



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.

## November is dedicated to the Holy Souls.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Dignity of the Human Person'

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



Dear parents and carers,

17th November 2023

During bullying week, the children have been learning that they must tell somebody if ever they see bullying, so that it can be stopped. Bullying should never be kept quiet and we make noise, when we see something that isn't right. This week has also been inter-faith week, and the children have been learning about different faiths and comparing them to our own. We have learnt so much through both these themes about celebrating differences and what makes us unique whilst remembering that we are all children of God and should "in all things love" as is our mission in school.

We are now beginning to think about the approach of advent. We have our 'toy appeal' running again this year and we are asking for new toys to be donated to this so that we can support families in Birmingham this Christmas. Please send in new toys, unwrapped over the next couple of weeks, if you wish to support this magnificent cause. In Advent - we will be 'Going Purple for Advent' - every Monday in Advent, the children will wear the colours of the Advent candle - this is predominantly purple and in the third week - pink. Children will need something purple and pink to wear - this can be an item of clothing, a scarf, or headwear. Wishing you a lovely and restful weekend.

Mrs Yorke

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

*Matthew 25:13*

*"So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour."*

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

- Jesus will return though we don't know when
- We should be ready for Jesus' return by loving Him and loving others

Dear Jesus,

*I want to be ready for when you come back.*

*Please help me to think of you all through*

*my day.*

*Amen*

### *Catholic Life in School*

Year 6 Mass - 15.11.23 - St. Rose of Lima

Year 6 led us in a beautiful mass dedicated to St Rose of Lima. Thank you to all the parents and family members who came to our special Mass in the school hall this week.



### **There are 2 Masses next week: -**

**Y2 Mass - St. Andrew - 22.11.23 at 9:15am**

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 22nd November 2023, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 2 children will be leading our Mass and Year 1 children will attend too.

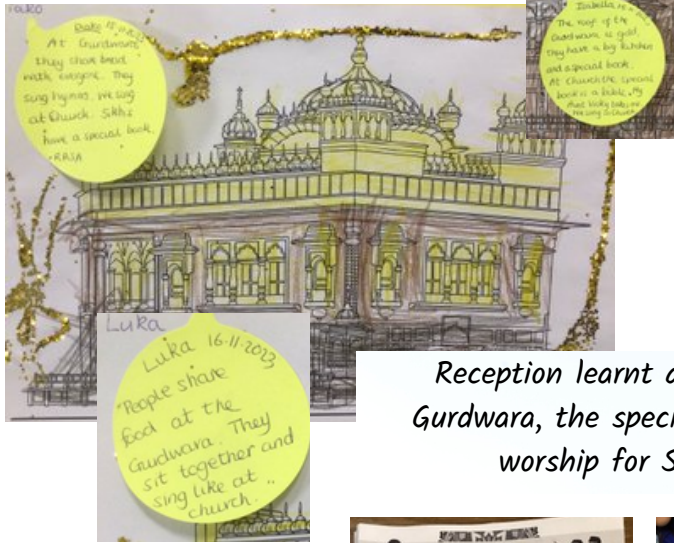
**Y3 Mass - Christ the King - 24.11.23 at 10:00am**

Another Mass in Church will be on Friday 24th November 2023, starting promptly at 10:00am. Year 3 children will be leading our Mass and Year 4 children will attend too.





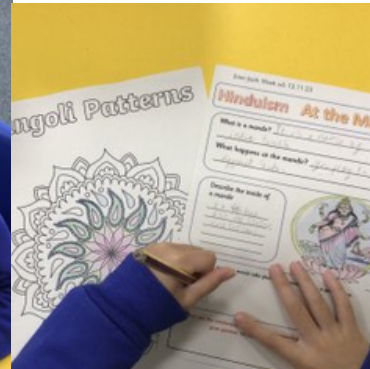
# Inter Faith Week



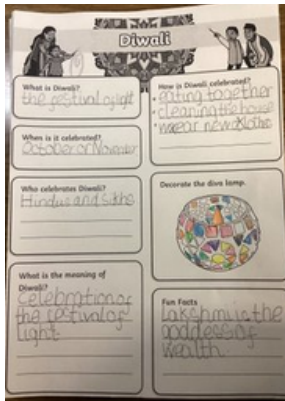
Reception learnt about the Gurdwara, the special place of worship for Sikhs



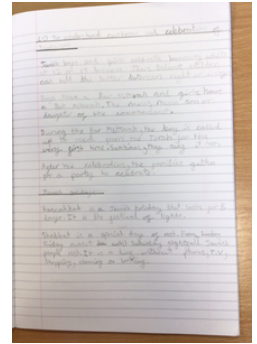
Year 2 have enjoyed learning more about Hindu worship.



