



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 Communities

Our virtues for this half term are: - Compassionate and Loving



Dear Parents and Carers,

4th September 2026

Welcome back to all our children—and a particularly warm welcome to our new Reception pupils and their families, who have joined the St. Mary's family. I hope you all enjoyed a restful summer break and are settling back into routines as we begin another exciting school year.

For both new and returning families, I'd like to remind you of the importance of regularly checking our school website for key information including term dates, policies, newsletters, school menus, uniform guidance, admissions, and curriculum details. We work hard to keep the site updated so that everything you need is easily accessible.

Please also follow our X account @StMaryB17, where we share curriculum highlights and important updates throughout the week.

If you need to pass on any information to school, there are several ways to do so:

- Speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team at the gate each morning
- Make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher
- Contact the school office on 0121 464 2141 or email enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk

Our weekly newsletter, sent out every Friday, will include any further updates. It's also available on our website and X page. Please ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details so you don't miss any important communications.

This week's newsletter includes **all key dates for the Autumn term**. While we aim to stick to these, please note that changes may occasionally occur and if this is the case, we'll always give advance notice. You'll find the diary dates on the penultimate page.

PE days have also been confirmed via email. On these days, children should come to school wearing the correct PE uniform. We conduct daily uniform checks, and parents will be contacted if uniform is not right. No jewellery should be worn on PE days. Please speak to a member of SLT, if you need support with uniform.

Regarding jewellery: children may wear stud earrings and a watch (not a Fitbit or smart watch). No other jewellery—including religious necklaces or bracelets—is permitted. This is to ensure safety during playtimes, PE lessons, and when children use our gym equipment.

Jewellery

To ensure the safety of all children, we will only allow children to wear small stud earrings (not dangly earrings) and a watch, on the days that they are not doing PE. On PE days we are asking that children do not wear any jewellery, so that it is not lost if they are asked to remove it for physical lessons. Thank you for supporting us with this, your child's safety is at the forefront of our uniform decisions. .

I would also like to confirm end-of-day pick-up procedures...

End of day

Please take note of the end of day timings and where you need to stand to collect your children.

At 3:10pm, Reception parents are to gather on the left hand side in green zone (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:15pm, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side and gather in red zone (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:20pm, siblings will be released to parents, who will walk down on the **right** hand side and gather in blue zone (as shown by the blue arrows). Siblings is for when your children are in different key stages i.e. one child in KS1 and one child in KS2. If your child is in the same key stage, they will come out with their class. Siblings will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 3 and Year 4 parents are to walk down the drive on the **left** hand side and gather in green zone (as shown by the green arrows). Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

At 3:30pm, Year 5 and Year 6 parents are to walk down the drive on the **right** hand side and gather in red zone (as shown by the red arrows) Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

Please stay behind the 'invisible line', in your zones, at dismissal so that staff can safely hand over children and maintain privacy for any conversations you need to have with teachers. Do not call your children to you from the back of the line – the children will be dismissed safely by their teacher when they reach the front of the line. Children must not run or scoot around the car park—it's not safe and parents please do not lean on staff cars as they get scratched. We teach the children to always walk in the car park and that this is not a playground... if you allow children to play and scoot, this gives mixed messages – we thank you for working with us.

END OF DAY COLLECTION POINTS AND TIMES –



Please note: –

The school has a walking home policy that states that children should be picked up by the parents. We encourage children to only walk home by themselves in the Summer term of Year 6.

Parking

We ask for everyone's commitment to safe driving and parking around school.

Please do not: –

- stop or park on double yellow lines,
- stop in the middle of the road,
- stop or park on the zig zag lines outside of school
- block the school entrance,
- obstruct dropped kerbs meant for pushchairs,
- obstruct side roads such as Vivian Close.



Parking opposite the school is particularly dangerous for families crossing the road.

We work closely with the Council and Police, and fines may be issued. Any person of the community can photograph inconsiderate or dangerous parking and submit a report to police or the council:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle

Every parent signs a home / school agreement with our school – if a member of staff asks you to move your car, we will not accept verbal aggression towards us (this may lead to you being banned from the school site) and we will expect you to move your car and park safely.

