



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.

## July is dedicated to the Precious Blood 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 Children, Parents and Carers, and Staff

21st July 2025

We have now come to the end of this school year, and I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who make this community such an extraordinary place to be.

It really has been a wonderful year: – A year of determination, achievement, laughter, and growth. Together, we've faced challenges head-on and celebrated victories large and small. From the buzz of classroom breakthroughs to the roar of support at school events – each moment has been a testament to the Catholic life, heart and soul of our school.

To our children – you've amazed us with your resilience, your creativity, and your passion for learning. You've grown not just in knowledge, but in kindness and strength. You've shown what it means to support each other and strive for excellence. We couldn't be prouder of who you're becoming.

To our staff – thank you for your relentless commitment to excellence. You've inspired minds, built confidence, and created spaces where every learner felt seen and heard. Your impact goes far beyond the classroom.

To our families and carers – thank you for being our partners. Your trust, encouragement, and support have helped us build a school culture rooted in respect, ambition, and care.

A special thank you to our priests and governors – your guidance, faith, and steadfast support continue to enrich the life of our school and its values. You help us stay grounded in purpose and united in vision.

This summer, I encourage you to rest, reconnect, and recharge. And as we look ahead to the new school year, let's bring with us the lessons, values, and spirit that make our school truly special. I wish those leaving us all the best for your future and for you to hold dear that you will always be part of the St. Mary's family. We will continue to pray for you all, throughout the Summer holidays, and beyond.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at normal time. Wishing you all a safe, joyful summer. Make memories. Tag us in your adventures.

God bless,

Mrs Yorke

# CATHOLIC LIFE

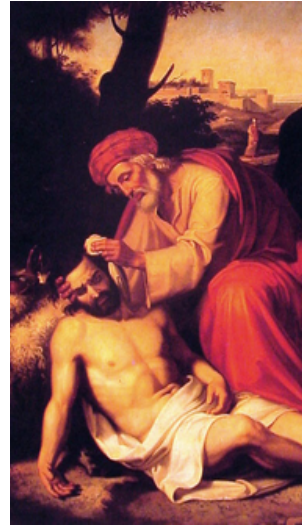
## This week's Gospel

Luke 10:36-37

*“Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel, we learn that: –

- loving others isn't just about what we do, but why we do it
- we should be motivated by our love of God and our neighbour
- everyone we meet is a neighbour who we can show love to and reach out to help their needs



## This week's Mass – Y6 Leavers Mass

This week, we gathered for our final school Mass of the year, beautifully led by our Year 6 pupils one last time. It was a moving celebration of gratitude, reflection, and hope – marking not only the end of a memorable school year but also honouring the incredible children and staff who will be moving on to new adventures. Together, we gave thanks for all we've achieved, the friendships we've built, and the faith that's guided us through. With joyful music, heartfelt prayers, and a few teary smiles, our leavers reminded us of the strength and spirit that defines our school community.

We send our love, blessings, and best wishes to everyone beginning a new chapter. You will be greatly missed!



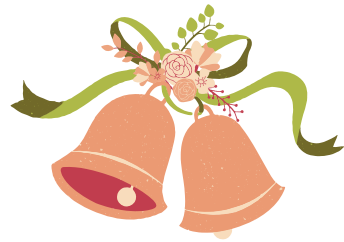
# A Celebration of our God-Given Gifts



## Miss Price is getting married...

Big congratulations to Miss Price who is soon to be married and will return to school as Mrs Murray!

We will be thinking of you on your wedding day.



## End of year donation

### Further Information:

We have been asked by parents whether there is any way online to place a donation back in to school as an end of year gift, particularly from families who are leaving St. Mary's and wish to make a donation. Of course you are not obliged to do this but we have set up a gateway payment for this reason for anybody who wishes to give the school a donation.