Year 1 learnt about Diwali this week and special celebrations in the Hindu faith.



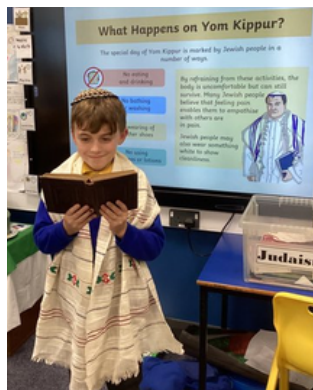
Year 3 have been learning all about Judaism and the customs and celebrations of the Jewish faith.



Year 5 presented their knowledge about the 5 Pillars of Islam.



Year 6 looked at the importance of human dignity in the Islamic religion. They created their own artwork inspired by the repeated patterns often used in Islamic art.



Year 4 expanded their knowledge about Judaism.



Sumaira and Mahwish spoke to Year 5 about life in Islam and being a Muslim. Thank you so much to our visitors.

*Reception news: -*

Reception class have been counting this week.



*Year 1 news: -*

Year 1 have been listening to 'Pray as You Go' this week, supporting them in their meditation.



*Year 2 news: -*

Year 2 children have been leading prayer this week.



### Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been enjoying their orienteering lessons. They used maps and a key to help them create different faces using PE equipment, using this to improve their navigation skills.



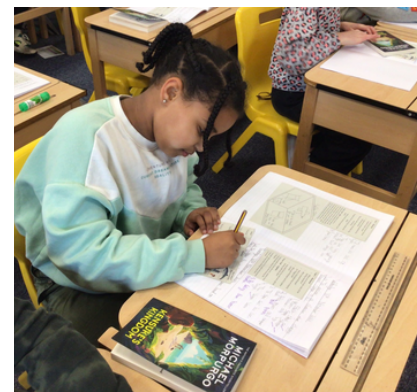
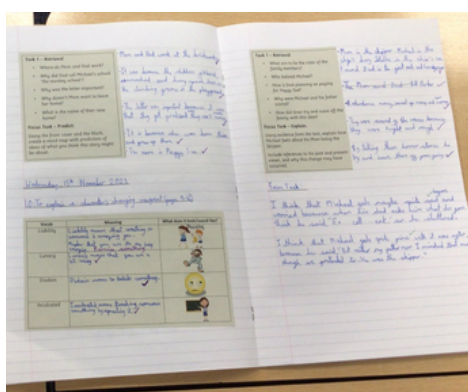
### Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been learning about this half terms virtues, Attentive and Discerning. They have written a prayer to God asking him to help them be attentive and discerning by making the right choices.



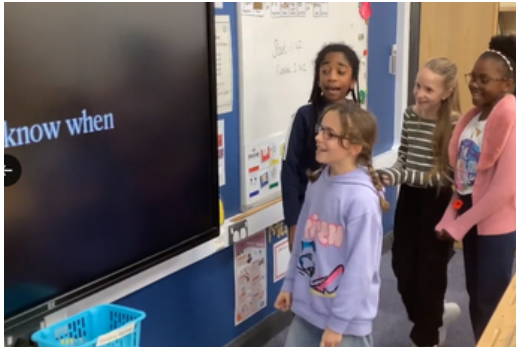
### Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have started their new text in English – Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. This text will be used to explore the Catholic Social Teaching theme of 'Dignity of the Human Person' and children will reflect upon the perseverance of the main character of Michael and the kindness of strangers.



*Year 6 news: -*

Year 6 have enjoyed their music lessons this week and learning about the Circulatory system in Science.



