



Archdiocese of Birmingham

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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[www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](http://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

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

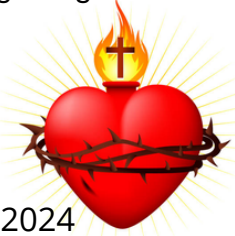


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

### 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: - 'Learned and Wise'



23rd June 2024

Dear parents and carers,

We have had an eventful week in school with Fathers' Day Inspire and a wonderful end to the week with our St. Mary's Party in the Playground. It was fantastic to see the whole school community come together for the event and to support the PTA fundraising efforts. A special thank you to those on the PTA who made it possible and to those who volunteered, including St. Mary's staff who gave their time and stayed to clear up. These events are vital to our fundraising, it was unfortunate that school property was damaged and so much litter was left - I will be looking with the PTA at ways to improve this going forward, including a rule which means that no child under 16, will be admitted without an adult supervising them. We will announce the amount made in a future newsletter. Today, our St. Mary's choir represented the school singing at the Harborne Carnival. Thank you Mrs McConnell for your work with the choir - they sang beautifully.

Please can I also take this opportunity to remind you about our expectations for clothing on non-uniform days - crop tops or tops that display midriffs are not permitted in school. We will telephone parents and request alternative clothing be brought into school if these tops are worn on non-uniform days. Also, please consider your child/ren's footwear and ensure that it is suitable for school e.g.: no unsecured shoes such as flip flops, sliders etc.

Parents are beginning to ask about the children's teachers / classes for next year. I do not announce this to parents before the children. The children will meet their new teachers and find out which class they are in on Wednesday 3rd July. If the decision is made to mix classes, I will inform parents, in writing, before the 3rd July, otherwise assume that the children are moving up with their current class. I will confirm the classes and their teachers in the Friday newsletter on Friday 5th July. Please do not speculate about staffing and classes as mis-information can be dangerous. I do not share any staffing decisions with anybody other than school staff and Governors and I am aware of some things being said at the moment which are inaccurate. As always, if you do have any individual concerns, you may make an appointment to speak with me or a member of SLT, but please be assured that we have rigorous systems in place for transition.

We are currently collecting data and writing school reports - as last year, the plan is to email reports, so please make sure that the office has your most up to date email address (for both parents).

Please take note that school is closed to children on Thursday 4th July for the General Elections, as we're a polling station. I hope you have had a lovely weekend, enjoying the weather and Euros.

Mrs Yorke

## *This week's Gospel and Prayer*

*'He also said, "What can we say the kingdom of God is like?  
What parable can we find for it?"'*

*Mark 4:30*

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Small things and small actions can lead to greater things
- God plants the seeds of His Kingdom – love, peace and joy – and invites us to help them grow here on Earth
- We can help God's Kingdom grow through our loving words and actions.

*Our Father, who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.*

### **Year 5 Mass - 19.6.24 - SS. John Fisher and Thomas More**

*Year 5 led a beautiful Mass this week in celebration of SS. John Fisher and Thomas More.*



### **Whole School Mass - St. Peter and Paul**

Our next Mass in Church will be on Friday 28th June 2024, starting promptly at 9:30am. All children and staff will be attending Mass. All parents are welcome to attend.



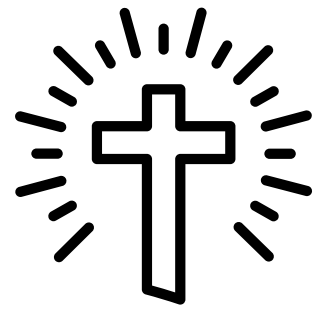
### **St. Mary's Choir**

*Well done to St. Mary's choir for representing our school today at the Harborne Carnival.  
Thank you so much to Mrs McConnell for all you do for our choir.*



