



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

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Headteacher: Mrs L. J. Yorke M.Ed.

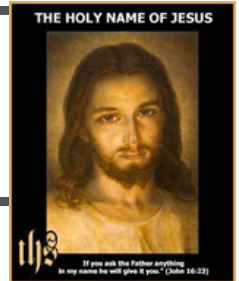


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

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: - Compassionate and Loving

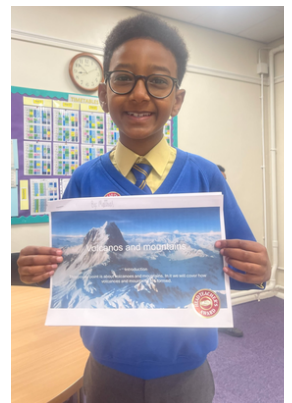
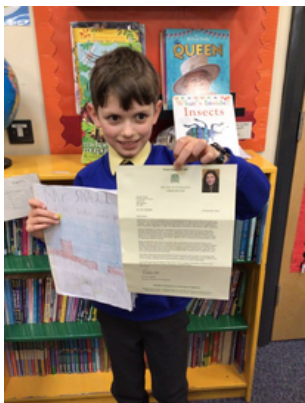


Dear parents and carers,

17th January 2025

This week in school, we have been focusing on Jesus' baptism and what we can learn from this. Year 4 linked all of our learning together in a wonderful assembly to parents this morning, with beautiful singing, acting and prayer. Well done Year 4.

I have also seen fabulous home learning this week, and it is great to see so many children enthused in their learning both at home and school. Keep those power projects coming in...



We hosted two workshops this week for our Year 1 parents to find out more about early reading and for our Year 6 parents to find out more about SATs - both events were very well attended and we are so thankful for the continued support of our parents.

Reminder that we are looking forward to welcoming the Most Rev. Archbishop Bernard Longley to St. Mary's parish on the weekend of Saturday 25th January and Sunday 26th January. It would be wonderful to fill our Masses with families and children from St. Mary's. St. Mary's staff will be going to the family Mass on the Sunday. We are hoping to do something as a school and I will share this with you, when I know more.

Wishing you all a very happy weekend,

Mrs Yorke

Our children and staff are really worried about inconsiderate parking (this includes dropping off) and dangerous driving around St. Mary's...

A letter from the children of St. Mary's

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you on behalf of all the children at St. Mary's. We are worried about the parking around our school. We feel that the way you park and complete 3-point turns outside our school is dangerous. Also, as the days are getting darker, you might not see us - that puts us in danger.

Over the years, the School Council have tried lots of things to try and stop you parking outside of school. We raised money and worked with the PTA to buy bollards which were destroyed by cars running over them. We asked Mrs Yorke to write to you in her newsletters about your parking and feel ignored because you continue to park where you like. We are now writing to you directly.

There are lots of other places you can park around school. Such as, Waitrose, St. Mary's road and Ethel Road. There is also parking at Grove Park, which you could use.

The areas surrounding school- Vivian Close and Waterward Close are private. Therefore, you CANNOT park there either. Please respect our neighbours.

Vivian Road needs to be kept clear so that we are safe.
What if an ambulance needed to get past or in to school?
The barrier is even sometimes blocked and it wouldn't be able to get to us...
We need you to make a change.

Parking on double yellow lines outside a school is not permitted at any time, unless you have a Blue Badge and park for up to three hours.

