



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: 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.

September is dedicated to Mary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Families and Community'

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



20th September 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you so much for supporting our newly elected School Council with their Fundraising today. We had so many donations of cakes and a good turn out of parents who came for our coffee morning. Many children also enjoyed the extra treat of buying a cake today. Thank you to Mrs Tame for organising and all the staff who supported this too. We have made £195.02 so far which will go towards our charity work this year. Well done to our school council in your first bit of business. I look forward to seeing what else you plan for the upcoming year. We have had a week of our school representatives meeting together: Our RRSA reps, Spiritual Council, CAFOD club and house captains also have lots of ideas for improving our school offer and fundraising this year and I will share this with you as the year progresses. I include photos in this newsletter of our School Council, Spiritual Council, Rights Respecting School Representatives and House Captains. We will need to take photos of the prefects and CAFOD club next week and I will put these in to next week's newsletter.

Since returning to school, we have had 60 new applications from potential parents who would like their children to attend St. Mary's. This is across the range of year groups. It is fantastic to know that St. Mary's is such a sought after school in our community and we're presently full as a school. We have a very long waiting list for children who would like a place in our school. As a Catholic school, Catholics always go to the top of the waiting list. We're always very sorry that we can not take more children, but it is great news for St. Mary's that we have a full school.

Safety notice 1: - We have children in school who have a severe allergy to nuts - no products containing nuts are allowed in school i.e. nutty breakfast bars, almond cakes or Nutella sandwiches. If you are sending your children in with a packed lunch - they MUST NOT contain nuts. This is for the safety of the children. Additionally, your children should not be bringing in lip balms, sprays, creams - the ingredients within these products are potentially dangerous to our children with allergies. Any creams or medication should be coming through the school office for this reason, so that medicine can be safely administered and stored safely. Our medicines policy can be found on the school website.

Safety notice 2: - We currently do not allow any parents to drive on site between 8am and 5pm due to the amount of children we have on site and to keep them safe. We **do** open the gate before 8am and after 5pm to allow parents access to Kidz.comm. However, I have had requests to close the gates for longer as some parents (I must say the minority) are driving on site too fast, and not parking correctly i.e. parking over zebra crossings or leaving their cars in the middle of the car park. There are still children on site between 7:30am and 6pm... I will monitor what this looks like over this half-term and make a decision with Governors whether the gates need to be closed at all times, when children are on site. I know it helps parents to be able to park on site and pick up their children from the After school club, so please think about how you drive on site and park if you would like the gates to remain open. Parents picking up children - please hold on to your children. Young children running around the car park isn't safe as cars do come and go throughout the day. The car park is a parish car park and school alone do not control the gates. Thank you to all those who do park and drive considerably on site and in the surrounding area. The safety of our children ALWAYS COMES FIRST.

It's going to be a wet, stormy weekend - stay safe if you're out and about. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday, God bless, Mrs Yorke



Catholic Life



This week's Gospel and Prayer

Mark 8:34

'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross and follow me.'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

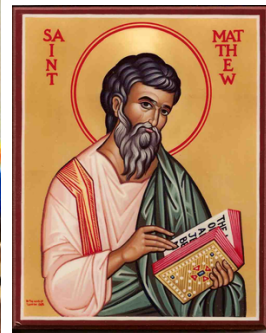
- God's plans are so much bigger than ours
- Following Jesus means thinking of others before ourselves
- When we trust in God's plans - we can be sure that Jesus will be with us
- We need to care for and share 'the Earth' - our one common home.



Year 2 Mass - 18.9.24

- St. Matthew

Year 2 children led us in a Mass dedicated to St. Matthew. We found out what it means to be a true follower of Jesus and following God's call when we hear it. He has a plan for us!



Next week's Mass: - **Y3 Mass - St. Therese of Lisieux**

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 25th September 2024**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 children will be leading our Mass and Year 4 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



Catholic Social Teaching: Save Harborne Library!!!



At St. Mary's, we love our visits to Harborne Library. The consultation is still taking place. Have your voice heard and take part in the consultation. Option 4 means that Harborne Library can remain open.

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/bcc/lcf24/>



Prayer and Liturgy



Every Monday morning, the whole school gather to hear Sunday's Gospel. The assembly is set up and elements of it led by our Year 6 prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl. Mrs Yorke introduced our newly appointed prefects in this week's Gospel Assembly. They led us in our tag line: -

*"I am a St. Mary's child,
and I strive for
Excellence"*

RE learning



We are so lucky to have the Church on site where we can go for some of our RE lessons. Thank you to Fr Hilary who taught Year 3 all we need to know about Baptism. The children even got to role play a baptism service and some of our teddy bears were received in to the Catholic Church.

Charity coffee morning



Our charity coffee morning was very well attended and the School Council were wonderful at planning the event, selling the cakes and mingling with the adults. Thank you to everyone for helping our morning be such a big success.