**GOODBYE**

***Farewell to  
our Leavers!***



***Good Luck***

***We will  
miss!  
you***



# Sign up for our clubs

## Alvechurch Football Club

We are really pleased that Alvechurch Football Club will continue to be running our after-school football clubs again next year! An email was sent out this week with information about how to register your child for September – please check your inbox.



## Mini Athletics

If your child is in Reception up to Year 4 next year, links will soon be sent out to sign up to our popular Monday or Tuesday breakfast club – look out for the link.



## Netball

Netball club will commence for children in Years 5 and 6 next year on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – letters have been sent out today. Sign up quick to avoid disappointment as we only have 21 spaces.



## Chess

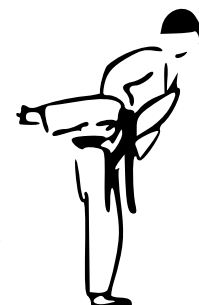
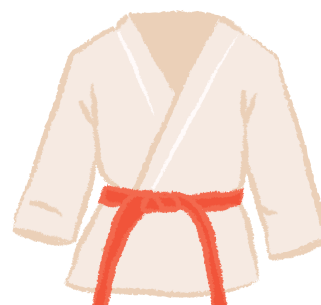
St. Mary's will continue to run chess coaching sessions during the 2025–26 academic year. Our Chess coach Alex has coached chess at St. Mary's for 14 years, and the school have been increasingly successful in schools tournaments, reaching the Finals of the Warwickshire Primary Schools Team Championship for the last two years, and winning the Birmingham Catholic Schools Tournament for five years in a row. In addition, we have had a number of players represent Warwickshire's county team at Under 9 and Under 11 level. There is opportunity now for Year 3 to learn how to play chess with Alex on a Monday after school.



## Karate

USKO Karate will again be offering breakfast Karate Clubs in September. The clubs will run on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday mornings 7:45 – 8:45 and is open to students in years 1 and above (Josh will be there from 7:40 for drop off).

There is a limited number of spaces available so please book in early to avoid disappointment.



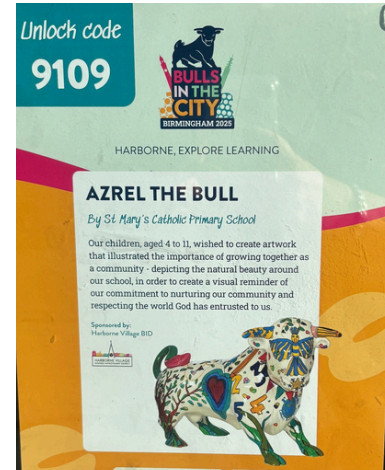
# Stay in touch this Summer by getting involved in the following projects and tweeting us...

## 1. Bulls in the City



**Azrel the bull**  
is hiding somewhere on Harborne High St.  
Can you find him?

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



### 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. This Summer, if you 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**