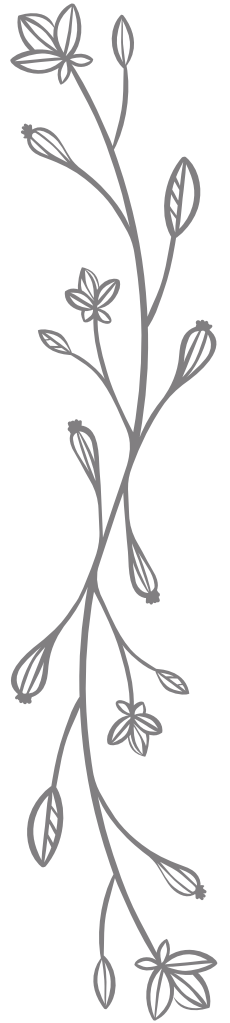
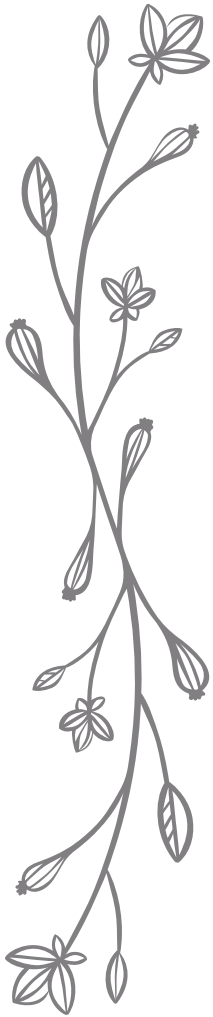


# Catholic Life

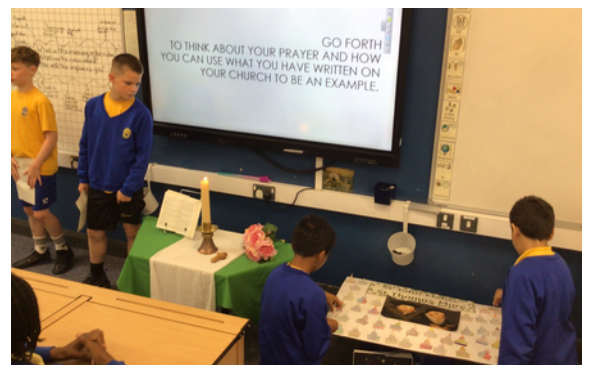


For each unit of work, our classroom RE displays celebrate the children's learning.

They help the children to remember important vocabulary and showcase what the children have learnt.



## Child-led Prayer and Liturgy



Ahead of their Mass, Year 5 led prayer and liturgy in their classrooms dedicated to SS. John Fisher and Thomas. The children organised the prayer and offertory for their Mass beautifully.

Reception news: -

Reception adapted their outdoor learning area for Refugee Week. They made a garden of hope for Refugees, and made a home for refugees using the community play.



Year 1 news: -

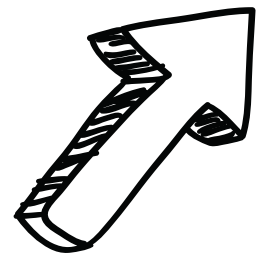
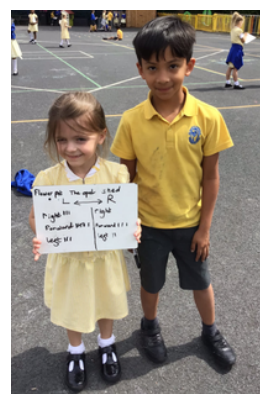
Year 1 created some beautiful cards in celebration of Eid al-Adha this week.

Eid Mubarak



Year 2 news: -

In Maths this week, Year 2 used positional language to direct their partners around the playground.



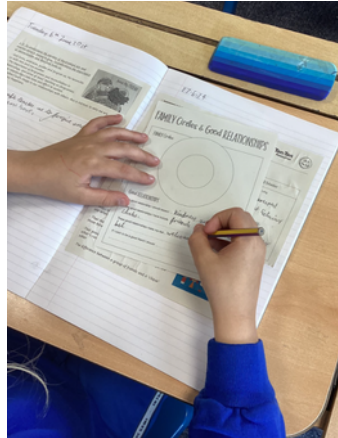
Year 3 news: -

Year 3 created and presented posters all about Jane Colden, a famous botanist, in Science.



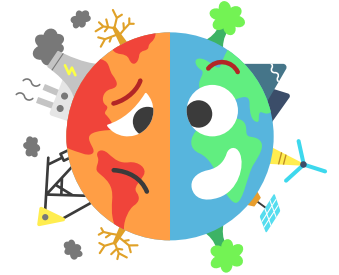
### Year 4 news: -

In RSE, Year 4 discussed how to maintain and develop good, positive and trusting relationships and strategies to use when relationships go wrong.



