



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.

September is dedicated to Mary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Families and Community'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Curious and Grateful



13th September 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Each week in school we have a weekly theme which is linked to our Prayer life. We introduce this weekly theme in our Monday whole-school Gospel assembly and the children learn more in their classes and prayer time as the week goes on. Our theme this week has been Education Sunday. We have been praying for all the staff that work in schools across the World and we remind ourselves that those called to work in schools are serving a vocation. Today Fr. Hilary blessed our classrooms, teachers and children. We pray that the Lord watches over our St. Mary's family throughout this Academic Year and that we live and breathe our school mission, living our lives according to God's will. With this in mind, the children of St. Mary's have also been campaigning to become leaders and class representatives. The elections for school council, spiritual council, CAFOD club, RRSA representative, play leaders, prefects and Head boy/girl have begun and decisions are beginning to be made.

For next week's theme, we are celebrating God's wonderful creation and looking a little more deeply at Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* - where he compels all of us to do our part to protect Our Common Home. As part of our creation learning, we are having a fun Super Science week in school, which is very exciting.

At the start of each Academic Year, I do like to remind all parents about car safety around the school grounds. Our school gates are closed between 8am and 5pm every day as this is the time when we have children on site. The children move between the school main building and the canteen, they are also being dismissed from after school clubs up till 4:45pm most evenings. No parents should be driving on site between these times. If you need to access school between the hours of 8am and 4:45pm, please use the pedestrian gate. Please park responsibly before school when dropping off your children and after school when picking up. We often have traffic wardens and police who wear cameras when walking up and down the street - they then use this to issue fines. Additionally, school staff (and parents) report any illegal parking to the Council and with photographic evidence, fines will be issued. To ensure that this does not happen to you, please park legally and walk your child the remainder of the way to the school gate.

At the start of the day, children should be dropped off at the blue gate. An SLT member is on duty for any messages and to ensure that your child safely enters the school building. We reduce adults coming on site at this time for the safety of all children. If your child is late, (after 8:45am), an adult must walk them to the school office and sign them in so that they receive their registration mark. At pick-up, please do not allow the children or younger siblings to run around the car park as there has been damage to cars in the past, as a result of this.

I thank you for your co-operation with parking and safeguarding procedures. We have 350 families accessing school site and managing the volume of traffic keeps everybody safe.

Finally, we are beginning our charity work next week with a big cake sale on Friday morning. We invite any parents to join the School Council and have a hot drink and cake. Any remaining cakes can be bought by the children. We are asking for donations of cakes to support this. Please can any cakes be donated on Wednesday and Thursday next week. We would like shop bought and home-made cakes. If you are donating a home-made cake, please leave a list of ingredients with it for reference.

We hope that you enjoy the weekend and I will see you all on Monday.

Mrs Yorke



Catholic Life



This week's Gospel and Prayer

Mark 7:15

'Then looking up to Heaven, He sighed and said to him "Ephphatha", that is, "Be opened."'

A prayer for teachers

Lord, bless our inspirational teachers who give their heart and soul to teaching. Bless them beyond measure for their willingness to pour into the next generation through education. Give them the strength to lead and the patience and compassion to serve our children. May they know and feel the deep gratitude of those whom they teach. Amen.

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

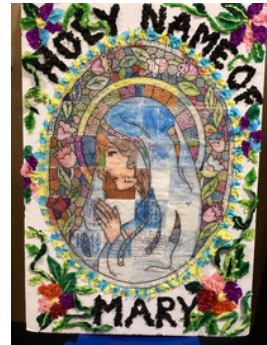
- Jesus heals and changes people by the power of God.
- If we allow Him, Jesus will open our ears and mouths so we can hear and share the Good News through our words and actions.



Whole School Mass - 11.9.24

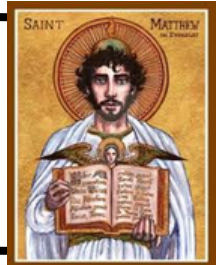
- Holy Name of Mary.

Thank you Year 6 for leading our Mass in the name of Mary. And thank you for such a beautiful piece of artwork, which will be displayed in our school foyer.



Next week's Mass: - Y2 Mass - St. Matthew

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 18th September 2024**, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 2 children will be leading our Mass and Year 1 children will attend too. All parents are welcome to attend.



Catholic Social Teaching: Save Harborne Library!!!



Some of our children feel very passionately about plans to close down our Harborne Library. The consultation is due to take place in September and our children want to be heard. We have invited local schools to join us in attending the consultation.

Child-led prayer



Our children are wonderful at leading prayer for the rest of their class. Throughout the school year, they will also lead prayer services for parents. Please look out for these! They are a joy to attend.

This week's news





RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS
unicef
UNITED KINGDOM

Article 12:

Every child has the right to say what they think should happen and have their views listened to.



