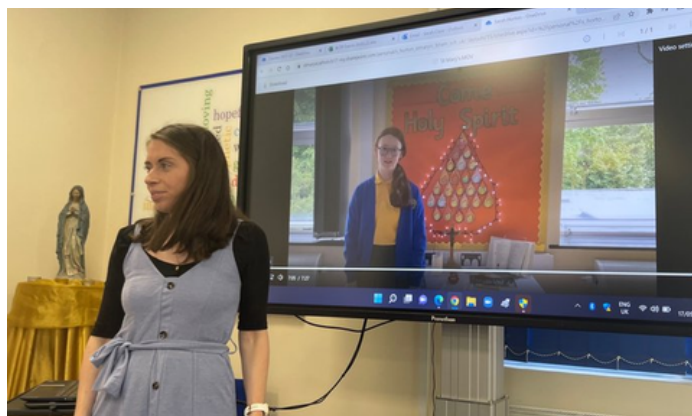
Year 1 Warwick Castle trip

Year 1 enjoyed exploring Warwick castle and learning about its different functions and finishing their trip in the Zog play area.



Building the Kingdom

Miss Price and Miss Horton spent Tuesday with other schools, sharing the wonderful social action charity work that has taken place in school.



Services available to our families at St. Marys

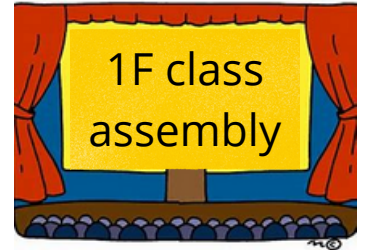
On Tuesday, we held our first drop in afternoon and hope that the parents who attended found it a useful opportunity to speak with staff and members of our school community.



1F class assembly

On Friday, 1F led us in a wonderful assembly.

We heard the parable of the sower and the children explained how we can bring the Kingdom of God on Earth by always loving our neighbour and doing God's work.



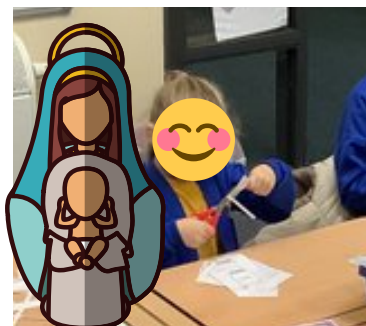
Prayer garden

Children are making the most of the lovely weather (and our new benches), and are leading collective worship in the prayer garden. The children prepare their own services for their peers.



Reception news: -

Reception class have been trying really hard with their subtraction and prayer writing.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 really enjoyed gardening club and reading all about vegetables in Guided Reading.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 historians created a whole class timeline of amazing pioneers. They then organised them into chronological order before adding interesting facts.



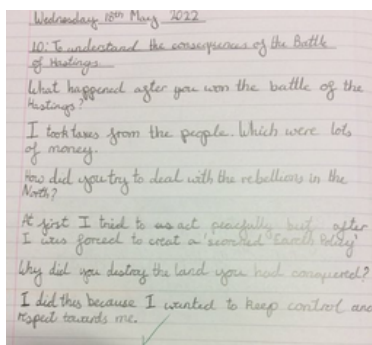
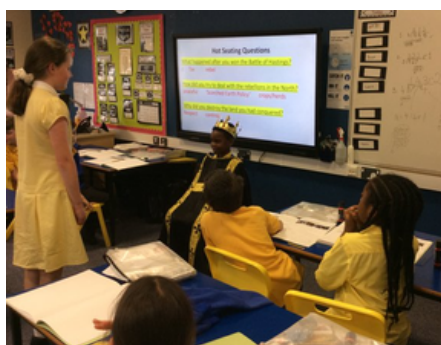
Year 3 news: -

In Computing, Year 3 have worked as software engineers to find errors in algorithms and debug a script using Scratch. They have also used i-pads to support their research work in topic lessons.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 learnt about 'The Harrying of the North' during the winter of 1069 - 1070. They role-played being William the Conqueror and answering questions.



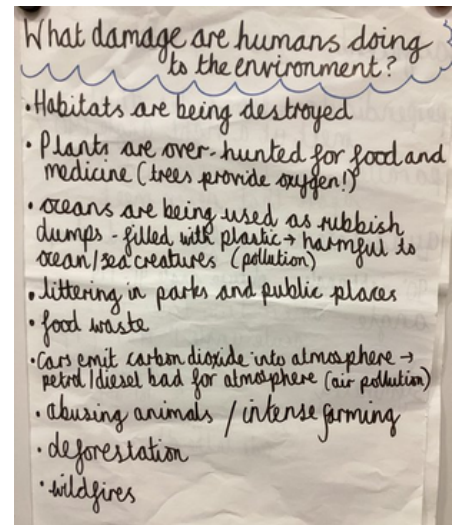
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 investigated the effects of water resistance on different shaped objects in Science.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 began their stunning Start to their new topic, 'Yes, Minister'. They held a debate in which each element of creation explained how humans are destroying the environment.