### Year 5 news: -

Year 5 completed their climate change relay race this week! They have been learning all about greenhouse gases and the harmful effect they have on our world, in their Geography lessons.



### Year 6 news:-

Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful retreat at Alton Castle – more pictures later on!



# SPORT SUCCESS

Well done to our girls who began the netball league this week at Bournville School. We saw some fantastic netball skills and teamwork and we're looking forward to future games.



Congratulations to Nibé, who competed in the mini-athletics event in London last Saturday. He was the only one from Birmingham and had a great time. He won all his races (against year 1s and 2s). We're incredibly impressed! Well done Nibé.



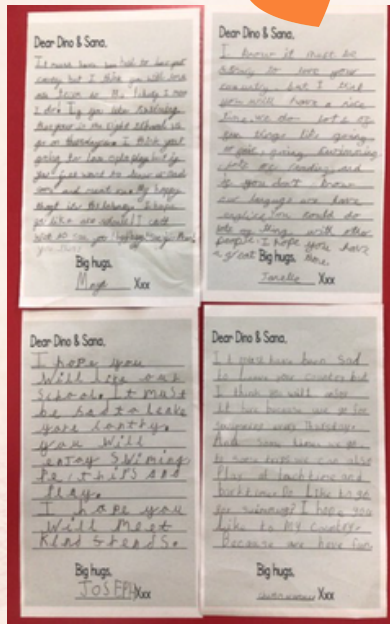


# Refugee Week



School of  
**SANCTUARY AWARD**  
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

Year 3 thought about how a refugee might feel and what they go through. The children created comic strips of Sana (a refugee) and her toy dinosaur's journey



Year 1 acted out the story 'The Journey'. The children played the different characters in the story and explained how they feel and why.



Year 2 watched a video about a little girl and her dinosaur who had to flee their country due to war. They imagined they were coming to St. Mary's and wrote them letters to make them feel welcome

Thank you for your kind donations for St Chad's Sanctuary.



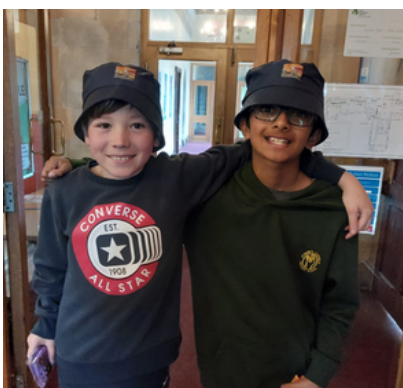
Year 4 wrote beautiful letters to a refugee for Refugee Week.



God our refuge,  
fill our hearts with your love  
and move us to reach out to all those who are in need,  
so that everyone may have  
a safe and welcoming  
place to live.  
Amen.

# Year 6 Residential - Alton Castle

Year 6 had a wonderful time at Alton Castle this week. The theme of the retreat was 'follow' and the children spent time meditating and reflecting on how they could be a follower of Jesus. The highlight of the retreat was a beautiful Mass at the Church in the grounds of Alton Castle (John the Baptist) led by Fr. Chris Yule. Our children read eloquently and served with reverence at the Mass. Alongside their spiritual time together, the children enjoyed a range of fantastic activities including trekking, mountain biking, low ropes, survival skills etc. We even celebrated a birthday too! The children were kept very busy and returned home tired, but happy and full of the Holy Spirit! Thank you to our staff for giving up your time too - without you these lovely experiences couldn't happen!





# Father's Day Inspire Workshops



A big thank you to everyone who attended our Father's Day Inspire Workshops this week - we hope you enjoyed spending time with your child/ren and sampling a range of different activities! It was great to see everyone together and we are thrilled with the wonderful feedback we received from the day! Thank you.



