



Archdiocese of Birmingham  
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price M.Ed.

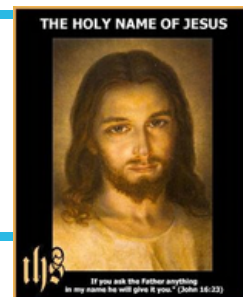


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

## January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

Our theme for the Spring term is: 'Options for the poor and vulnerable'

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



14th January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

This week, the classes have explored further the Christmas story. Our Caritas in Action lessons are going well, exploring the overarching theme of 'options for the poor and vulnerable'. These lessons will continue throughout the Spring term and the children are learning about what poverty is and how it causes people to suffer. Next week, we will be thinking about the Holy Family fleeing as part of our refugee week in school, with a special retreat morning on Friday. If you would like to be part of our Friday retreat or have any stories that you can share with us, please contact the school office. I wish you all a restful weekend.

Miss Louise Price

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

*Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22*

*"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."*

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

- The Holy Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit was revealed at Jesus' baptism.
- Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist marked the beginning of His ministry of sharing the Good News.
- Through Jesus we are invited into God's family and called children of God.

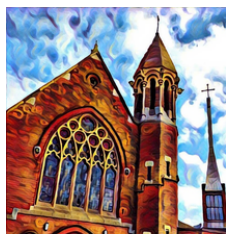
*Father God, Thank you for your special invitation to be part of your family and be called your children.  
Jesus, Thank you for sharing with us the good news.  
Holy Spirit, Help us to live as the children of God that we are.*

*God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit - we say "yes" to your invitation. Amen*

### *Catholic Life in School*

#### *Year 3 Mass - Baptism of the Lord*

Year 3 celebrated Mass this morning and learnt all about Jesus' Baptism. They shared their own experiences of baptism and being part of God's family in the offertory.

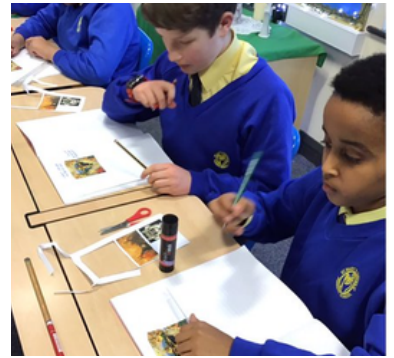
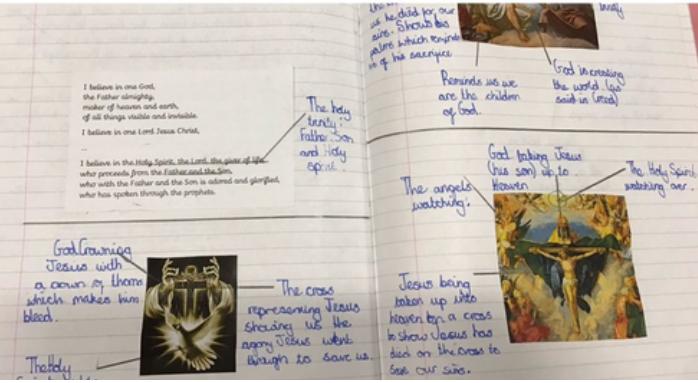


#### *Y2 Mass in Church - 19.1.22 at 9:15am - for Refugees*

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 19th January, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 2 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend. (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).



Following Monday's Gospel assembly, Year 6 continued to learn about the Holy Trinity and looked at how the three persons of God is represented through artwork.



We have been learning all about Christmas

# Christmas



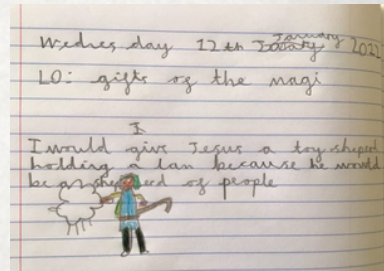
Y4 have been using Bibles to explore the messages sent by the angels



Y1 designed their own collective worship.



Y2 have been roleplaying as the three Wise men visiting King Herod...



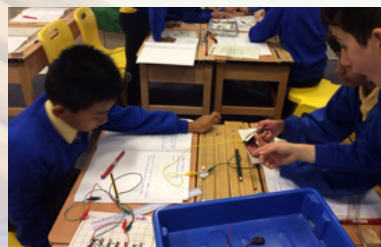
...and been considering what gifts they would offer the baby Jesus.

## This week's news

Lots of DT and Science has taken place this week: -



Y2 have been classifying items as 'living', 'dead' or 'never alive'



Y6 have been testing different circuits

Y1 have been exploring the properties of different objects



Y3 have been conducting their own investigations

KSI STEM Club have been measuring and sawing.





*Reception news: -*

Reception class have been busy making musical shakers



*Year 1 news: -*

Year 1 are learning lots of different balances and putting them together to create a gymnastics routine.