12
RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS



- I can influence and take leadership roles in my school.
- I have a voice and I can express my opinions about things.
- I have a choice in who should be in leadership roles.

This week the children have been voting on who should be our school representatives...



Super Science Learning WB 16th September 2024

Next week, we have a Super Science Learning day in school, which is linked to our RE work about creation. Each year group have an exciting element of creation to explore linked to exciting Science Activities and our Building the Kingdom work.



Year 5 Harborne Library Visit - 17.9.24

Year 5 will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

5F will leave at 9:00am

5M will leave at 10:45am

If you are a parent who would like to attend and support walking to and from the library, please let the Year 5 staff know.

PTA welcome meeting for parents - 19.9.24 at 3:15pm



Reception parents - come and join us on **Thursday 19th 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!

School Council coffee morning - 20.9.24 at 9:00am

St. Mary's School Council invite you to our

Charity Coffee Morning.

Join us in the School Hall for a cuppa and cake from 9am - 10am on Friday 20th September.

All are welcome.

Donations received will go to our chosen charities.

Please send in cakes for us to sell at our coffee morning. We are looking for shop bought cakes or home-made. If sending home-made cakes in, please send ingredients in also. We will need cakes for Wednesday and Thursday next week. Then come join us for our coffee morning and support our School Council in their charity work.



Open Days

There are several open evenings taking place to support Secondary School choices - here are a few that have been sent to our enquiry box for your information....

discover
who you can be

Join us on Open Morning
9:30am-12pm
Saturday 14 September

 **OSH**
OLD SWINFORD HOSPITAL

+44(0)1384 817300
admissions@oshsch.com
Heath Lane, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1QX
www.oshsch.com



Old Swinford Hospital
Saturday 14th September,
9:30am - 12pm.



OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 18th September 2024
6pm - 8.30pm

To book your place visit
www.bishopchalloner.org.uk

GCSE 88% 4+, 65% 5+ in English and Maths

A Level 18% of A level grades at A*/A
48% of A level grades at A*/B
76% of A level grades at A*/C

A Level Destinations

76% attending university with 30% of those at Russell Group Universities
19% in apprenticeships, employment or Further Education
4% voluntary work/gap year
1% other

For admission enquiries email:
admissions@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

For special educational needs enquiries email:
send@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk



Scan here to
book your tickets

*Bishop Challoner
Wednesday 18th September
6pm - 8:30pm*



Comhaltas **Ceoltóirí Éireann** **Birmingham Branch**

Traditional Irish Music Classes

**at Bishop Challoner School,
Institute Road, Kings Heath B14 7EG
Thursday evenings at 7.00pm
from 12th September 2024
All ages and all instruments welcome.**

Contact:

**Branch Sec. belindahutchings@yahoo.com
Branch Chair, Marian Dwyer, Text 07939 094797**

Irish Music SESSION

**on the second Sunday of the
month at Norton's, Digbeth, B5 5LS
from 3.00pm onwards.**

Everyone Welcome

Regional Fleadh, Newman University, 6th April 2025

**All-Britain Fleadh, Bishop Challoner School, Kings Heath,
28th/29th June 2025**



School Fund

Our School Fund is a vital source of income for our school.

It pays for the 'extras' such as Inspire workshops, curriculum resources, Christmas activities, theatre or performances as well as subsidising school trips.

These 'extras' are enjoyed by all year groups at St Mary's throughout the year.

Contribution to this fund is entirely voluntary and we are very grateful to those parents who regularly support the school in this way. However, in the last few years the amount of school fund received has dropped quite significantly. There are probably many reasons for this, but perhaps the most obvious is remembering to send in a donation every year, half term or term.

We understand that some families may find donating to us difficult, especially with the current cost of living crisis. With that in mind we have decided to alter the way our donations are done and hopefully make it easier to maintain.

Several parents make their contribution by standing order and we are very grateful to them all.

As we have been accepted as a charity for tax purposes, we can claim the tax on donations to school fund by parents who are taxpayers if those parents sign a Gift Aid Declaration.

This means that for every pound you give we get an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation to go further.

Consequently, by setting up a standing order for say, £2 per month per child or £5 per month per family for parents with multiple siblings who attend St Mary's, you will guarantee the school a monthly income on which we can reclaim tax.

Please consider this option seriously. If you feel unable to sign up to a monthly payment, why not pay a one-off payment of £20 per child per year or £50 per family per year, again with a Gift Aid declaration.

A Gift Aid declaration and standing order form has been emailed out to our families. If you wish to gift aid your donations then please complete and return these to school at your earliest convenience.

*For those families who **do** wish to gift aid, we have set up the account listed below for donations.*

Account Name: St Marys School Fund – Gift Aid Account

*Sort Code: **30 - 19 - 14***

*Account Number: **03595246***

As always, we are extremely grateful for the support that we receive from the parents at St Mary's and appreciate you helping us be able to put on these events and treats for the children, which hopefully make their time at St Mary's more fun and memorable. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the school. We ask you to be assured of the confidential manner in which the school will treat your details.