**We were given 4.76 out of 5 in our feedback**



*"The karate, playdough and parachute was such fun"*



**You all felt that the event was really well organised**



**100% of those who gave feedback felt that you could participate in your activities**

*"Really enjoyed it and meeting other parents"*

*"Very well organised. Ran smoothly. Teachers friendly. Great to have refreshments and being allowed to go in and out of activities to get these."*



*"Loved the French dance, great to learn how they learn a new language in a fun way"*



*"Football rounders - it was simple, good fun"*



*"These days are wonderful and they need to happen more. I understand the constraints placed on schools to operate these type of days but I also think they add a lot of enrichment to school life"*



*"Thank you for an enjoyable and very well organised afternoon. It was nice to work with multiple year groups."*

*"Enjoyed all the activities - lovely to play with my children"*

*"Thank you for the great efforts"*



*Premier Education returned to school for KS2's final Wow Active session of the year. The children enjoyed seeing how much their fitness levels had improved since the start of the year!*

**Year 3**



**Year 4**



**Year 5**



**Year 6**





Birmingham  
loves libraries



# Poster Competition For Children



Draw, paint, create...  
"Why I love my library"

One book + a gift token +  
certificate for the overall  
winner for each library.  
One book + certificate for  
each school's winner



Entries by Friday June 28th



- Open to children aged 7-11
- One winner per school  
and
- One overall winner



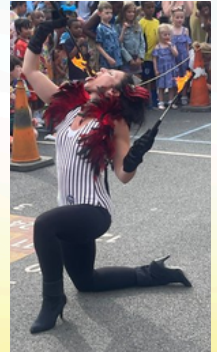
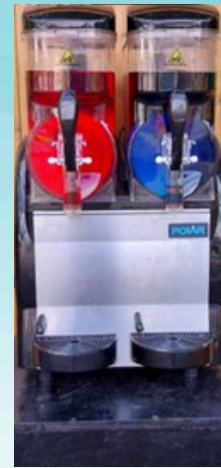
Keep the  
library open!



Entries must be A4 size. All entries must have the pupil's full name, age and primary school name written on the back of the entry. Limit of one entry per student. Must be a student in the area of the local library. **Closing Date: Friday, June 28th, 2024.** Bulk entries will be collected from each school on the closing date. Entries will not be accepted after that date. Winners should attend the library event on July 13th, 2024 where the prizes will be awarded. We will request permission from parents of winners to accept that promotional photos will be taken to support the local library campaign. Contact: [Zoe.darlington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Zoe.darlington@hotmail.co.uk)

# St. Mary's Summer Fair

We had such an amazing time at our Summer Fair, organised by the PTA.



St Mary's RC School  
**PTA**  
Parent-Teacher Association  
Charity No. 1180380





**THE STRINGS CLUB**

Enter promo code **STMARYS2024** for 10% off

**EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY CAMP DISCOUNT FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S**

Make your child's Summer Holidays unforgettable!

Join our award-winning Holiday Camps in Birmingham

Secure your place today

[WWW.THESTRINGSCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.THESTRINGSCLUB.ORG)

Childcare Vouchers Accepted




Rated 5-star by hundreds of parents



Images © of Paul Corbano



The Strings Club is passionate about creating unforgettable experiences for children aged 4-11 that deliver the very best in childcare and music education, every school holiday.

Since 2012, we've opened our doors to nearly 500,000 children, and we're thrilled that our Ofsted-registered Holiday Camps are at your child's school.

## WHY JOIN THE STRINGS CLUB?



- + Age specific activities for 4-7s/8-11s
- + Morning sessions in guitar, violin or ukulele
- + FREE to hire instrument - even to take home

- + One trained adult to 8 children - for all ages
- + Book from 1 day to the whole experience
- + Discounts including 10% sibling discount & tax free childcare



- + Different theme every week
- + Afternoon workshops, from sport to art to drama
- + Daily Diaries and Newsletters - with access to gallery

Celebrate your child's new musical skills at our Grand Concert, where you can see what they've learnt with their new friends!



**SIGN UP TODAY**

[WWW.THESTRINGSCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.THESTRINGSCLUB.ORG)



0121 296 9204 or connect via social



## Notices



### Parent Governor Election

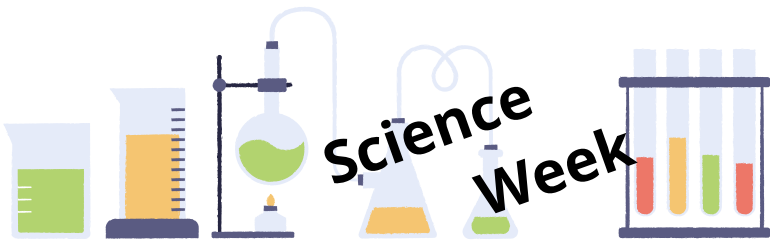
St Mary's Catholic Primary School has an opening for a new parent governor!