*Year 2 news: -*

Year 2 Geographers have been using atlases and exploring maps to learn all about the world we live in.



*Year 3 news: -*

Year 3 have enjoyed their art and dance lessons this week.





### Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have started their chronology of historical times for their classroom.



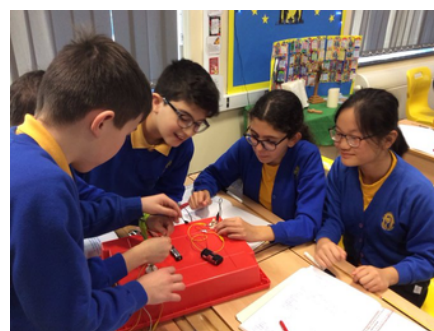
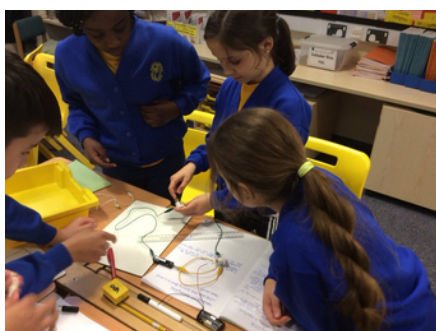
### Year 5 news: -

Year 5 have created poems and songs about the water cycle.



### Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been testing electrical components and investigating the difference between series and parallel circuits.



*This morning 4F children gave a wonderful performance in their assembly about the baptism of our Lord.*





# Stunning start

*Year 1 stunning start involved a teddy bear's picnic*

*To launch their 'Toys' topic this afternoon, year 1 children brought in their favourite teddy bear, drew a picture of their teddy bear and described their teddy bear. They even took a selfie with it!*



*We have thoughtful children at St. Mary's who made sure that Miss Price had a cup cake to go with her cup of tea this afternoon*

## Next Week

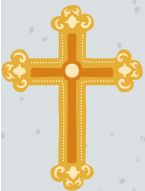
### **Refugee Retreat - Friday 21st January 2022**

Our Spiritual Council have spent the afternoon planning our retreat morning on Friday. They have planned a morning where we will consider the holy family's flight in to Egypt and how refugees are treated today.

## Parish News

### *St Mary's Family Mass 9:30am - Sunday 22nd January*

For pre-school, Reception and Years 1 and 2 children, please go straight to the Parish Centre - and join the Mass after 15 minutes (approximately). Children of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, should remain in Church for the whole of the Mass. This is especially important for Years 3 and 6, as the part of their Sacramental preparation.



### *Holy Communion and Confirmation preparation programme*

If your child is preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, please ensure that your child attends the Saturday classes.

9:30 - 11:00 For Holy Communion (Parish centre)

11:30 - 12:45 for Confirmation (Parish Centre)



*Help! A friendly local Care Home has real need of part- and full-time Carers, - and a cook! For details, see Fr John*



**No dogs / smoking in the school grounds**

No dogs allowed  
in the school  
grounds

Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed in the school grounds under any circumstances; whether on a lead or carried. This is due to health and safety reasons, and that some children are scared by dogs no matter the size. Thank you for your understanding with this.

In addition, we do not allow smoking of any sort, including vapes or e-cigarettes on the school grounds.



NO SMOKING  
NO VAPING

**NO PARKING!**

Thank you to our parents who are being considerate with their parking. Unfortunately, we do have some parents who continue to park illegally on double yellow lines and in no stopping zones. We are also having complaints that parents are blocking / parking in private roads.

Many of our residents are elderly and this is not acceptable.

Your information / car registration may be passed on to the police / city council, if you continue to park illegally. Please put the safety of our children and community first when parking.

**SATs Week for Year 6**

Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from **Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022**.

All Year 6 children are required to be in school every day during SATs week.

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

**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.

**Parish car park and picking up your child at the end of the day**

At the end of the school day, please remain in your lines whilst waiting to pick up your children and be patient if somebody is in front of you. Once you have collected your child, leave down the middle of the drive way.

**Do not lean or stand between the cars that are parked.**

**Leave a good gap between you and the car.**

**Do not allow your children to run around by the cars and in the car park.**

Some cars have been damaged causing distress to staff and parishioners.

**Parent Governor ballot**

You should have now received your ballot paper for parent governor. The ballot box is in the porch outside the office window. Each parent of a child in school is entitled to one vote only. The vote is open for one week until **next Thursday at 12.30pm**

**Reading bags not rucksacks please.**

Children should be bringing reading bags please in to school rather than rucksacks. Any children who are bringing rucksacks need to keep them at the 'rucksack stop' as there is not room for them to be safely kept on school pegs.

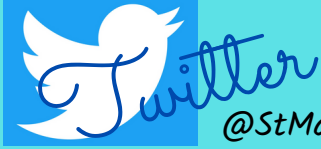




We are an operation encompass school. Therefore school is working alongside the police to ensure support for any child who has been involved in or witness to domestic abuse.

