



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.

March is dedicated to St. Joseph

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

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Intentional and Prophetic'



4th March 2022

Dear parents and carers,

In our first week back we prepared for Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, the whole school came together, wearing masks made over half-term, to celebrate Mardi Gras. Throughout the day, children made and ate pancakes... and cheered the staff on as they raced against each other. This concluded with a party in the playground, enjoyed by everybody. It meant that on the following day, Ash Wednesday, the school had a very different feel as we began Lent and attended Mass. We wore our ashes as a symbol that we are ready to turn away from sin, and convert our hearts to the Lord. It was a day when we fasted and prayed for peace.

Our 'walk with me' journey has begun and it seems like more than ever, we need this time of hope, reflection and prayer.

Miss Price

Pilgrimage to the Cross

Matthew 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 18

"Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you."

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Pilgrimage is a special journey that we go on to deepen our faith in God.
- Each year, during the Church season of Lent, we look to God, ourselves and others in order to get closer to Him.
- Jesus is with us every step of the way!

Dear Jesus,

We want to get closer to you.

You give us all we need.

Guide us on our way.

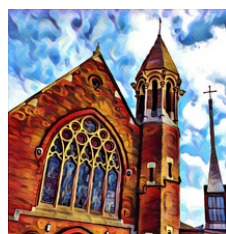
Help us to remember to look to you, look to ourselves and look to others.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

Whole School Mass - Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, the whole school gathered and we started our Lenten journey once more. Over the next six weeks we are called to make a change in our daily lives as we prepare for Easter.



Y2 Mass in Church - 9.3.22 at 9:15am - 1st Week of Lent

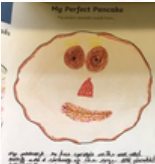
Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 9th March, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 2 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and parents are welcome to attend. (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).





Pancake day - Tuesday 1st March 2022

In the morning, we learnt about Shrove Tuesday and the tradition of and the reasons for eating pancakes before Lent begins. The children enjoyed making their own pancakes in school...



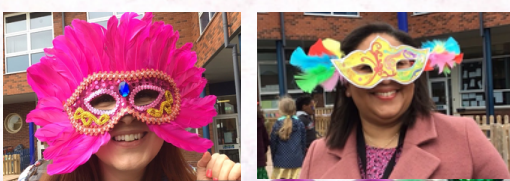
We then went outside to watch the teachers' pancake race... →



Pupils and staff wore bright colours and their Mardi Gras masks...



...and our day concluded with a massive party in the playground!



Lenten Prayer bags

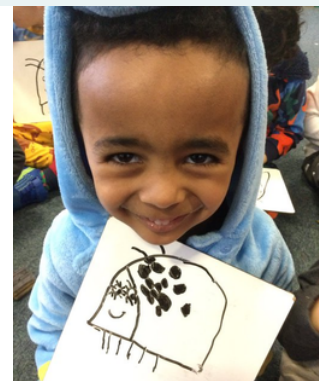


The Spiritual Council have worked hard this week preparing our Lent prayer bags which have started going home. We hope you enjoy using them with your children this Lent. Please tweet any pictures of them being used and tag us in @StMaryB17

This week's news

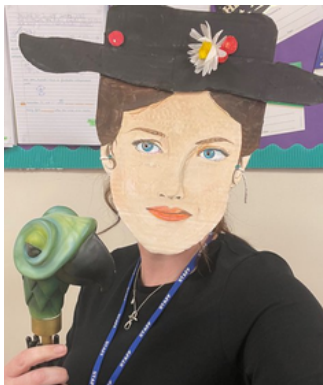
Reception news: -

Reception enjoyed their illustrator workshop with Lydia Monks and drew amazing ladybirds.



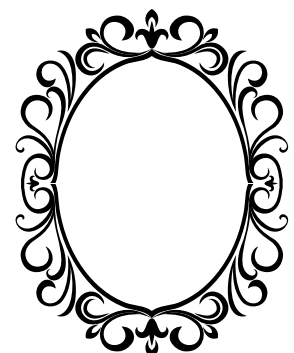
Year 1 news: -

Year 1 had a surprise visitor! They loved hot seating Mary Poppins and asking her lots of questions about the past.



Year 2 news: -

Year 2 know that we have to look to ourselves, if we want to make real changes this Lent.