School vehicle gate

Our school vehicle gate closes between 8am and 5pm. This is for the safety of our children on site as many attend before and after school clubs. You must not enter school premises, in a vehicle, between the hours of 8am and 5pm. Do not tail gate staff coming in to school – they will ask you to leave school site and park sensibly. Again, we will not accept verbal aggression if you are asked to park your vehicle off the school premises between these hours.

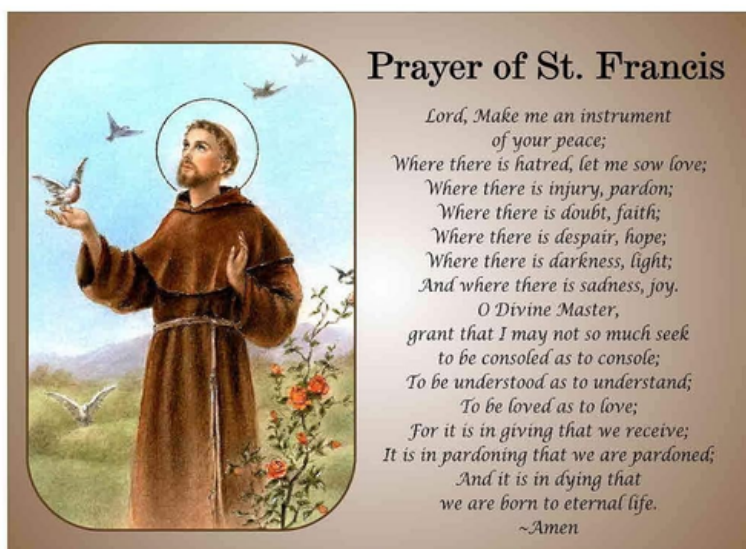
Thank you for helping us protect our community. I do know that most of our parents care deeply about the safety of the children and follow rules about parking. I am very thankful to the majority of our school community who take the safety of our children seriously and park responsibly.

Finally

I want to say what a joy it's been to return to school. Well done to all our children for a fantastic first week of learning and for showing such beautiful behaviour. We're excited to see what this year brings. I hope to see many of you at the first Whole School Mass of the year on Wednesday at 9:30am.

As part of our special Year of St Francis of Assisi, we are joining with the wider Church in celebrating the 800th anniversary of his death. St Francis is remembered for his deep love of God, care for creation, commitment to peace and service to those in need. Throughout September, during the Season of Creation, the children will be learning about his life and reflecting on how they can follow his example by showing kindness, gratitude and respect for our world. We pray for the intercession of St. Francis this term, in school.

Mrs Yorke (Head teacher)