Please find more information about this on our website or contact the school office.

## Online Safety



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!!!

*Do you know what conversations your children are having online?*

*Please monitor your child when they are talking with their friends whilst playing games online and if they are communicating via social media groups. Some children are saying unkind things to each other and this is then brought back in to school. School will continue to educate all children about the correct use of the Internet and social media so please support us in enforcing this at home.*

## Covid Update

As I'm sure you are aware, currently there are a significant number of cases of COVID nationally and the new variant spreads very easily, but cases in school remain very low.

Even if cases rise, our priority is to keep the school open. The biggest difficulty we may face is staff absence but we will do our best to keep classes and school open. To support us, it is vital that we all play our part : If children have symptoms, if they have a new continuous cough, loss of taste and smell, or a temperature, they will be expected to isolate whilst poorly and take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT). If tests remain negative, your child may return to school, when they feel better. If positive, the result should be reported on gov.uk and isolation needs to continue.

The new Omicron variant reportedly presents a different set of symptoms- these include fatigue, headaches, and a sore throat. These, however, are not officially confirmed. If your child shows those symptoms, then you may consider doing an LFT as well.

If someone in your household tests positive or if children are confirmed as a contact, they are still allowed to come to school but they are requested to carry out an LFT test every day for 7 days.

If the test is negative, then they can come to school.

If your child receives a positive PCR test, they must isolate for at least 7 days. On days 6 and 7, they can do an LFT and if both are negative and they no longer have symptoms, they will be free to return on day 8.

I know you will support us to keep families and our community safe. If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



# Dates for next term

19th January 2022 - 9:15am -

19th January 2022 - 9:15am -

26th January 2022 - 9:15am -

26th January 2022 - 9:15am -

28th January 2022 - 9:15am -

28th January 2022 - all day -

1st February 2022 - all day -

2nd February 2022 - 9:15am -

4th February 2022 - all day -

7th February 2022 - 9:00am -

9th February 2022 - 9:15am -

11th February 2022 - 9:15am -

16th February 2022 - 9:15am -

18th February 2022

28th February 2022 - all day -

2nd March 2022 - 9:30am -

4th March 2022 - all day -

9th March 2022 - 9:15am -

11th March 2022 - 9:15am -

15th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

15th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

16th March 2022 - 9:15am -

16th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

16th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

17th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

17th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

18th March 2022 - 9:15am -

21st March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

21st March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

22nd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

22nd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

23rd March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

23rd March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

25th March 2022 - 9:15am-10:30am -

25th March 2022 - 1:45pm-3:00pm -

Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome)

Maths and Phonics workshop in school for Y1 parents

Y1 Mass in Church (Y1 parents welcome)

Maths and Phonics workshop in school for Y2 parents

Year 4L Class Assembly in school (4L parents welcome)

World Geography Day in school

INSET day - school closed for all pupils

YR Mass in Church (YR parents welcome)

World Maths Day

Safer Internet and Online Safety coffee morning for parents

Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome)

Year 3L Class Assembly in school (3L parents welcome)

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome)

Break up for February half-term - finish at normal time

Children return to school

Whole school Mass for Ash Wednesday (children only)

World Book Day

Y2 Mass in Church

Year 3F Class Assembly in school (3F parents welcome)

YRF Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

YRL Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y5 Mass in Church

Y1F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y1L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y3F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y3L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2F Class Assembly in school (2F parents welcome)

Y5F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y5L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y2L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y4F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y4L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y6F Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)

Y6L Mother's Day Inspire for mothers (or mother figure / grandmother)



# Term Dates

## Spring 1

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

### Half-Term:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Spring 2

Starts: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Easter Holiday:

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Summer 1

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Children return to school

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Closed for Local Election Day

Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May

### Half-Term:

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

## Summer 2

Starts: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee

### Summer Holidays:

Start Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022



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

Year RL	Harper	super RE learning about Jesus' family
Year RF	Cillian	amazing concentration and perseverance when making a musical shaker
Year 1L	Ravi	enthusiastically participating in all lessons
Year 1F	Alvin	creating creative balances in gymnastics lessons
Year 2L	Trinidad	excellent concentration and effort
Year 2F	Rudi	wonderful writing about India
Year 3L	Nathan	fantastic improvement in handwriting
Year 3F	Eyobel	striving for excellence in all that he does
Year 4L	Yumi	demonstrating great perseverance in maths lessons
Year 4F	Isaac	being so reliable as a classroom monitor
Year 5L	Mariah	amazing RE writing from the point of view of Mary
Year 5F	Victoria	wonderful enthusiasm in music
Year 6L	Benjamin	always working hard and being an excellent role model
Year 6F	Julia	perseverance in maths