We are on the lookout for a professional parent of a child under the age of 18 from the local area who would like to apply for this voluntary position.

This does not have to be a parent of a St Mary's pupil just someone who has an interest in Governance and is interested in contributing to the strategic direction of the school and our participation in the wider community.

If you are interested in this role then please email -

Mrs Reeson: [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk) before 28th June 2024 for more information.



### **Tolkien Science Week - WB 24.6.24**

We are taking part in Bishop Challoner's Science Week alongside other schools within our Catholic cohort of schools. The children will be enjoying all things Science, with a magic live lesson too.

### **Reception Harborne Library Visit - 25.6.24**

Reception class will be visiting Harborne Library next Tuesday.

RB will leave at 8:50am

RT will leave at 10:20 am

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



### **Year 3 School Trip - 25.6.24**

Year 3 are off to Selly Manor on Tuesday 25th June.

As part of their history topic, Year 3 are learning all about the Tudors. This trip will enhance their learning about the start of the Tudor reign, Henry VIII and his family and the reformation. Children will return to school before the end of the school day. Please refer to your letter for further information.



### *Future dates for the diary*



### *Wednesday 3rd July 2024*

Children will meet their new class teachers - please make sure that your child is in this day.



### **RE: General Election**

### **Thursday 4th July**

As we are a polling station, school will be closed to all children on

• **Thursday 4th July 2024**



### *Friday 5th July 2024*

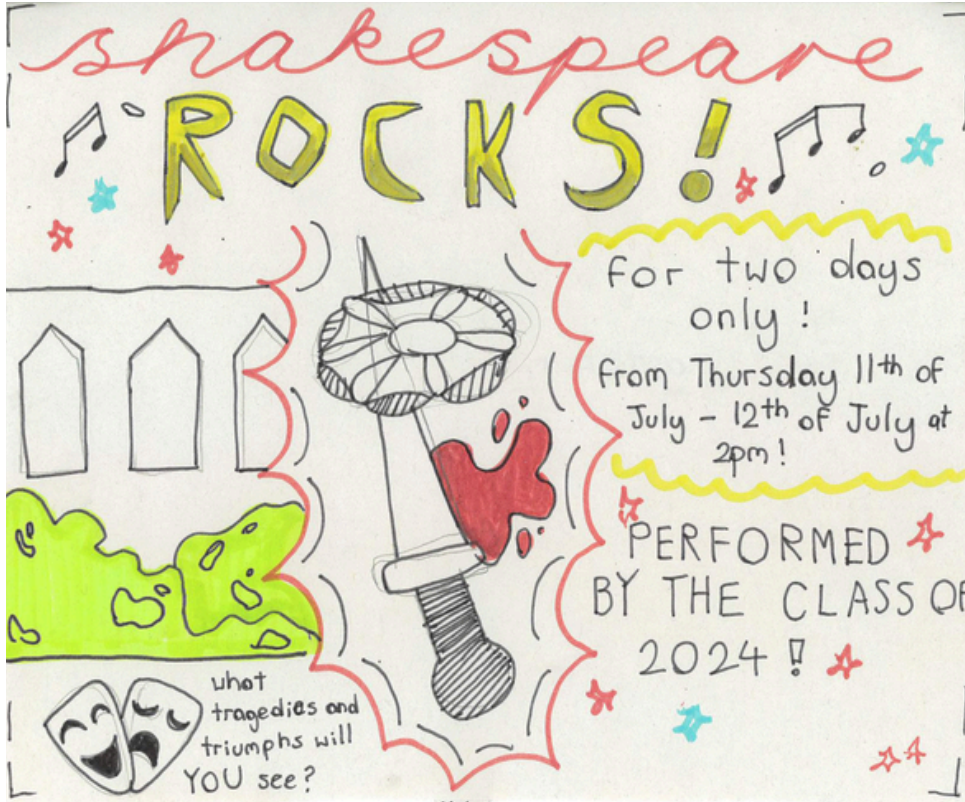
9:00-10:00 = Reception class

10:30-11:30 = Year 1 and Year 2

1:30-3:00 = Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

We have made plans for our Sports Day to be on Friday 5th July 2024.

The timings are above and we are hoping for good weather.