CATHOLIC LIFE

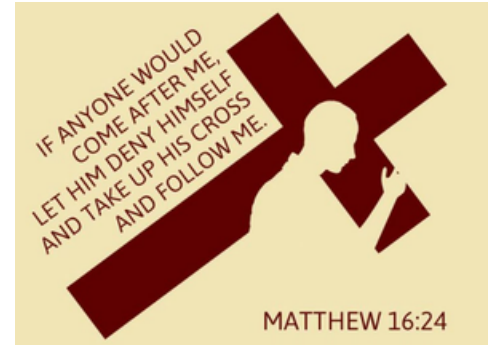
This Week's Gospel

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

God wants us to: -

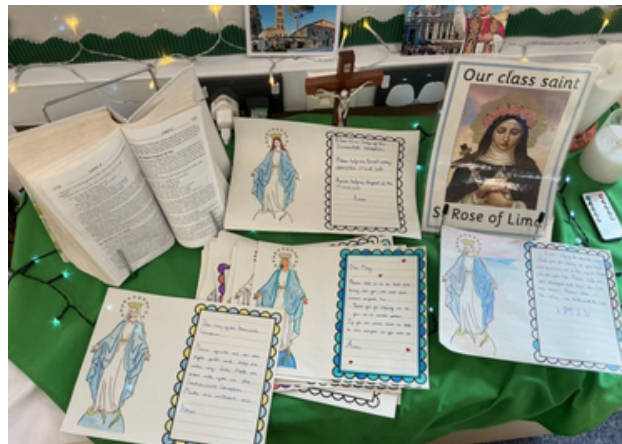
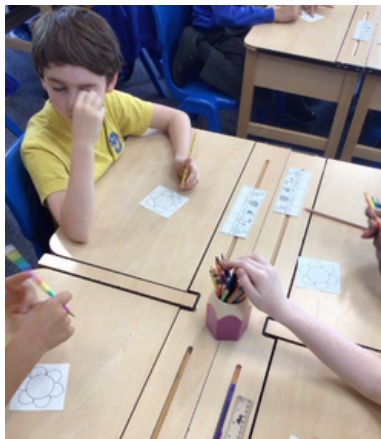
- **Offer** the beginning of our school year to Him
- **Trust** that Jesus is our perfect leader who is always there to help us
- **Know** our hope and happiness comes from following the path He lays out for us
- **Follow** Jesus by putting God first and loving others



Our next Mass – Whole School Mass – Nativity of Our Lady

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 9th September 2026, starting promptly at 9:30am.

The children are preparing in school for this important Mass learning about their Marian Devotion. Years 1 – 6 will attend this Mass and all parents are welcome to attend.



Class Saints

The children have also been learning more about their class Saint this week: -



ALL SAINTS
IN HEAVEN
Pray for us!

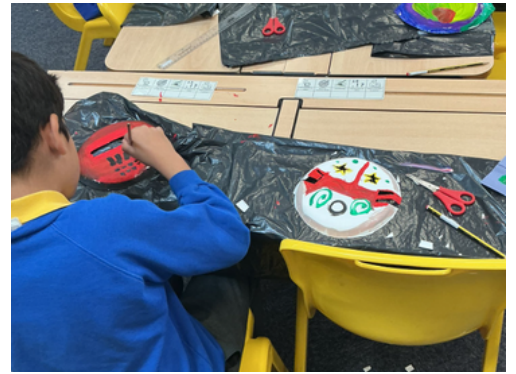
CATHOLIC LIFE

Catholic Social Teaching – Families and Communities

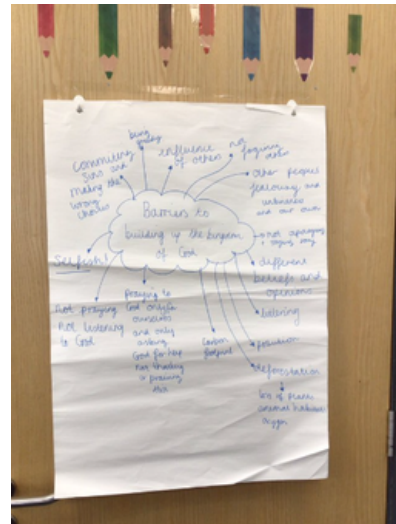
Our Building the Kingdom theme for this term is Families and Communities and classes have started exploring what this means and have reflected on key questions about how we can create the kingdom of God here on Earth in harmony, peace and togetherness.



Year 5 created their own variations of African face masks and talked about South African community - the setting of their new terrific text



Year 6 relected deeply on the barriers to God's kingdom



Our Virtues – Loving and Compassionate

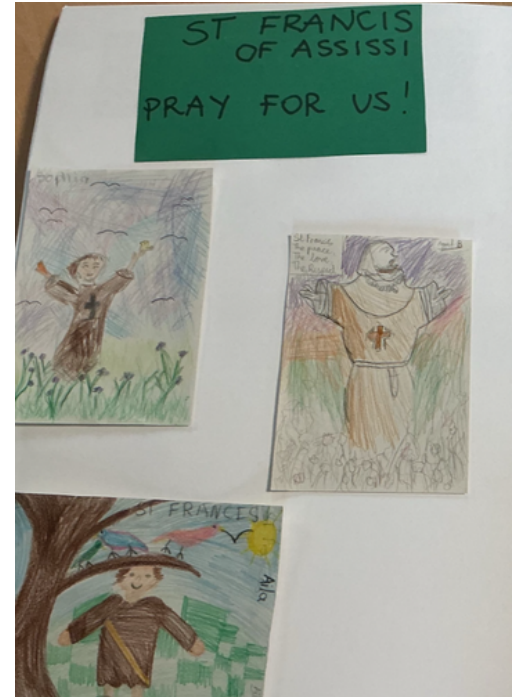
This week, the children have reflected on how they can live like Jesus by putting these virtues into action each day and showing kindness, compassion and love to others.



