



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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.

June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Solidarity and the Common good'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Faith-filled and Hopeful'



Dear Parents and Carers,

27th June 2025

We started the week with a fantastic teacher training day on Monday – staff took part in Makaton training learning key signs and symbols to support all of the children with communication and interaction in school. As a school, we are committed to being fully inclusive and ensuring every child has the opportunity to strive for excellence worthy of their God-given gifts.

On Wednesday, Year 3 led a beautiful Mass on the Holy Body and Blood of Jesus – the children wore their special Holy Communion outfits to Church and enjoyed a lovely celebration in school afterwards.

There have also been lots of sporting activities taking place within and outside of school this week. A group of our Year 6 girls had the opportunity to take part in an event at Alexandra Stadium promoting the participation of girls in sport. Our school football teams have finished the season with the boys winning the league and the league play offs, and winning the Harborne District Shield. The girls also played brilliantly on Thursday and came second place in the league!

Next week, we look forward to Transition Day when we will welcome our new Reception cohort and our current classes will meet their new teachers. Our current Year 6 will be going to their new secondary schools – a day which I'm sure will be filled with both excitement and trepidation for the children. Please keep them in your prayers.

As I write, our Year 6 are also about to set off for their long awaited residential to Alton Castle. Both children and staff are very excited for this trip – a full update will be posted in next week's newsletter but do follow 'X' for updates.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Yorke

A letter from Mary Higgins, Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Governing Body

Message from the Governing Body

Dear Parents,

I am sure you are as pleased as the Governing Body are with the recent catholic school inspection report.

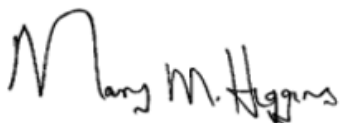
At the final feedback meeting on the last day of the inspection it was so gratifying and indeed moving to hear such comments as ‘fantastic environment’, ‘incredible outreach’, ‘wonderful pupil leadership roles’, ‘staff always go above and beyond’, ‘outstanding’.

The great number of very positive parent survey comments was also praised. Thank you so much!

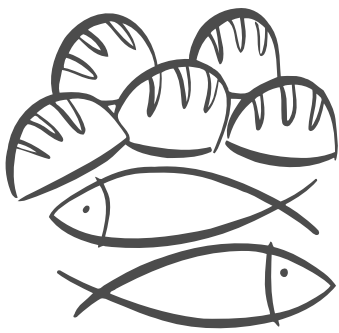
More good news is that in this time of falling pupil numbers in primary schools nationally and locally, St Mary’s is completely full and there is even a waiting list of pupils in all year groups, we are definitely a ‘school of choice’.

So, congratulations and thanks to Mrs Yorke, the whole staff, pupils and parents!

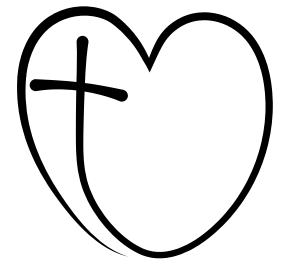
Kind Regards,



Mary Higgins
Chair of Governing Body



CATHOLIC LIFE



This week's Reading

Luke 9:11-17

Over 2000 years ago, Jesus saw the peoples' need, prayed and provided through an unbelievable miracle. Today He continues to provide for our hunger and need, especially in the Eucharist. Children will understand how we can offer the 'loaves and fishes' of our time, talents and prayer to Jesus. They will discover that He multiplies our offering and fills us with His love...."

This week's Mass – Y3 Mass – Holy Body and Blood of Jesus

This week, Year 3 led a beautiful Mass on the Holy Body and Blood of Jesus on Wednesday. It was also a celebration of their First Holy Communion where the children received the Body of Christ together again as a year group. The children enjoyed a small party in the School Hall afterwards too!