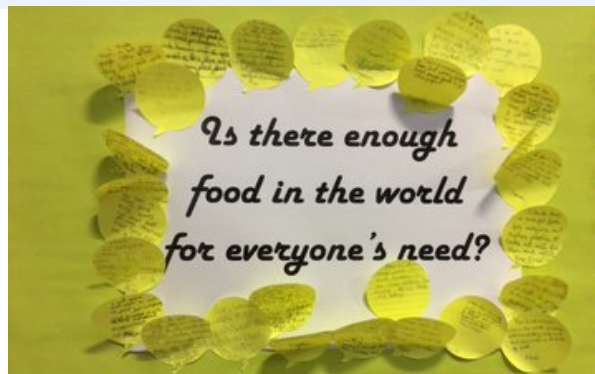
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been exploring the properties of 3D shapes and have used nets to create their own 3D shapes. They then created their own 3D shapes using lolly pop sticks for edges and plasticine for vertices



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 have been asking big questions - 'Is there enough food in the world for everybody's need?'



Year 5 news: -

Year 5 continue to be fit and healthy with their daily mile.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 interviewed Penny, our school cook, to find out more about how much food is wasted in the canteen. Year 6 are leading our Lenten campaign on how to 'eat for our need, not for our greed'



World Book Day

We dressed in our pyjamas for story time and drank hot chocolate!



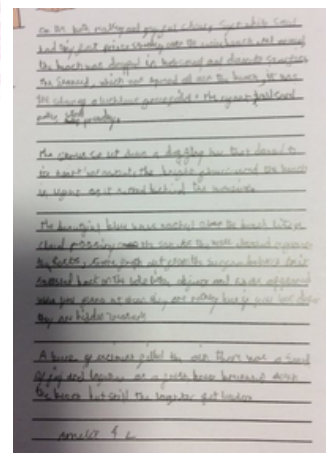
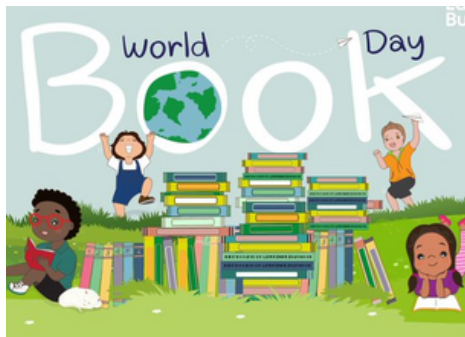
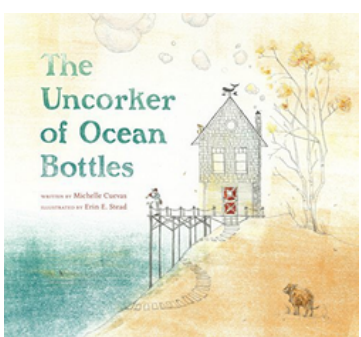
*We have been improving our book corners so that we have a place to relax and enjoy our reading!
Children in older year groups shared stories with their younger peers.*



We recommended our favourite books to others - giving reasons why to read the book.

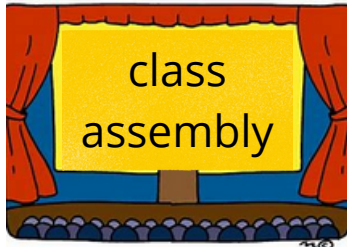


We always have daily story time, where our teachers read to us - but today was extra special!



Next week is National Careers Week

We are having a week in school where a range of careers will be celebrated. We have a lot of visitors attending school and children will be able to explore the range of careers available to them when they are older. Thank you to our parents who have volunteered too.



On Friday 11th March 2022, 3F parents are invited to attend school to watch their children in their class assembly exploring our Lenten theme of the week 'to change'.

Covid restrictions have lessened, but please take a lateral flow test if feeling unwell, sanitise hands and wear masks where possible. Thank you.



Other News

Every year group have made a Lenten promise this half-term to help somebody - each class is doing something extra and will be asking their loved ones to sponsor them. It is wonderful to have such passionate children at St. Mary's who want to help others. Any money given during this time will support our Lenten charities: -
CAFOD, Water Aid and Migrant Help in Edgbaston.



Reception are taking part in CAFOD's 'Walk Against Hunger' during Lent. The children are challenged to walk 40,000 steps (as 40,000 km is the distance around the world) to fight hunger in solidarity with the 200 million children whose lives are at risk because of malnutrition. This is the equivalent of walking 32km, which is a lot for little legs! You can sponsor them online...

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-marys-harborne-reception>

MAKING YOUR OWN Promise Box

Year 1 have made Lenten promises e.g. helping to do the washing up, making their beds, tidying toys etc. The children will make their own charity boxes for their family members to sponsor them with a coin every time that they complete their promise.