## 2. Pilgrims of Hope

### Journey this Summer with hope

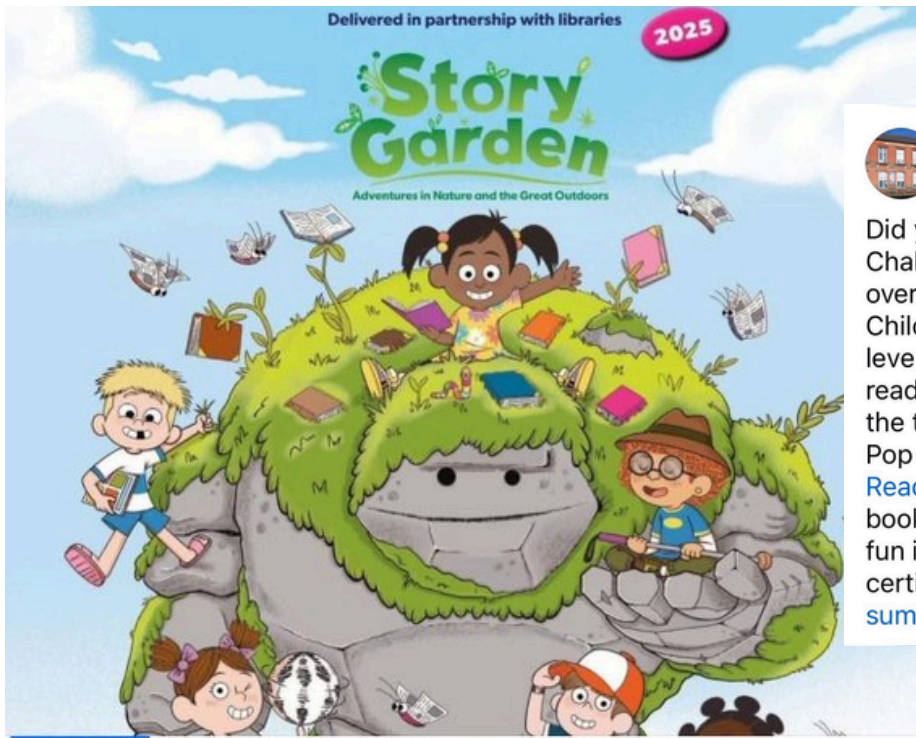
If you're going on a journey this Summer, completing a charity event, or visiting holy sites – let us know about it with: –

**Tweet @StMaryB17 #Jubilee2025**

**#Pilgrimsofhope**



# 3. Summer Reading Challenge



## Summer Reading Challenge

It is that time of year again – join Harborne Library and St. Mary's to encourage as many children as we can to read over the Summer Holidays.

**Step 1:** – sign up to the challenge at Harborne Library

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

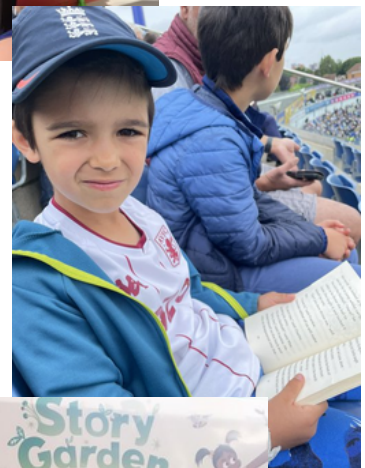
**#library #Stmarysreads**

**Step 2:** Upload your photos on to our school twitter feed. Photos of children reading with siblings, parents, other family members, friends and on their holidays – share your love of reading with the whole school community.

**@StMaryB17**

**Challenge:** – Which year group will upload the most photos?

Winners will be announced in the new school year!



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](mailto: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 14/07/25-18/07/25**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	96	92.3	94.3	95.3	94	86.3	93	92	97	92.4	94	82	96.5	97.6
Lates	1	5	2	0	3	5	1	1	1	1	0	6	0	1
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.5%		School Target				97%		

**Well done 6O: - Our attendance champions!**



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators STAYING SAFE AROUND WATER

Enjoying time in, on, and around water plays a vital role in a young person's overall development, offering a healthy and exhilarating way to have fun. This guide outlines essential safety advice, based on the Royal Life Saving Society UK's Water Safety Code, to help ensure children can enjoy swimming and similar activities safely and responsibly.

## 1 STICK TO LIFEGUARDED AREAS

It's never advisable to enter unpatrolled bodies of water, especially alone. Instead, it's considered best practice to accompany children to places with lifeguards, as they will be trained to respond swiftly to emergencies and provide first aid when needed.

## 2 LEARN SIGNS AND FLAGS

When going to a new environment, it's important to research the local area and make children aware of safety signage before entering the water. If visiting the seaside, make sure children are always supervised by an adult and that they know what different beach flags mean, so they're knowledgeable of where and when they can enter the sea.