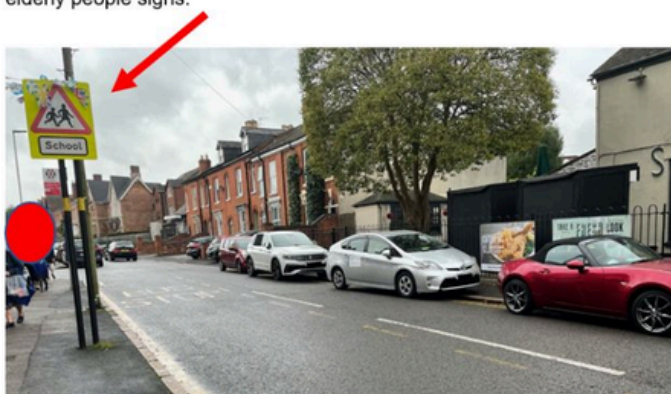
If the school has yellow zig zag lines with signs, you must follow the hours of operation.

Our school has signs that say no parking between 8am-4pm.

Kind regards,
Maggie, Victor and Jayne
(on behalf of all the children at St. Mary's.)



Some of our parents parking around school. You can clearly see the school sign and elderly people signs.



We know that so many of our parents park safely and share our concerns about parking around school. Many email school with photos that they have taken of illegal parking and ask what to do to help and to report dangerous dropping off, parking and driving...

This is what you can do to help it stop!!!



Report dangerous parking to the Police online

<https://betterstreetsforbirmingham.org/op-snap/>

Reportable driving offences include:

- close passes
- not stopping at a traffic light or pedestrian crossing
- dangerous driving
- using a mobile phone behind the wheel
- making a banned turn

You can also report obstructive parking. This include parking:

- on or next to zig zag markings
- over dropped kerbs with tactile paving
- in a place that forces a wheelchair user or double pram into the road

Or report directly to Birmingham City Council

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

School will:

- continue to approach our parents if we deem their driving, stopping or parking dangerous to our children and community
- take photos of any vehicles parked obstructively
- report any inconsiderate or illegal stopping, parking and driving

(please note stopping in the middle of the road and your children jumping out of the car is unsafe, inconsiderate and may be deemed illegal).

- work alongside parking officials, the council and the Police to improve the situation
- encourage parents to be vigilant and help us keep our school community safe

Please note:

Home school agreements are in place for all our families with children attending this school. This outlines that any behaviour deemed to be aggressive or unsafe may result in formal action from the Governors. This could include being banned from school activities and site. Our staff will challenge any behaviour and/or driving that is unsafe, inappropriate or aggressive. Please may we remind you that vehicles are not allowed on site at certain points of the day and to try to gain access at this time is not permitted; likewise blocking the school gates is not allowed at any time. These precautions are in place for the safety of the children, the staff and the community. We thank so many of our families who are always committed to safeguarding of the school premises and support the school ethos and rules.



Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer



Luke 3:16

'He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus' baptism revealed that He is God's beloved son and set an example for all believers to follow.
- Through baptism we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and are invited into God's family.
- The Holy Spirit guides us in living like Jesus and loving others as God's family too.



Year 1 Mass - 15.1.25

-The Baptism of our Lord

Year 1 led us in a beautiful Mass celebrating the Baptism of our Lord.



Our next Mass: - Y5 Mass for Refugees

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 22nd January 2025**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 5 will be leading this Mass and Year 6 will be there too.

All parents are welcome to attend.



Y2 listened to the story of the Baptism of our Lord and prayed quietly together.

Prayer

A group of Y6 children planned and led prayer and liturgy for their class about the Baptism of Jesus.

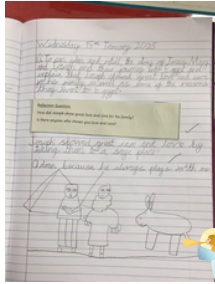


Look at our lovely RE learning this week: -

Reception children made different characters from the Christmas story.



Y1 reflected on how it would have felt to be present at the birth of Jesus.



Y2 retold the story of the Flight into Egypt.



Y3 wrote diary entries as Shepherds retelling how the Angels appeared to them.