Year 2 have made a promise for Lent as a year group to give up their time to those in need. As part of this, they will be visiting a residential home on Vivian Road. The children will take their favourite story books to read with the residents.



On Friday 8th April, Year 3 will be holding a 'swap shop' in the hall after school where parents can find clothes, shoes and uniforms that are looking for a new home. We would love it if children (from any year group) can bring in any 'good-quality' clothes, shoes and uniform that they no longer wear or have grown out of so it can have a new home! We'll have donation buckets too for anybody who would like to give a donation for our charities.



Year 4 will be supporting our food banks during Lent - they will be asking for donations and encouraging the staff to volunteer. More information about who we will be supporting during this time to follow.



As part of their work to build God's Kingdom on Earth, the children in Year 5 have learnt about the world water crisis and have explored the question: 'Is there enough water for everyone?' The children have learnt that 1 in 10 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water - something that we often take for granted. The children are passionate about tackling this injustice and have been inspired to complete a sponsored bucket walk around the playground as part of the school's Lenten charity work - sponsorship forms have been sent out.



Year 6 are becoming People of Change by trying to reduce food wastage in school. Today, they launched their campaign to the rest of the school: 'Eat for your need, not for your greed'. We are hoping that by reducing food waste, only taking what we will eat and not taking food for granted, we will reduce what is cooked and then wasted in school. Any money saved will go towards our charities.



The Spiritual Council have pledged to organise a litter picking walk on the school grounds and within the local community - we will adopt a road each Friday and go out with Mrs Davis and Miss Price and our litter pickers to clean up any litter.

100 *live simply* award ideas

The *livesimply* award is open to any Catholic community - including parishes, schools and chaplaincies - that wants to respond to Pope Francis' call to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor communities.

At St. Mary's, we have applied for the CAFOD live simply award - help us by making changes in your life to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity - tag us in to any twitter posts [@StMaryB17](https://twitter.com/StMaryB17)

Our challenge this week is: - No. 29 - look for more ways to recycle...

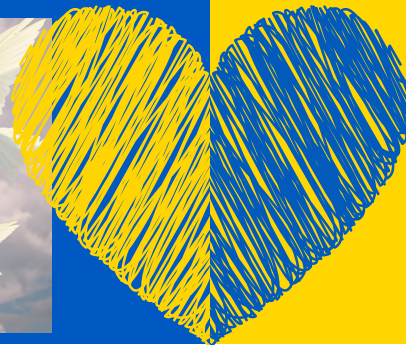
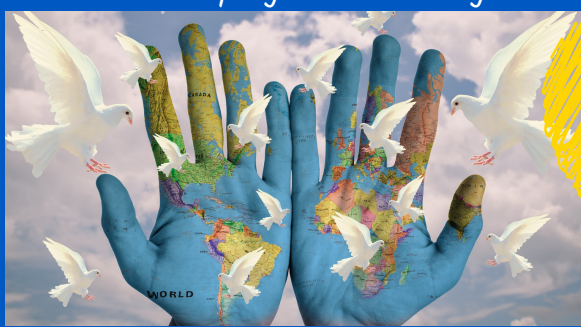
REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE



War in Ukraine

We are all very aware of the disturbing situation in Ukraine at the moment and our thoughts are with our families who are directly or indirectly affected by these events.

We are also extremely mindful of how some of our children are responding to this news; a number of children have been talking about it and it is important for us to address the matter in a sensitive way with their best interests as our priority. We understand that the events in the news can be worrying and are therefore speaking to the children at an age appropriate level. You may wish to join together as a family in Collective Worship or share the following prayer as a family.



A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide
their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen.