School Representatives 2024-2025

Congratulations to our newly elected: -

School Council



House Captains



Rights Respecting School Representatives



Spiritual Council





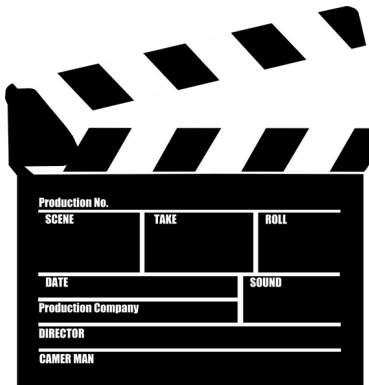
Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 23.9.24

Year 3 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

3L will leave at 9:00am

3T will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 3 staff know.



Film club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 "Wish"

- 24.9.24 3:30-5:25pm

St. Mary's PTA will be showing "Elemental" (Universal rating) after school.

Children will receive a snack of popcorn and fruit as part of their film evening. They must be collected by an adult on our contacts list at 5:25pm from the hall.



Film club for Y1, Y2 and Y3 "Wish"

- 26.9.24 3:15-5:00pm

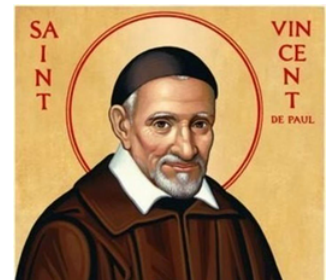
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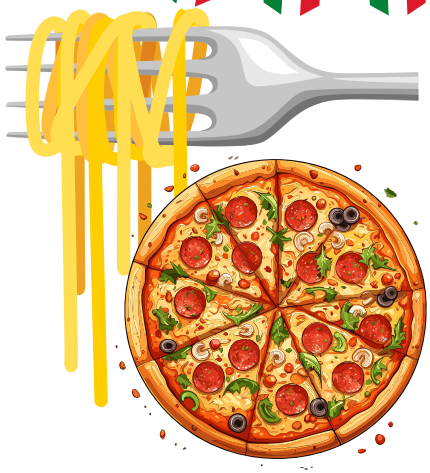
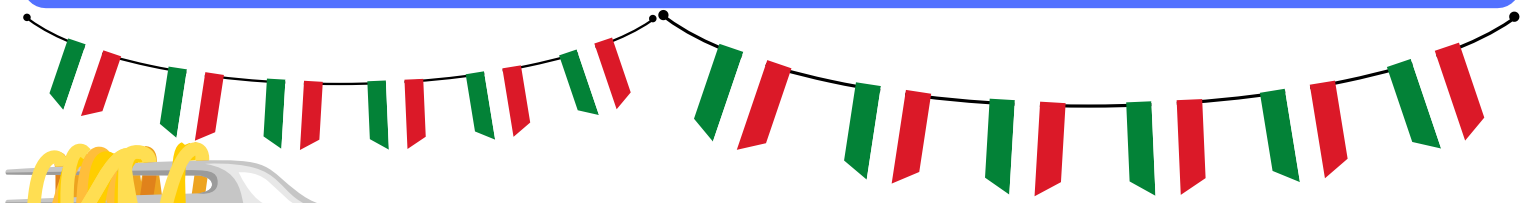
Children will receive a snack of popcorn and fruit as part of their film evening. They must be collected by an adult on our contacts list at 5:00pm from the hall.



On Friday 27th September, we will be celebrating Saint Vincent de Paul, the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor.

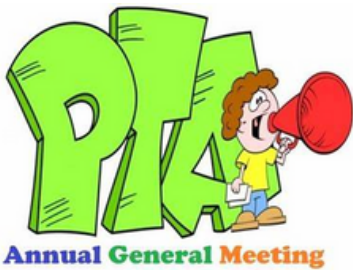
Children who are in St. Vincent De Paul House Group - can come in to school wearing white on this day!





Italian themed lunch - 3.10.24

On Thursday 3rd October, we are having a special themed lunch in school. If you would like your child to have school dinner on this day - log in to your gateway and consent. If they normally have school dinner - you don't need to do this. The cost for those who pay for school dinner is £2.65. It's going to be a yummy occasion!



The first Annual General Meeting of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of the New school year will be on **Thursday 3rd October at 3:30pm**. Children of St. Mary's can be looked after in school if you need this option. We look forward to welcoming new parents who would like to join the PTA in supporting the school run events throughout the school year.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Reception 2025

Open Day



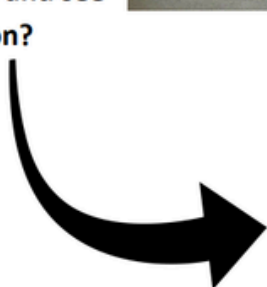
Reception 2025 Parents -

Would you like to come and see our school in action?