*A massive thank you to our families who are supporting our fundraising with donations for the Parish Fete. Your kind donations will go along way for our Charity work.*



**Premier  
Education**

*Thank you Premier Education Midlands for two days of WOW Active PE in our school. Come rain or shine, KS2 had a great time and are planning how to keep improving their fitness levels ahead of the next session in January.*



# ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



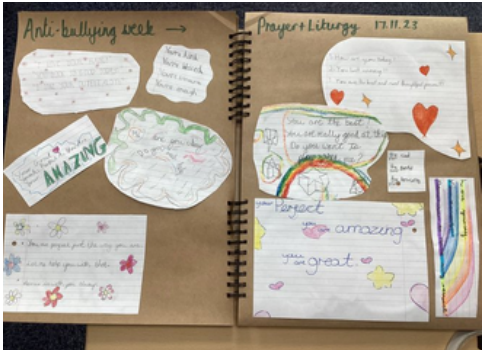
**ODD SOCKS DAY** on  
**MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**



*The whole school came in wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique!*



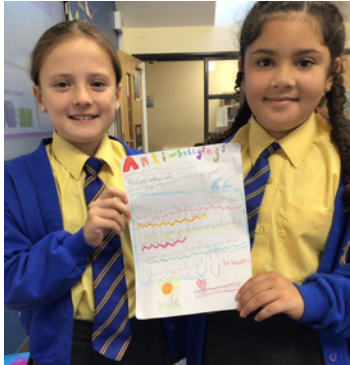
*Writing positive comments on each other as a reminder of the importance of being kind.*



*Prayer and Liturgy focused upon the example of Christ and the Apostles for how we treat others.*



*We know that we have 5 trusted adults that we can always go to if there is a problem.*



*The children are so passionate about Anti-bullying that they have created posters to go up around school as reminders.*



Another fantastic game for our U11 boys against Harborne Primary School and a 5-0 win for our boys. Well done to everyone involved.



# Open Day 2023



On Thursday, we opened our doors to welcome potential Reception parents. We offered tours of the school and an opportunity to ask questions about life at St Mary's. Both sessions were very well attended and we are blessed to have such interest in our school. The parents were led around the school by a team of Y5 and Y6 representatives and we received so much positive feedback about our fantastic tour guides and our beautiful school. Well done everyone!



# Food Glorious Food!



Children and staff enjoyed another week of delicious school meals. Staff really enjoy sharing a meal with the children; it's a special opportunity for the children to talk about how their day is going and to get to know staff members better.

# Reading Update

Thank you to everyone that attended the recent Book Fair. We were able to raise nearly £300 to buy new books for the school.

*thank you*

We've seen the first of the Blue Peter Book badges awarded to our children - well done to Joseph in 4J. Hopefully, we'll see more of the badges on school jumpers soon! Go to the BBC website to find out how to apply for a Blue Peter Book badge.



Next week - WB 20.11.23

## Road Safety Week

We have already begun our work about road safety, with our School Council deterring illegal and irresponsible parking outside of our school and the Police coming in to talk about Road Safety with Year 2. Next week, we will continue to remind children about how to be safe near roads.



## Year 5 Harborne Library Visit - 14.11.23

Year 5 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

5F will leave at 9:00am

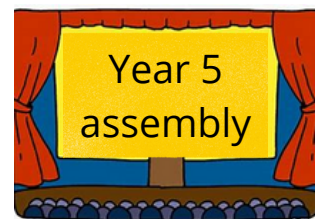
5M will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 5 staff know.



## Year 5 Assembly

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of all Year 5 children into school next Friday 24th October, for their year group assembly based on Christ the King.



# Parish Fete next Saturday 25th November!



Supporting our local Birmingham children this Christmas

# Toy Appeal

## Christmas 2023



Scan to donate

Please give new toys (unwrapped) for our local children in Birmingham for all age groups ranging from 1-15 years




### COLLECTION DATES:

Monday 6th November - Thursday 14th December

Irish TV are visiting St Anne's Parish Centre, B12 OPA on Thursday 14th December



 Birmingham Irish  
ASSOCIATION



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



How can I help my child if I think they're being bullied?

- Open up a conversation. ...
- Listen to their experience. ...
- Give them time before talking if they need it. ...
- Check in with them. ...
- Keep a log of the bullying. ...
- Help them build up their self-esteem. ...
- Encourage them to spend time with peers who treat them well.