Next Week

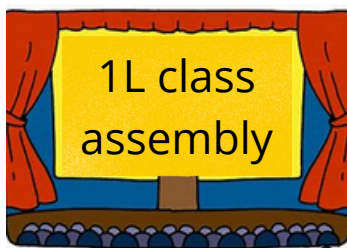


Our Year 6 children will be making their Confirmation on **Tuesday 24th May at 7pm.**

We look forward to welcoming Bishop David to St. Mary's



Parents with children in Reception are invited to work with their children in their learning environment next week and to gain an insight in to the teaching of early maths and how you can support your child at home. The workshop will run over 3 days: **Tuesday 24th May, Wednesday 25th May and Thursday 26th May** - they all begin at 8:45 and will be finished by 10am.



On Friday 27th 2022, 1L parents are invited to attend school to watch their children in their class assembly.

Covid restrictions have lessened, but please do not come in to school if you are feeling unwell, and follow PPE advice if vulnerable. Thank you.



There is opportunity to attend a football club during the half-term holiday, led by Ben Markall, the football coach, who has been leading our lunchtime and after-school clubs. There are limited spaces left.

Please note that the club is not being run by the school and this is an external club.

Speak to the office or Miss Adams for further information.





JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we will be having a celebration and well-being day on **Friday 27th May**. Children will be able to come in to school wearing red, white and blue. On this day, the children will receive a free specially produced book that will mark this very special occasion.

Little parties will be taking place in the classrooms that day and children are allowed to bring in their own snacks and treats to enjoy!

This is a very special occasion in the UK as Queen Elizabeth has been the Queen for 70 years, and is the longest serving monarch ever in UK history.

Lots of special events are taking place over the half-term holiday around the country and on the television to mark this, and there are going to be two bank holidays on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June.



MATERNITY LEAVE

As Mrs. Richards leaves us today to begin her maternity leave, the staff and families of St. Mary's wish her and her husband the very happiest of times and we can not wait to see pictures.



The PTA are in serious need of volunteers and commitment if they are to continue to run as a charity and put on so many wonderful events, raising money for the children in school. They particularly need a treasurer at the moment. If you can commit to this, please speak to Miss. Price or Mrs. Davis.

St Mary's Church will retain all its Covid precautions for the foreseeable future, despite widespread relaxations.



St. Rita's Feast Day

St. Rita's Feast Day is now Monday 23rd May, switched from the Sunday, - blessed roses, petals will be distributed at 8:30 Mass.



Confirmation Mass

We will be welcoming Bishop David to St. Mary's on Tuesday for our Confirmation Mass at 7:00pm. He will be talking with the Year 6 children in school beforehand.

Ascension Thursday

Parish Masses for Ascension Thursday will be at 8:30am, 12:00pm and 6:00pm



St. Mary's Church is open 8:00am - 4:00pm every day

The Church is open for private prayer, candles at Shrines and personal Stations of the Cross.



Sunday Mass obligation

As from Sunday 29th May 2022 (Pentecost Sunday), the Bishops of England and Wales urge us to consider Sunday Mass as obligatory again.

Community News

Courses for parents - online

We wholeheartedly recommend these courses - for everyone, for everyday parenting.

Like antenatal classes, but on to the next stages! Take advantage of this pre-paid, locally funded offer, www.inourplace.co.uk Access code: **COMMUNITY**. Create an account (or sign in), and start learning, GO!

- 93% of parents who completed the course said 'Understanding Your Child' was helpful.
- 92% of parents who completed the course said 'Understanding Your Child with additional needs' was helpful.
- 97% of parents who completed the course would recommend 'Understanding Your Teenagers Brain'.

'I really like these courses. I think all parents could benefit from them.'

'You don't actually realise what is going on in your child's brain, this course helped. Every parent should do this, I wish i'd done it sooner!'

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

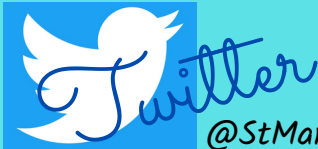


Online Safety

Keep your children safe online

This week has been Mental Health Awareness Week and the theme was loneliness. Child net advocate that the Internet, when used safely and appropriately can help young people feel a sense of belonging and inclusion. The links below can be used to explore online safety, mental health and well-being. For any support with these issues or further advice, please speak to a member of the pastoral team.

- <https://www.childnet.com/blog/checking-in-this-mental-health-awareness-week/>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health>



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!!!

Reminders

Hair styles

Pupils are **NOT ALLOWED** two-toned hair colours in school. We will be speaking to any parents in violation of our uniform policy. Large bows, hair accessories and dyed hair is also **not allowed**.

Extreme hair styles and shaved lines are also **not allowed**.

All hair styles must be plain and sensible and not a distraction to others. All long hair needs to be tied back.



Summer uniform

Children are now able to wear their Summer Uniform, which consists of a yellow Summer dress and black shoes for the girls and grey shorts, yellow polo shirt and black shoes for the boys. Please make sure that cardigans, jumpers, coats are labelled, as children remove them when they are warm and items of clothing may become lost, if their name is not clearly written on the item.

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





Water bottles

Please make sure that your child brings their water bottle in to school every day. This is particularly important as the weather is getting warmer. Water bottles should not be glass or heavy metal for health and safety reasons.