CATHOLIC LIFE

The Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi

The children took time to learn more about Jubilee Year of St Francis proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, which invites us all to reflect on Francis' message of peace, fraternity, and care for creation. The children learnt that this is an important opportunity for the faithful to rekindle their faith, strengthen their relationship with God and with the community of the Church.



ST FRANCIS, PRAY FOR US





Year 6 prefects applications

Applications for Year 6 Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl are due in to school next week
Good luck!

Dates for W.C 15.09.26

Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents –

Tuesday 15th September at 2pm

Reception parents/carers are invited to a Phonics Workshop led by our Early Reading Lead and Reception Class Teacher, Mrs Russell. The workshop will inform parents about our phonics scheme, Little Wandle, and how parents/carers can help support their child with their reading.



Other Messages

Healthy Snacks

Please may we remind all parents that only healthy snacks are permitted in school – your child may have a piece of fruit or healthy snack at break time. Do not send your child in with crisps, sweets or chocolate as they will not be able to consume this on site. Please also be aware that we do not allow nuts, in order to reduce the chance of children with allergies from having a reaction.



Coats

As the weather is changeable now, please ensure that your child comes to school with their waterproof coats. Please note, we do not allow umbrellas in school due to health and safety.
Umbrellas must be left with parents/carers at drop off.



This is an **Operation Encompass** School

KEEPING SAFE

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:



Laura Noone
Lead DSL
DHT



Louise Yorke
Headteacher



Jade Preedy
AHT



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Shania Birchenall
SENDCo

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

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. Noone or a member of the SLT team.

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 02/09/26-04/09/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	95	91	96	90	94	92	96	100	99	90	95	97	100	95
Lates	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.6%		School Target					97%	

Well done 3T and 6R: - Our attendance champions!

Fundraising - Waitrose Green Token Scheme



Thank you for all your efforts with the Waitrose Green Token Scheme – we are doing really well but still need more tokens!

Please help us to secure the maximum sum of £1500 towards a new activity trail for our playground.

Please collect your token from any of the tills and deposit in the box marked "St Mary's School"

Thank You

PTA date for our new Reception parents



Reception parents – come and join us on **Thursday 17th September at 3:15pm–3:45pm** in the school hall.

This is an informal catch-up for you to meet other Reception parents and to get to know the PTA representatives and some of the teachers. Over tea and biscuits, you will get the opportunity to find out more about what the PTA and school does over the year. Such as events, fun days and fundraising. You can bring your child(ren) and they will be supervised in a classroom with a film or colouring.

The more the merrier for 30 minutes of your time – all our fundraising goes directly back to the children!



Dates for this half term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

7th September 2026

9th September 2026 - 9:30am

11th September 2026

WB 14th September 2026

14th September 2026

15th-16th September 2026

15th September 2026 - am

15th September 2026 - 2pm

16th September 2026 - 9:15am

17th September 2025

17th September 2025 - 3:15pm

WB 21.9.26

WB 21.9.26

21st September 2026 - all day

21st-22nd September 2026

22nd September 2026

22nd September 2026 - 3:45pm

23rd September 2026 - 9:15am

23rd September 2026 - 3:30pm

24th September 2026 - 9:00am

25th September 2026 - all day

28th September 2026 - all day

28th September 2026 - 8am

29th September 2026 - am

29th September 2026 - pm

30th September 2026 - 9:15am

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

1st October 2026 - lunch time

1st October 2026 - 9:00am

2nd October 2026 - all day

5th October 2026 - all day

6th October 2026 - am

6th October 2025 - 2:30pm

Families and Communities

Compassionate and Loving

Applications for Year 6 prefects / Head Boy / Head Girl due

Whole School Mass for the Birthday of Mary - parents welcome in old church

Class elections - CAFOD, Spiritual Council, School Council and Rights Respecting

Education Sunday "Living well together"