PEACE

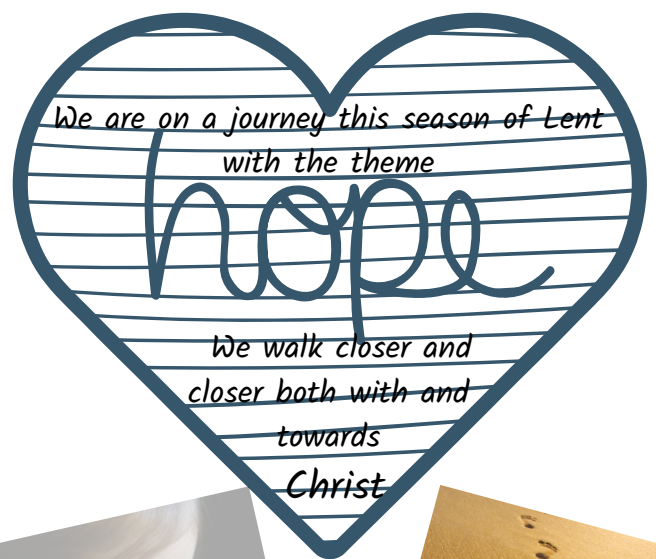
HARBORNE LABOUR PARTY

appeal for Donations for Ukraine

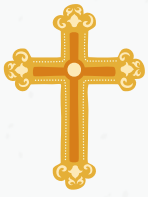
Items needed

- ✓ Woollen blankets
- ✓ Hygiene packs
- ✓ Thermal foil blankets
- ✓ Clothes
- ✓ Nappies
- ✓ Hats
- ✓ Tissues
- ✓ Bedding for pets
- ✓ Medical equipment such as syringes, dressing, plasters, forceps, first aid kits, gauzes, infusion sets, surgical tape, surgical cleaning spray, blood collection kits, bandages, catheter funnels wound strips and feeding tubes

Collecting every **Saturday 11am - 1pm**
Harborne High Street outside the Post Office



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



Children's Liturgy Mass

St Mary's Children's Liturgy/Church is on for all the Sundays of Lent: pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children can go straight into the Parish Centre at 9.30am with a parent - prior to joining the rest of the family and the congregation at about 9.45.

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.



The Ukraine Appeal launched by DEC with CAFOD in St Mary's Church will be held
Saturday 12th March (12pm and 6pm Saturday)

Sunday 13th March (9.30am, 11am and 5pm Sunday).

See: CAFOD and DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal



Coffee mornings for parents

School/Nursery Drop-Off Coffee every Thursday in Parish Centre 8.45 - 9.45

Good To Talk!

This monthly group has been set up by Lizzy Shepherd, aimed at parents who have, or have a child who has, ADHD, Autism, learning difficulties, anxiety and general mental health issues.

Lizzy is keen that parents facing this have a support network that can help each other.

A monthly group will take place on Thursdays, beginning on **Thursday 3rd March** from 12- 1:30 at the Priory.

This is a great opportunity to meet with other parents who are in similar situations in order to build a support network. For more information, please ask Lizzy or the school office.

Friday Evening Meal/Getting Together for Young Families and Young Couples

1st and 3rd Friday of every month, starting on Friday 4th March 2022.

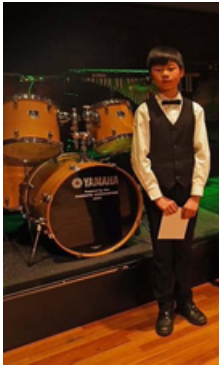
Doors open from 7pm in The Parish Centre.

Join us at the Parish Centre from 7pm onwards for sharing a meal together and for enjoying each other company!

Simply come along with your family and bring your own food. We will eat all together and children will be able to play and/or watch a movie while adults have a chat. Everybody welcome!

If you would like more info please email Elena: erivafisher@gmail.com

Community News



A massive well done to Bobbie for her beautiful violin playing and reaching finalist in the Bromsgrove Young Musicians' Platform competition and to Tom who went on to win the juniors section of the competition, showing his wonderful talent on the piano. Examples of their talent can be seen on our twitter page. We're incredibly proud of you at St. Mary's.



Raising money for Birmingham Children's Hospital
We are so proud of Joseph and Florence for their contribution to the local community and their charity work for Birmingham Children's Hospital.



St. Mary's Charity Work for Lent...

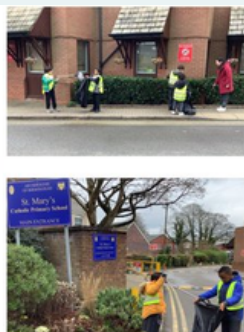
Year 2 reading with the local residents...



Reception class walking against hunger...



Spiritual Council litter picking in the school grounds...



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.

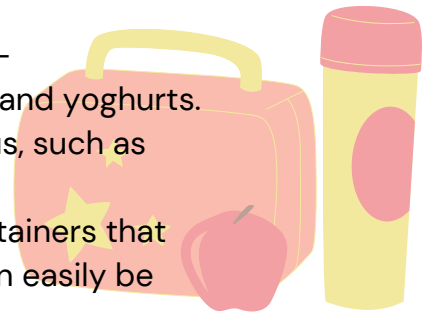


When buying on amazon, you can name 'St Marys Roman Catholic School Pta' as a registered charity. 0.5% of what you spend automatically goes to the PTA pot, which they use to buy things for school (at no extra cost to you) - it's just like ticking gift aid.