Our next Mass – Y1 Mass – St Benedict

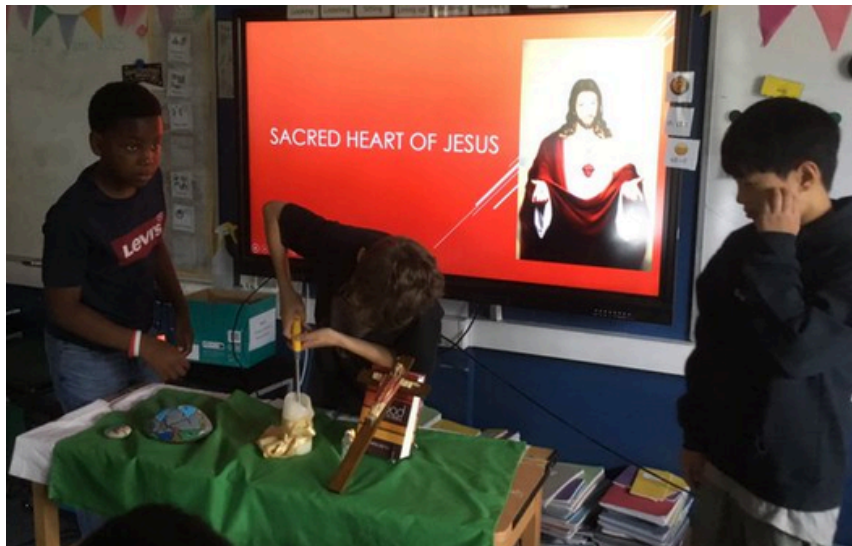
Our next Mass is on **Wednesday 9th July** led by Year 1 – a votive Mass for St Benedict.

There is no Mass on Wednesday 2nd July due to Transition Day.



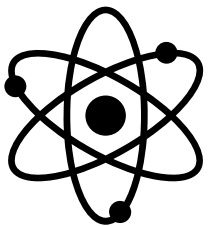
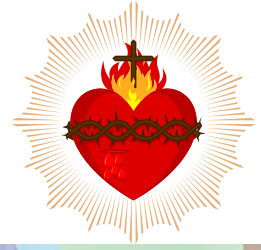
The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

We have been celebrating the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus this Friday. Celebrated following the Octave of Corpus Christi. Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque, a nun of the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary, received visions of the Sacred Heart in 1673. The visions emphasised the love of Jesus for humanity.



Year 1 Assembly

A wonderful assembly from our Year 1 children today, sharing the message of love through the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Well done Year 1, you all sang, acted and read so beautifully!



Tolkien Science Week



The whole school have taken part in a fantastic week of Science coordinated by Bishop Challoner. A group of our Year 5 children also went to Bishop Challoner Secondary School for their annual STEM Fair 2025.

Celebrating Success

We're celebrating Niamh this week, who has been attending some tough trials against a couple of hundred girls in netball. We are thrilled that Niamh has been selected for the Warwickshire County Netball Squad 2025/26!

What an amazing achievement Niamh!
Mrs Yorke is a keen netballer too - we should have a game before you leave St. Mary's and we'll be looking for you in England's Vitality Roses in the future!



Dates for W.C 30.06.25



Donation of bottles needed to support our Parish Fair

Please bring bottles to our main office next week to help support the Parish Fair.



Tuesday 1st July - Y1 Trip to Harborne Library

1F will be departing at 8:45am

1L will be departing at 10:15am

Please contact the Y1 teaching team if you are free to accompany either visit.



Wednesday 2nd July - Transition Day

Current Reception to Year 5 classes will meet their new teachers. There is no change to the school day otherwise.

Current Year 6 classes - please follow the instructions from your new secondary schools e.g.: uniform, timings etc.



Year 6 residential

Year 6 are off on their residential this weekend and will return to school on Friday 27th June at 4pm. Year 6 parents, please refer to letters for information about the trip and follow updates on X to see all the fun we're having. Pray for the staff that the children go to sleep at a reasonable time.

"We'll Meet Again"

Not long now until our Year 6s perform one last time at St Mary's in their show 'We'll meet again' Set during the outbreak of World War II, the children of the 1940s are living with gas masks, sirens and the need of safety of the shelters.

Year 6 are putting on two performances of "We'll meet again" for Y6 parents only.

The performance will also be recorded so can be shared with loved ones later.

Performance are:

Thursday 10th July 2025

Friday 11th July 2025



Year 6 Leavers Mass –

Wednesday 16th July 2025 – 9:30am

We will be celebrating Year 6 and their time at St. Mary's with a whole school Leavers Mass on Wednesday 16th July at 9:30am. All parents and family members are able to attend this Mass. For the Mass, we will ask parents to sit in the old part of the Church.

After Mass, the rest of the school will leave and return to have break time. Year 6 will remain in the Church and parents will join them to watch their slideshow of memories in the Church.

This will be when we hand out presents too.

The rest of the school / siblings will watch the slideshow in their classrooms.



Friday 18th July – all day

Shirt signing will take place on the final day of term. We also continue to encourage parents, staff and children to join us in the guard of honour as they leave school for the final time as Year 6 pupils. Collection times of all children are in red in 'dates for this term' – all children will need to be collected by 2pm and then Year 6 (and any staff leavers) will come out.