Please contact us to book a slot:

Morning Tour— 10:30—11:30

Afternoon Tour—13:45—14:45



Reception

Contact Email:

enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Call: 0121 464 2141



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	Louise Yorke	Rachel Jones	Rachel Richards	Sharon Tame	Laura Noone	Jade Preedy
Deputy Headteacher	Headteacher	Senior Teacher	EYFS Lead	School Counsellor	AHT	AHT
Lead DSL	Deputy DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL

Alternatively, email 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 05/02-09/02

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96	99.6	97.3	93.3	98.6	96.3	95	99.2	99.2	97.3	97.6	99.3	97	98.3
Lates	2	2	0	2	8	2	0	0	0	1	5	1	1	4
Whole School Attendance so far this year						97.4%		School Target				97%		

Well done RT - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

24th September 2024 - am

24th September 2024 - 3:45pm

25th September 2024 - 9:15am

26th September 2024 - 3:30pm

27th September 2024 - all day

30th September 2024

October 2024 - all month

October 2024 - all month

October 2024 - all month

1st October 2024 - all day

1st October 2024 - am

2nd October 2024 - 9:15am

3rd October 2024 - all day

3rd October 2024 - lunch time

3rd October 2024 - 3:30pm

4th October 2024 - all day

4th October 2024 - all day

4th October 2024 - 9:00am

WB 7.10.24

8th October 2024 - am

9th October 2024 - all day

9th October 2024 - 9:15am

10th October 2024 - all day

11th October 2024 - 9:15am

15th October 2024 - all day

15th October 2024 - am

15th October 2024 - am

16th October 2024 - am

16th October 2024 - 9:15am

18th October 2024 - all day

18th October 2024 - 6pm

WB 21.10.24

21.10.24 and 22.10.24

21st October 2024 - all day

22nd October 2024 - am

22nd October 2024 - all day

22nd October 2024 - 3:30-6:00

23rd October 2024 - 9:15am

24th October 2024 - 3:30-6:00

24th October 2024 - normal time

25th October 2024 - all day

Families and Communities

Curious and Active

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3L and 11:00 3T)

PTA event - Film Club for Years 4, 5 and 6

Y3 Mass in Church (Y4 to attend) - Parents welcome

PTA event - Film Club for Years 1, 2 and 3

Children in **St. Vincent de Paul House** - wear **white** non-school uniform

x-table Rockstar launch day - dress as a rockstar!

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

Collection for Harvest - please send food and self-care items in for our harvest

Y3T Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Therese of Lisieux

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4M and 11:00 4J)

Year 5 Mass in Church (Y6 to attend) - Parents welcome

National Poetry Day Competition

Themed Lunch in the canteen

PTA AGM meeting

Y5F Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Faustina

Y1F Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Francis

Year 1 Prayer Service for parents

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Year 6 visit to Harborne library (9:15 6R and 11:00 6O)

School Photo Day

Year 4 Mass in Church (Y3 to attend) - Parents welcome

Hello Yellow World Mental Health Day - wear yellow

Year 6 Year Group Assembly

Children in **St. Teresa of Avila House** - wear **blue** non-school uniform

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 5M and 11:00 5F)

Y3L - Lapworth museum visit

Y3T - Lapworth museum visit

Year 1 Mass in Church (Y2 to attend) - Parents welcome

Y1L Non-school uniform day for St. Luke feast day

PTA Fundraising - Children's disco

School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair

PTA enrichment event in school for all children

Year 6 flu vaccination in school

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4J and 11:00 4M)

Children in **St. John Paull II House** - wear **red** non-school uniform

Parent Consultation Evening

Reception Welcome Mass (with Year 6 buddies) - Parents welcome

Parent Consultation Evening

Children finish today for October half-term (normal finish time)

INSET day - School closed to children

Star of the week

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

- Year RB Jax For his enthusiasm to learning everyday.
Year RT Keith For being a kind and helpful friend in our classroom.
Year IF Markus For his positive, 'can do' attitude in all areas.
Year IL Ava For fantastic listening and effort in her learning.
Year 2E Joseph For being a wonderful and kind St Mary's pupil
Year 2G Guadalupe For working incredibly hard across all subjects this week!
Year 3L Eliana For being a fantastic role model and trying her best in all of her learning!
Year 3T Liam For working incredibly hard across all subjects this week!
Year 4J Sienna For presenting **all** of her learning so beautifully
Year 4M Amelia For being an excellent role model and working hard in all of the subjects
Year 5F Alvis For his fantastic effort in RE this week and producing some beautiful work
Year 5M Safa For being a fantastic role model and always striving for excellence in everything she does
Year 6O Brigid For making some fantastic connections between the Old and New Testaments
Year 6R Trinity For making huge efforts in all lessons, but especially maths and RE this week