Packed Lunches

Please make sure that packed lunches are suitable for school: -

- They should be healthy - a small sugary snack is allowed, alongside fruit and yoghurts.
- Cutlery - children must not bring in items that can be deemed dangerous, such as knives. Please pre-prepare anything that may need chopping.
- Containers - children (and staff) are struggling to open the thermos containers that some children are using for their lunch. Please ensure that containers can easily be opened (ideally by your child).



Phones

Children are not allowed to bring phones in to school.
All children are picked up by a parent so phones are not needed.

Extra-curriculum clubs in Spring 2...

Before school clubs

Wednesdays (7:45-8:45) - Karate - For Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4

Thursdays (7:45-8:45) - Karate - For Y4, Y5 and Y6

Fridays (7:45-8:45) - Karate - For Y1, Y2 and Y3



After school clubs

Mondays (3:30 - 4:30) - Create Club - For YR, Y1, Y2

Wednesdays (3:30 - 4:30) - Chess - For Y3

Thursdays (3:30 - 4:45) - Chess - For Y4, Y5, Y6

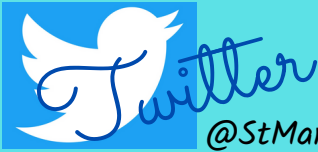


KEEPING SAFE

This is an Operation Encompass School

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



@StMaryB17

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!!!

Follow this link to find out more about how to keep your children safe when they play online games: -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

Need advice about online safety?

If you're stuck, not sure what to do, or if you're worried about your child, you can contact trained helpline counsellors on 0808 800 5000.

Childline also has lots of information about online and mobile safety that will help you and your child.

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care

Summary of Child Protection Information for Visitors and Volunteers

Our school is committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care.

Our school will support all children by:

- Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment
- Encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness
- Effectively tackling bullying and harassment

We recognise that some children may be the victims of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Staff working with children are well placed to identify such abuse.

At our school in order to protect our children, we aim to:

- Create an atmosphere where all our children feel secure, valued and listened to
- Recognise signs and symptoms of abuse
- Respond quickly, appropriately and effectively to cases of suspected abuse

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
Deputy Headteacher
Lead DSL



Louise Price
Headteacher
Deputy DSL



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher
DSL



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead
DSL



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor
DSL



Charlotte Hill
SENDCO
DSL

Alternatively, email DSL@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Dates for next term

WB 7.3.22 - all week -

9th March 2022 - 9:15am -

11th March 2022 - 9:15am -

WB 14.3.22 - all week -

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 -

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

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 -

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

24th March 2022 - 9:00am-10:00am

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

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

28th March 2022 - all day -

29th March 2022 - after school -

31st March 2022 - all day -

31st March 2022 - after school -

8th April 2022 - 9:15am -

Careers Week

Y2 Mass in Church

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

British Science Week

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

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

YIL 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)

RSE talk for Y5 and Y6 parents

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)

RSE talk for Y3 and Y4 parents

RSE talk for YR, Y1 and Y2 parents

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

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

INSET DAY - School closed to children

Parent consultations

Retreat day for children in school

Parent consultations

Y2L Class Assembly in school (2L parents welcome)

Spring 2

Starts: Monday 28th February

**Monday 28th March -
INSET - Children NOT in School**

Ends: Thursday 14th April 2022

Easter Holiday:
Monday 18th April to
Friday 29th April 2022

Summer 1

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday
2nd May

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

Star of the week

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

Year RL	Max	<i>excellent independent writing</i>
Year RF	Sophia	<i>being a helpful member of our Spiritual Council</i>
Year 1L	Keira	<i>always being a fantastic role model</i>
Year 1F	Alex	<i>super effort in all of his work</i>
Year 2L	Abigail	<i>amazing effort in English lessons</i>
Year 2F	Oscar	<i>always trying his best with his reading</i>
Year 3L	Brigid	<i>exemplary effort in all areas of school life</i>
Year 3F	Kai	<i>excellent contributions during class discussions</i>
Year 4L	Rose	<i>writing an excellent setting description for writing</i>
Year 4F	Alex	<i>being a hard working member of the class and fantastic role model</i>
Year 5L	Jackson	<i>showing great pride and care with his written work</i>
Year 5F	Audrey	<i>working well independently on the formal written method</i>
Year 6L	Beatriz	<i>having a consistently positive attitude to learning</i>
Year 6F	Ethan	<i>using a range of skills in his written letter</i>