## 3 STOP AND THINK

Young people should be cautious before entering water, as it's difficult to know what hazards could be underneath. Use the Water Safety Code and encourage children to ask themselves questions such as: "Is the water too deep or too shallow?" Are there currents, tides, or underwater objects? Make sure children know never to enter water seen as being, or about to be, before could cause serious injury.

## 4 CONSIDER WATER TEMPERATURE

Even on hot days, water can be deceptively cold. Sudden dips when young people experience cold water shock. Never let children enter water quickly, instead, ensure that they enter slowly and carefully to allow their bodies to adjust to the temperature as well as they're needed.

## 5 INFLATABLE SAFETY

Although inflatables may seem like a fun idea when visiting locations like the beach, they can flip, turn and flip, and are not made of strong, durable water. It's advisable only to use inflatables in specific and supervised environments, managed swimming pools, where they're used in more controlled and supervised environments.

## 6 SUPERVISION IS KEY

For young children, and particularly those under the age of five, it's important for them to be supervised at home, outside and at the pool at all times. It's essential for parents and guardians to understand that young children can drown quickly and silently, therefore, anyone supervising them must maintain constant watch in case they get into difficulty.

## 7 DON'T GO TOO FAR

When swimming, especially in open water, it's best to teach children to stay within a safe depth. Show children why there isn't to any striking water up to a standing depth, and in the case of children who aren't, we're kinder to themselves. This will allow a child to stay in control and get out of the water easily.

## 8 KEEP POOLS AND TUBS DRAINED

For parents of young children, a simple way to protect them at home is to keep outdoor pools and bathtubs dry after playtime. This includes removing water from paddling pools, after use and leaving them open, removing lids to hot tubs and taking toys out of baths, so all water can be fully drained from the tub.

## 9 FLOAT AND CALL 999

If a child gets into difficulty in the water, they should try to float on their back, stay calm, and call for help. If a young person sees someone else in trouble, they should call 999 or 112 immediately, then should to ensure they're floating, encouraging them to float on their back, and letting them know that help is on the way. Children should never enter the water to attempt a rescue or retrieve belongings.

## 10 TEACH WATER SAFETY

Beyond swimming lessons, children should be educated to take on water safety via RLS UK's accredited programme, 'Water Smart! Lifesaver', which offers the lesson plans and resources on how to be safe in, near and around water by following the Water Safety Code.

# BE SAFE HAVE FUN!

If you are in and around the water  
ALWAYS REMEMBER TO:

- 1 STOP AND THINK
- 2 STAY TOGETHER
- 3 FLOAT
- 4 CALL 999 OR 112

FIND MORE FUN  
AND SAFETY TIPS AT  
[RNLI.org](http://RNLI.org)

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea.  
RNLI is a registered charity (No. 263886) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 263886).  
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 Lifeboats

## Term Dates for next year

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

# Star of the week

- Year RB Whole Class For Making Miss Harris' very first year of teaching truly amazing!
- Year RT Whole Class For making Mrs McConnell's last year at St Mary's so fantastic!
- Year 1F Promise For settling into St Mary's so well and for having a wonderful summer term!
- Year 1L Azariah For his super smoothie making skills during DT!
- Year 2E Eliab For improving his writing this year. Well done Eliab.
- Year 2G Thomas For being a wonderful member of 2G!
- Year 3L Monty For being a fantastic member of 3L. You will be missed!
- Year 3T Janssen For having a fantastic year in 3T and blossoming into a wonderful member of the class!
- Year 4J Sofia For your sparkle and smiles, and for bringing joy to Year 4 this year. We will miss you!
- Year 4M Maria For wonderful time at St Mary's. Enjoy your new school!
- Year 5F Nathan For being a fantastic member of St Mary's and of 5F. We will miss you!
- Year 5M Scarlett-Rose For being an amazing friend and helper all year. For always putting in 100% in effort she does and bringing so much joy to the classroom all year.
- Year 6O Whole Class For being a fantastic class! Good luck! We'll miss you!
- Year 6R Violet For the care she always shows towards her friends