## Shakespeare Rocks

Not long now to our Year 6's perform one last time at St. Mary's in their show -

Shakespeare Rocks

Year 6 are putting on two performances of Shakespeare Rocks for Y6 parents only.

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

Performances are:

**11th July at 2:00pm**

**12th July at 2:00pm**

## Year 6 Leavers Mass - Wednesday 17th July 2024 - 9:30am

We will be celebrating Year 6 and their time at St. Mary's with a whole school Leavers Mass on Wednesday 17th 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 19th 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.



Registration for Grammar Schools open - Year 5 pupils  
Registration is now open for parents of current Year 5 pupils who would like their child to sit the entrance test for The Grammar Schools in Birmingham, for entry to Year 7 in September 2025. Registration can be made online by visiting the website below.

The closing date for registering is 4pm on Friday 28th June 2024.  
The test will take place on Saturday 14th September 2024.

Birthdays - no sweets or cakes...

If it is your child's birthday, they can wear their own clothes to school.

This is a visual sign that it is their special day and

they will receive many good wishes from their peers and teachers.

We ask that children do not bring in sweets or cakes to give out.

We have this rule to protect children who may have allergies. Thank you.



This is an Operation Encompass School

# KEEPING SAFE

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



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators  
**PROMOTING PHYSICAL WELLBEING**

Physical activity isn't only beneficial for our bodies, it also plays a role in promoting mental wellbeing. With both the Euros and the Olympics this summer, it's an opportunity to engage young people in regular exercise which can reduce stress, improve mood and boost self-esteem. Imagine these benefits, every children have access to participating in physical activity.

- 1 MAKE IT FUN**  
Experiences activities that children can see as playing games or learning. Encourage participation in team sports, or get involved in their school games and a range of...
- 2 MIX MOVEMENT WITH LEARNING**  
Educational settings can use the opportunity to mix movement with learning. Encourage children to participate in physical activity during lessons, such as using a whiteboard to learn spelling words, or using a ball to learn multiplication tables.
- 3 CREATE OPPORTUNITIES**  
Provide clear channels for physical activity throughout the day. Both indoors and outdoors, before and after school, during breaks, and during lessons. While learning can be fun, it's also important to ensure that children have time to rest and recharge.
- 4 PROVIDE POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT**  
Praise and encouragement is vital for their confidence and motivation. Celebrate their achievements, both big and small, and encourage them to continue to participate in physical activity.
- 5 VARIETY IS KEY**  
Introduce a variety of physical activities to keep children engaged and prevent boredom. Encourage them to try different types of activities, such as team sports, individual activities, and outdoor games.
- 6 MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE**  
Ensure that all children have access to physical activity. Consider the needs of children with disabilities and those who may not have access to outdoor spaces.
- 7 SET REALISTIC GOALS**  
Help children set achievable physical activity goals. Encourage them to set specific, measurable, achievable, and time-bound goals.
- 8 MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE**  
Ensure that all children have access to physical activity. Consider the needs of children with disabilities and those who may not have access to outdoor spaces.
- 9 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**  
Parents and carers can be a positive role model for their children. Encourage them to participate in physical activity with you, and show them that you value physical activity as a part of your lifestyle.
- 10 ENCOURAGE PERSISTENCE**  
Help children develop a positive attitude towards physical activity. Encourage them to persevere through challenges and setbacks, and celebrate their progress.

Meet Our Expert  
Adam O'Hara is a training and development specialist who, as well as working for the National College, is also a qualified personal trainer and a large secondary school in Birmingham. He was contacted for the expert opinion research project for the Department for Education. One of only three school leaders to be asked to do so.

WakeUpWednesday  
The National College

@wake\_up\_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake\_up\_wednesday | @wake\_up\_weds

## #WakeUpWednesday - Promoting Physical Wellbeing

With the Euros in full swing, plenty of children are taking to the pitch but perhaps we can keep them active all year round. This #WakeUpWednesday is full of expert tips on promoting physical wellbeing to young people.