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 09/09/24-13/09/24

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	87.1	88.4	99.6	97	99.3	97.3	96.6	98.9	99.2	99.3	99.3	99.3	97	98.3
Lates	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	1	0	2	4	2	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						98.3%		School Target				97%		

Well done 1L: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for next term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

2nd September 2024 - all day

3rd September 2024

WB 16th September 2024

17th September 2024 - am

18th September 2024 - 9:15am

19th September 2024 - 3:15pm

20th September 2024 - 9:00am

20th September 2024 - 10:30am

24th September 2024 - am

24th September 2024 - 3:45pm

25th September 2024 - 9:15am

26th September 2024 - 3:30pm

27th September 2024 - all day

30th September 2024

October 2024 - all month

October 2024 - all month

October 2024 - all month

1st October 2024 - all day

1st October 2024 - am

2nd October 2024 - 9:15am

3rd October 2024 - all day

3rd October 2024 - lunch time

3rd October 2024 - 3:30pm

4th October 2024 - all day

4th October 2024 - all day

4th October 2024 - 9:00am

WB 7.10.24

8th October 2024 - am

9th October 2024 - all day

9th October 2024 - 9:15am

Families and Communities

Curious and Active

NSET day - school closed to children

Children return to school at normal time 8:30-8:45am

Super Science Week in School

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 5F and 11:00 5M)

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

PTA welcome meeting for new Reception parents

Charity Coffee Morning run by School Council in the canteen

Cake sale for children - £1

Year 3 visit to Harborne library (9:15 3L and 11:00 3T)

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

Y3 Mass in Church (Y4 to attend) - Parents welcome

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

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

x-table Rockstar launch day - dress as a rockstar!

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

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

Y3T Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Therese of Lisieux

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4M and 11:00 4J)

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

National Poetry Day Competition

Themed Lunch in the canteen

PTA AGM meeting

Y5F Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Faustina

Y1F Non-school uniform day for their class Saint - St. Francis

Year 1 Prayer Service for parents

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Year 6 visit to Harborne library (9:15 6R and 11:00 6O)

School Photo Day

Year 4 Mass in Church (Y3 to attend) - Parents welcome

10th October 2024 - all day

11th October 2024 - 9:15am

15th October 2024 - all day

15th October 2024 - am

15th October 2024 - am

16th October 2024 - am

16th October 2024 - 9:15am

18th October 2024 - all day

18th October 2024 - 6pm

WB 21.10.24

21.10.24 and 22.10.24

21st October 2024 - all day

22nd October 2024 - am

22nd October 2024 - all day

22nd October 2024 - 3:30-6:00

23rd October 2024 - 9:15am

24th October 2024 - 3:30-6:00

24th October 2024 - normal time

25th October 2024 - all day

Hello Yellow World Mental Health Day - wear yellow

Year 6 Year Group Assembly

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

Year 5 visit to Harborne library (9:15 SM and 11:00 SF)

Y3L - Lapworth museum visit

Y3T - Lapworth museum visit

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

Y1L Non-school uniform day for St. Luke feast day

PTA Fundraising - Children's disco

School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair

PTA enrichment event in school for all children

Year 6 flu vaccination in school

Year 4 visit to Harborne library (9:15 4J and 11:00 4M)

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

Parent Consultation Evening

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

Parent Consultation Evening

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

INSET day - School closed to children

School Dates - 2024-2025

Autumn Term	Tuesday 3rd September - Thursday 24th October
	<i>Half-term</i>
	Monday 4th November - Friday 20th December
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

Star of the week

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

<i>Year 1F Nibe'</i>	<i>For his wonderful writing in English</i>
<i>Year 1L Mia</i>	<i>For her excellent learning attitude and kindness</i>
<i>Year 2E Asha</i>	<i>For working hard and always following class rules</i>
<i>Year 2G Rahzayne</i>	<i>For work extremely hard in all areas of his learning!</i>
<i>Year 3L Wayne</i>	<i>For striving for excellence in all of his learning</i>
<i>Year 3T Tesslisanda</i>	<i>For always showing excellent sitting, looking and listening throughout the week.</i>
<i>Year 4J Theodore</i>	<i>For participation in class and always being ready to share his thoughts and ideas.</i>
<i>Year 4M Peter</i>	<i>For working hard in lessons and being active in helping around the classroom.</i>
<i>Year 5F Oscar</i>	<i>For his fantastic attitude and effort this week!</i>
<i>Year 5M Abigail L</i>	<i>For always being an active participant in every lesson and always trying her best.</i>
<i>Year 6O Shaun</i>	<i>For demonstrating a deep understanding of the Bible during class discussions</i>
<i>Year 6R Hanna</i>	<i>For showing great resilience working through practice SATs questions this week</i>