House Captains elections in Year 6

Money Matters learning taking place in school

Year 5 library visit - 5F (8:45) and 5M (10:15)

Phonics Workshop for Reception parents

Year 2 Mass in Church (Y1 to attend) - Parents Welcome

Year 6 swimming sessions begin

PTA welcome meeting for new Reception parents

Belonging - Cultural Awareness Week

Donations of cakes please for Macmillan charity event

International day of peace - pray for peace

African Drumming in School

Year 3 library visit - 3L (8:45) and 3T (10:15)

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

Y6 Mass in Church (Y5 to attend) - Parents welcome

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

Macmillan Coffee Morning in Parish supported by School Council

Cultural Celebration - wear cultural dress / clothing that represents 'home'

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

PTA Annual General Meeting in school hall

Year 4 library visit - 4M (8:45) and 4J (10:15)

12 Year 5 children to attend Bishop Challoner for Play-leader training

Year 3 Mass in Church (Y4 to attend) - Parents welcome

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

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

Themed Lunch in the canteen

Year 1 Prayer Service for parents

INSET day - school closed to children

Grandparents' Day

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

RHE talk for parents - KSI

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

7th October 2026 - 9:15am

7th October 2026 - 2:30pm

9th October 2026 - all day

9th October 2026 - 9:15am

WB 12.10.26

13th October 2026 - 3:30-6:00

14th October 2026 - 9:15am

14th October 2026 - 3:30-6:00

15th October 2026 - all day

16th October 2026 - all day

21st October 2026 - 9:15am

22nd October 2026 - am

22nd October 2026 - all day

23rd October 2026 - normal time

Families and Communities

Compassionate and Loving

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

RHE talk for parents - KS2

Mental Health Day

Year 6 Year Group Assembly

School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair

Parent Consultation Evening

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Photo Day - Children in full winter uniform please

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

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

Flu vaccinations in school

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

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

Term Dates for this year

Autumn Term	Wednesday 2 nd September - Friday 23 rd October
	Half-term
	Monday 2 nd November - Friday 18 th December
Spring Term	Monday 4 th January - Thursday 11 th February
	Half-term
	Monday 22 nd February - Thursday 25 th March
Summer Term	Monday 12 th April - Friday 28 th May
	Half-term
	Monday 7 th June - Tuesday 20 th July

School Closed:

- Monday 3rd May 2027 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
 - Friday 2nd October 2026
 - Friday 12th February 2027
 - Monday 28th June 2027
 - Wednesday 21st July 2027
- 1 more INSET day to be confirmed

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Hugo	For settling really well into his first week at school!
Year RT	Marc	For a fantastic start to school and for his excellent behaviour!
Year IF	Matilda	Being a great role model to the rest of the class
Year IL	Sean	For being so attentive and caring towards others in his class.
Year 2E	Nikki	For designing her own lovely version of our class charter.
Year 2G	Jessica	For making a positive start to Y2 and making our newest member feel welcome!
Year 3L	Azrael	For a super positive start to Y3. Well done Azrael !
Year 3T	Isabelle	For being so kind to others and helping the new children to the school.
Year 4J	Norrie	For being an excellent role model to others and very good effort in handwriting!
Year 4M	Anicet	For showing super sitting, looking and listening in class. Well done!
Year 5F	Raina	For active listening and interesting contributions in lessons this week.
Year 5M	Harley	For his contributions to class discussions – keep them up!
Year 6O	Dee	For her fantastic participation in lessons and striving for excellence!
Year 6R	Elvis	For setting a fantastic example of the 6 behaviours to others. He has striven for excellence this week!