**Let a member of staff know**

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> November – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99%	95.6%	97.3%	92.4%	96.6%	97.6%	97.3%	97.3%	98.3%	98%	100%	98.6%	99%	97.5%
Lates	4	6	10	3	5	0	5	3	2	8	3	3	9	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.9%		School Target				97%		

Well done Year 5M our Attendance Champions

# Dates for next term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 11 Virtues

WB 20th November 2023 - am

21st November 2023 - am

22nd November 2023 - 9:15am

24th November 2023 - 9:00am

24th November 2023 - 10:00am

25th November 2023

28th November 2023

29th November 2023 - all day

29th November 2023 - 7pm

5th December 2023 - 3:30-4:30

6th December 2023 - 3:30-4:30

7th December 2023 - 3:45-4:45

7th December - all day

8th December 2023 - 9:30am

13th December 2023 - all day

13th December 2023 - 9:00am

13th December 2023 - lunch

15th December 2023 - 9:30am

15th December 2023 - 6:45pm

15th December 2023 - 7pm

18th December 2023 - am

19th December 2023 - 2:15pm

20th December 2023 - 2:15pm

21st December 2023 - 2pm

22nd December 2023 - 9:30am

22nd December -

Dignity of the Human Person

Attentive and Discerning

Road Safety week

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 SF and 11:00 SM)

Year 2 Mass in Church (and Year 1 classes attend) - parents welcome

Year 5 Year group Assembly

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

Parish Fete

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

INSET Day - school closed to children

Annual Wreath making workshop in Parish Hall - £25

PTA event - KS1 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

PTA event - Reception class Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

PTA event - KS2 Christmas Disco in school hall (children only)

Christmas jumper day

Whole School Mass - Feast of Immaculate Conception in Church (Parents welcome)

Year 3L non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Lucy

Year 3 Prayer Service for all Year 3 parents

Christmas dinner day in school

Reception Nativity in Church (for parents)

Choir sing for Carols by Candlelight - meet at school 6:45pm

Carols by Candlelight in St. Mary's Church (all welcome)

Theatre Show in school for the children 'Sinbad the Sailor'

Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas Assembly in School Hall (parents welcome)

Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas Carol Service in Church (for parents)

Whole school Christmas Mass for all children, staff and parents

Break up for Summer holidays

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

# St.Mary's PTA Annual Christmas Wreath making Workshop

Join us in St.Mary's Parish Hall from 7PM  
on Wednesday 29th Nov  
£25- EVERYTHING INCLUDED, just come along and create  
your own wreath,  
Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

The Christmas Discos on 5.12.23 (KS1); 6.12.23 (Reception class) and 7.12.23 (KS2) will be held in the school for an hour straight after school. Tickets are priced at £3 and parents can pay for this via School Gateway. The PTA will be supporting the event by providing drinks and a snack for the pupils. All money raised will go towards the purchase of an additional, outdoor classroom. An exciting project that we hope lots of families support us in fundraising for! The cost of the disco includes wearing non-school Christmas clothing on the day that your child is attending their disco. If your child is not attending the disco, they can still wear Christmas non-school uniform on that day and we ask for £1 please towards our fundraising. Thank you.



**CAFOD CLUB - Chosen Advent charity**  
Our CAFOD club children have chosen to support 'World Gifts' as their charity organisation this year. They have designed their posters and will be writing to you this week. Their hope is for children not to send Christmas cards this year to each other - we will do something else a little more sustainable in school and any money saved can be donated to their charity. More to come...

# Star of the week

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

- Year RB Zoe For her beautiful work on Diwali this week.
- Year RT Ava For brilliant concentration while making your beautiful diya lamps this week!
- Year IF Erina For being very enthusiastic about interfaith week!
- Year IL Rahzayne For always trying his best in everything he does!
- Year 2E Cillian For working hard and focusing on completing his work!
- Year 2G Vicky For a fantastic effort in math's this week!
- Year 3L Hannah For being a super role model to others and enthusiasm in her learning!
- Year 3T Peter For brilliant effort in every lesson and always trying his best to learn new things!
- Year 4J Matthias For excellent behaviour and taking his role as rights respecting monitor seriously!
- Year 4M Peter For his continuous effort in every lesson!
- Year 5F Ewan For being very articulate and friendly when presenting school!
- Year 5M Aiden For fantastic sportsmanship in football!
- Year 6O Daniel For demonstrating a fantastic attitude towards his work!
- Year 6R Rome For making lots of valuable contributions in lessons this week, particularly in English and reading.