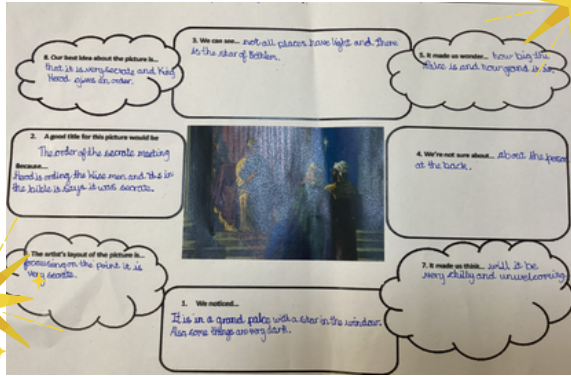
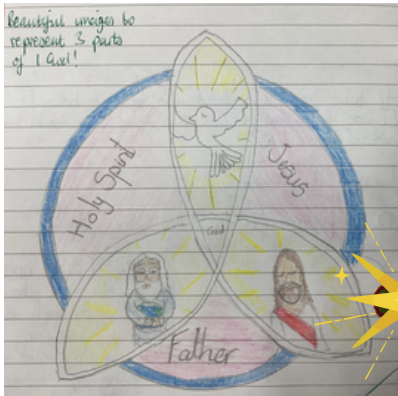
People					
Mary	Stood with a baby in her arms.	She was very happy.	She was very happy.	She was very happy.	She was very happy.
Joseph	He was very nervous.	He was very nervous.	He was very nervous.	He was very nervous.	He was very nervous.
Shepherds	They were very surprised.	They were very surprised.	They were very surprised.	They were very surprised.	They were very surprised.
Angels	They were very bright.	They were very bright.	They were very bright.	They were very bright.	They were very bright.



Y4 focused on how messages from the Angels changed the lives of characters from the Bible.



Y5 analysed artwork depicting the Wise Men and reflected on the faith of these men vs. the fear of Herod.



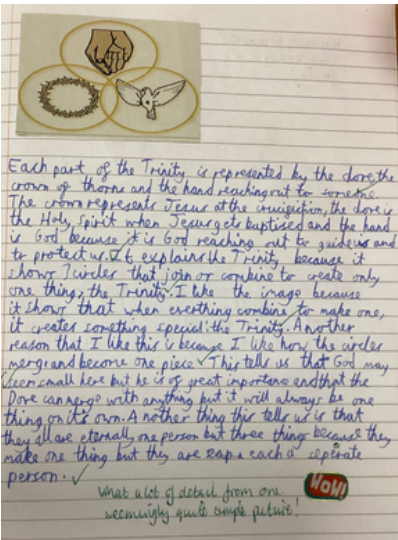
Y6 analysed and created their own artwork to explain the Trinity.



Y6 also read the Stonecutter's story and how it links to our BtK theme of Dignity of Work.



Y5 also wrote positive affirmations to strengthen their God-given gifts linking to the BtK theme of Dignity of Work.





Remarkable RE



You are Amazing!

Mrs Davis was very pleased to be able to present the first Remarkable RE awards this week. We are extremely proud of the children's work and their deep reflections.



Year 4 Prayer Assembly – 17.01.25



Year 4 led a beautiful Prayer Assembly today on the theme of The Baptism of Jesus. They have been thinking about the links between this and our Catholic Social Teaching themes.





Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 21.1.25

Year 3 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

3L will leave at 8:45am

3T will leave at 10:15am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 3 staff know.

Reception Writing Workshop

Wednesday 22nd January at 9am



On Wednesday 22nd January at 9am, we are hosting a Writing Workshop for Reception parents in the school hall. At the workshop, we will share the strategies we use to help the children with writing in school. Following this, we will bring your children up to the hall so they can work with you and provide different resources for you to use with your child and help you to support your child with different writing tasks at home.



Jubilee Launch Day - Friday 24th January

On Friday 24th January, all the Catholic schools and colleges in England and Wales are coming together to celebrate the launch of the Jubilee. We are so excited to be part of this special day to launch the Jubilee and pledge our commitment to the common good and to advance justice and harmony.