# Joyful June 2024

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



1 Decide to look for what's good every day this month

2 Say positive things in your conversations with others

3 Re-frame a worry and try to find a helpful way to think about it

4 Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it

5 Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down

6 Get out into green space and feel the joy that nature brings

7 Do something healthy which makes you feel good

8 Find joy in music: sing, play, dance, listen or share

9 Ask a friend what made them happy recently

10 Bring joy to others by doing something kind for them

11 Eat good food that makes you happy and really savour it

12 Write a gratitude letter to thank someone

13 Take a light-hearted approach. Choose to see the funny side

14 Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you

15 Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it

16 Speak to others in a warm and friendly way

17 Take time to notice things that you find beautiful

18 Look for something good in a difficult situation

19 Get outside and find the joy in being active

20 Rediscover and enjoy a fun childhood activity

21 Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement

22 Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh

23 Create a playlist of uplifting songs to listen to



24 Bring to mind a favourite memory you feel grateful for

25 Show your appreciation to people who are helping others

26 Make time to do something playful, just for the fun of it

27 Be kind to you. Do something that brings you joy

28 Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people

29 Share a friendly smile with people you see today

30 Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to it)

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



## 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.

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 the last week of term was –

Week 17/06-21/06

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99	96.3	95.3	93.6	95.3	97	98	99.3	95	98.3	97	98.6	93.2	96.2
Lates	4	4	0	4	1	1	0	1	0	5	4	1	3	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.3%			School Target				97%	

Well done 3T: - Our attendance champions!

# Dates for this Term

Summer theme -

Summer 2

WB 24th June 2024

25th June 2024 - am

25th June 2024 - all day

28th June 2024 - 9.30am

1st July 2024 - 3:45-4:30

2nd July 2024 - am

2nd July 2024 - 3:45-4:45

3rd July 2024 - all day

4th July 2024 - all day

5th July 2024 - all day

11th July 2024 - 2pm

12th July 2024 - 2pm

17th July 2024 - 9.30am

19th July 2024 -

Stewardship

Learned and Wise

Tolkien Science Week

Reception class visit to Harborne library (8:50 RB and 10:20 RT)

Year 3 school trip to Selly Manor

Whole School Mass - St. Peter and Paul

KS1 piano concert in school hall

Year 1 visit to Harborne library (8:50 1L and 10:20 1F)

KS2 piano concert and guitar concert in school hall

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

Polling Day - school closed to children

Sports Day (9:00-10:00 YR; 10:30-11:30 KS1; 1:30-3:00 KS2)

Year 6 performance to parents - 'Shakespeare Rocks'

Year 6 performance to parents - 'Shakespeare Rocks'

Year 6 Leavers Mass (Y6 parents welcome)

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

# Star of the week

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

- Year RB Lucas For writing a beautiful prayer to God to say thank you for the sea creatures
- Year RT Amanda For having a wonderful first week at St Mary's!
- Year IF Charlie For making fantastic progress with his writing.
- Year IL Rahzayne For making wonderful progress!
- Year 2E Paris For working hard in all of her writing
- Year 2G Georgie For being a kind and caring friend
- Year 3L Amalie For her fantastic hard-working and helpful attitude!
- Year 3T Lucy For her excellent historical knowledge about the Tudors!
- Year 4J Ben Always being thoughtful in his learning
- Year 4M Isabella For her hard-working attitude and trying her best
- Year 5F Erina For writing an excellent advert and completing all of her work to the highest standard.
- Year 5M Eyobel For working super hard across the curriculum, but especially in writing!
- Year 6O Katy For living out the mission of our retreat this week: living as a true follower of Christ.
- Year 6R George For demonstrating excellent teamwork at Alton Castle



# Star of the week

*Due to a slight error last week, please see the correct list of children for week ending 14/06*

Year RB	Anna	Trying very hard with her writing
Year RT	Marta	For always being such a wonderful role model in our class!
Year IF	Zoey	For her fantastic, exciting writes!
Year IL	Ava	For being a fantastic role model!
Year 2E	Raika	For being a hard working and polite member of our class
Year 2G	Anji	Excellent RE work and showing respect when visiting church.
Year 3L	Tobi	For really trying hard this week with his behaviour and learning!
Year 3T	Marta	For always trying her best and living out the virtues daily
Year 4J	Safa	For showing super behaviour in class.
Year 4M	Elsie	For always trying her best with everything she does.
Year 5F	Matthew	For having an excellent start to his St. Mary's journey
Year 5M	Adam	For amazing progress in his Exciting Writing
Year 6O	Iris	For her politeness and willingness to help out in class
Year 6R	Joshua	6R Joshua D For his enthusiasm, positivity and exemplary behaviour