Look out for our bull this Summer



The city's next big art trail will depict the legendary Birmingham Bullring Bull, with 40 large bull sculptures, and 85 calves descending on Wednesday 16th July and continuing to be present throughout the Summer until Sunday 14th September.

Designed and painted by the children, this is what our bull looks like: -



His name is:-
Azrael the bull
and he will be located on Harborne High Street, so you won't need to go far to find him.

Over the Summer Holidays, you can take a photo with Azrael and tweet him so that we know that you found him. Enjoy looking at all the other bulls that are on display too and reading about the artists who painted them.

So why Bulls in the City?

It is to raise money for Birmingham Hospice. Read more about the charity and how you can donate by visiting the Bulls in the City website. Leave a message of encouragement and words of acknowledgement to our children for getting involved. So, find the bull, take a photograph with him, and donate!

Tweet @StMaryB17 #bullsinthecity

<https://www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/donate-bullsinthecity/>

Thanks for being part of our herd

offers end 31/07/25

Kids

Essentials

Package 1

2 x Jumpers/Cardigans

1 x Tie

1 x PE T-Shirt

1 x Book Bag

£34.99



Package 2

2 x Jumpers/Cardigans

1 x Twin Shirts/Blouses

1 x Tie

1 x Book Bag

1 x PE T-Shirt

1 x P.E Shorts

£54.99

Kids Essentials:

Northfield High Street, B31 2NN



SCHOOLWEAR
ASSOCIATION

www.kids-essentials.co.uk  0121 477 0736

Kids essentials have kindly offered to do a one off deal for all year groups on uniform bundles due to being a new supplier of St Mary's Uniforms.

Please see the offer leaflet above.

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:



Louise Yorke
Headteacher

Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher

Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead

Sharon Tame
School Counsellor

Laura Noone
AHT

Jade Preedy
AHT

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 a member of the SLT team.

We will announce the attendance for the previous week in this section of the newsletter each week.

Celebrating our fantastic attendance:-

Our attendance for last week was -

Week 23/06/25-27/06/25

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99	97.9	100	97	99	98.3	96.6	99.5	100	97.8	98.3	97	99	97.5
Lates	1	2	1	3	2	3	0	1	0	0	2	4	1	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%		School Target				97%		

Well done 1L and 4J: - Our attendance champions!

Summer theme -

Summer 2

27th June - 29th June

WB 30.6.25

1st July 2025 - am

2nd July 2025 - all day

8th July 2025 - am

10th July 2025 - 2pm

11th July 2025 - 2pm

16th July 2025 - 9.30am

18th July 2025 -

Solidarity and the Common Good

Faith-filled and Hopeful

Year 6 residential

Collections of bottles for the Parish Fair

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:45 IF and 10:15 IL)

Transition Day (inc. new Reception cohort) - children meet their new teacher

Reception visit to Harborne library (8:45 RT and 10:15 RB)

Year 6 performance to parents - 'We'll meet again'

Year 6 performance to parents - 'We'll meet again'

Year 6 Leavers Mass (Y6 parents welcome) - Mass for whole school

Break up for Summer holidays

Early finish time

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KS1 classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Year 6 shirt signing on final day in school and 2:00pm guard of honour

Key Dates

Autumn Term	Tuesday 2nd September - Thursday 23rd October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th December
Spring Term	Monday 5th January - Friday 13th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 23rd February - Thursday 2nd April
Summer Term	Monday 20th April - Friday 22nd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

Star of the week

Year RB Jessica For being a positive role model and kind to her friends

Year RT Eric For creating a lovely rainbowfish painting and working really hard to tidy up after himself!

Year IF Daphne For her descriptive piece of writing and using 'but' to compare two different things.

Year IL Sparkle For beautiful singing in assembly practise

Year 2E Michelle For presenting all of her work beautifully

Year 2G Robyn For trying really hard with her behaviour and setting a good example to others!

Year 3L Willow For listening attentively in class and always trying her best in all of her work

Year 3T Georgie For reading beautifully in Mass.

Year 4J Noah For making a fantastic effort on his magazine article about the plight of polar bears in the Arctic

Year 4M Harry For being an excellent behaviour role model this year and working hard to improve his writing

Year 5F Elsie For the fantastic effort she puts into every lesson and the huge improvement she has shown in her writing this term.

Year 5M Noah For consistently working hard all year, but especially in his exciting writing this week. Super proud!

Year 6O Kaya For being a really positive member of our class

Year 6R Cecile For always having a positive attitude towards learning.