The theme of the Jubilee is 'Hope' and Pope Francis has called the global Church to celebrate the Jubilee together, with deep faith, lively hope, and active charity. We have lots of exciting things planned in school so watch this space and follow @StMaryBI7 on X for updates on our Jubilee launch.



hope

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:



Amy Davis	Louise Yorke	Rachel Jones	Rachel Richards	Sharon Tame	Laura Noone	Jade Preedy
Deputy Headteacher	Headteacher	Senior Teacher	EYFS Lead	School Counsellor	AHT	AHT
Lead DSL	Deputy DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL	DSL

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 Mrs. Davis.

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 13th January – 17th January

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	98%	99.6%	98.6%	98.6%	99.3%	89.5%	90.3%	91.6%	95%	96.3%	99%	96%	98.6%	99%
Lates	3	4	3	7	5	0	0	2	0	2	5	3	2	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.6%			School Target				97%	

Well done YRT: - our Attendance Champions

Dates for this half-term

Spring theme -

Spring 1 Virtues

21st January 2025 - am

22nd January 2025 - 9:00am

22nd January 2025 - 9:15am

24th January 2025- all day

28th January 2025 - am

29th January 2025 - all day

29th January 2025 - 9:15am

31st January 2025 - am

WB 3.2.2025

4th February 2025 - all day

4th February 2025 - am

5th February 2025 - 9:15am

6th February 2025 - 1:30pm

6th February 2025 - 4:00pm

WB 10.2.25

11th February 2025 - all day

12th February 2025 - am

14th February 2025 - 9:15am

14th February 2025 - end of day

Dignity of Work

Grateful and Generous

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

Early Writing Workshop for Reception parents

Year 5 Mass in Church (and Year 6 classes attend) - parents welcome

Jubilee Launch Day

Year 2 visit to Harborne library (8:45 2E and 10:15 2G)

Year 6 visit to St. Chad's visit

Year 2 Mass in Church (and Year 1 classes attend) - parents welcome

Author visit for Year 4 and Year 5

Children's Mental Health Week

World Mental Health dress-up day (organised by school council)

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:45 1F and 10:15 1L)

Year 4 Mass in Church (and Year 3 classes attend) - parents welcome

Year 2 INSPIRE workshop for parents

PTA meeting

Online Safety Week

Safer Internet Day

Reception Mass in Church (with Year 6 buddies) - parents welcome

Year 3 Year group Assembly

Break up for half-term break - normal time

Term Dates for Spring and Summer 2025: -

Spring Term	Monday 6th January - Friday 14th February
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 24th February - Thursday 17th April
Summer Term	Tuesday 6th May - Friday 23rd May
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 2nd June - Friday 18th July

INSET DAYS

- **Monday 17th March 2025**
- **Monday 21st July 2025 and Tuesday 22nd July 2025**

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Lilah-Grace	For working hard to do careful counting and improving her number recognition.
Year RT	Aoife	For always working hard to complete her independent learning.
Year 1F	Brando	For working hard in phonics and reading.
Year 1L	Alex	For trying so hard to join in with the responses in Mass.
Year 2E	Liam	For being a kind and hard-working member of the class!
Year 2G	Cara	For always trying her best.
Year 3L	Yoadan	For her super attitude to learning
Year 3T	Mieke	For trying incredibly hard this week to improve her writing by adding more detail.
Year 4J	Phoebe	For making an amazing model of the ear for our science topic on sound.
Year 4M	Yadiel	For being a shining example in our class and finishing most days on gold.
Year 5F	Gabriele	For the improvement in his learning and his wonderful home learning projects.
Year 5M	Joseph	For amazing home learning, every week.
Year 6O	Ingyeol	For settling into St Mary's wonderfully.
Year 6R	Tiffany	For her positive approach to all tasks and her willingness to help others.