Registration for Grammar Schools open - Year 5 pupils

Registration is now open for parents of current Year 5 pupils who would like their child to sit the entrance test for The Grammar Schools in Birmingham, for entry to Year 7 in September 2023. Registration can be made online by visiting the website below.

The closing date for registering is **4pm on 30th June 2022**.

The test will take place on 17th September 2022.

<https://www.birminghamgrammarschools.org/apply-onlineapp.php>



Reading diaries

Please remember to sign the reading diary for your child when you have read with them at home. Children learn to read best when they read to an adult every day, who can support them with intonation, pronunciation, new words and meaning. Children have daily reading lessons in school, but make most progress when they read at home too. Teachers keep a record of the book children read at home and this helps with our assessments of the range of books your child reads.

Books that I have read and shared			
Date	Book	Page No.	Comments

Parking outside school!

We are sure most of you are all aware of the continuing issues regarding parking outside school during drop off and pick up times. Unsafe, inconsiderate and dangerous parking is an offence and an increasing problem, causing chaos for local residents and ultimately putting the safety of our children and others at risk.

Please STOP and THINK before parking!!

Consider, am I being respectful? Am I parking illegally? Is my parking dangerous? We can all do our bit to reduce the issues of parking during school drop offs & collection times. For the safety of your child, their friends and the local community we kindly request that you all park safely, legally and considerately.

Remember:

- DO NOT park on single or double yellow lines
- DO NOT double park
- DO NOT stop or park on the zig zag lines or pedestrian crossing
- DO NOT park on pavements, corners or junctions
- DO NOT obstruct footpaths or cycleways
- Consider car sharing
- Walk or cycle to school where appropriate
- And finally...DO NOT block the driveways of local residents



Dates for next term

24th May 2022 - 8:45-10:00 -

24th May - 7:00pm -

25th May 2022 - 8:45-10:00 -

25th May 2022 - 9:30am -

26th May 2022 - 8:45-10:00 -

27th May 2022 - all day

27th May 2022 - 9:15am -

27th May 2022 - normal time -

8th June 2022 - 9:15am

14th June 2022 - 7:00pm

15th June 2022 - 9:15am

16th June - all day

16th June 2022 - 7:00pm

21st June 2022 - 7:00pm

23rd June 2022 - 7:00pm

Reception parents maths workshop with the children in class

Y6 children Confirmation Mass

Reception parents maths workshop with the children in class

Whole School Mass in Church for Ascension and crowning of Mary (parents too)

Reception parents maths workshop with the children in class

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations - wear red, white and blue

Y1L Class Assembly in school (Y1L parents welcome)

Break up for Whitsun week

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4, Y3 parents welcome)

Y3 children Holy Communion Mass - Group 1

Y2 Mass in Church (Y2, Y1 and YR parents welcome)

School photographer in school all day

Y3 children Holy Communion Mass - Group 2

Y3 children Holy Communion Mass - Group 3

Y3 children Holy Communion Mass - Group 4

Attendance and Punctuality: -

Good attendance, after the disruptions of the last two years, continues to be a school and government priority. During Parent consultations, staff will be giving out your child's attendance this term and discussing any concerns. 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 Miss Price or Mrs. Davis.

Attendance

Week 9th May - 13th May

Class	YRF	YRL	Y1F	Y1L	Y2F	Y2L	Y3F	Y3L	Y4F	Y4L	Y5F	Y5L	Y6F	Y6L
%	92.7%	99.3%	94.7%	85.3%	92.7%	95.3%	98.7%	93.7%	91%	99%	97.7%	94.3%	98.3%	98.7%
Lates	6	4	8	4	8	8	5	6	4	6	4	2	4	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.5%		School Target				97%		

Well done YRL: - our Attendance Champions

Do not book holidays during term time

Summer 1

Tuesday 3rd May – Children return to school

Thursday 5th May - Closed for Local Election Day

Ends: Friday 27th May

Half-Term:

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Summer 2

Starts: Monday 6th June

Tuesday 5th July - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 21st July 2022

Friday 22nd July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee

Summer Holidays:

Start Monday 25th July 2022

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. Term dates are on this newsletter and on the website.



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

Year RL	Melissa	showing amazing subtraction skills this week
Year RF	Alvin	taking care and time, when writing prayers to Mary
Year 1L	Bobby Lea	writing super sentences in phonics
Year 1F	Reese	creating a fantastic storyboard in English
Year 2L	Pariza	always listening carefully, trying her best and growing in confidence
Year 2F	Xavier	thoughtful responses to the story of Emmaus
Year 3L	Leo	adding extra detail to his writing and working fantastically all week
Year 3F	Jayne	always being polite and an excellent role model in the class
Year 4L	Deshane	always persevering when faced with challenges and trying his best
Year 4F	Yisen	being a kind and caring member of our class
Year 5L	Marlowe	showing exceptional kindness and thoughtfulness to a classmate who needed help
Year 5F	Isabella	thoughtful and eloquent responses in RE
Year 6L	Boris	working really hard on improving his writing this week
Year 6F	Julian	sustained effort in writing lessons

