



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: Miss L. J. Price 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.

May is dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, Mary

Our theme for the Summer term is: 'Stewardship'

Our virtues for this half term are: - 'Grateful and Generous'



6th May 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Happy Easter! Alleluia! I do hope that you all had a wonderful Easter break and managed to catch up with friends and family. Since returning, we have started our new overarching Summer theme of Stewardship and throughout the term, the children will be exploring how best to 'care for our one common home' and protect it.

Our scripture focus "All of Heaven and Earth belongs to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 10:14), drives our work.

Our stunning starts to our new topics have also begun with Year 1 baking gingerbread people, Year 4 re-enacting the Battle of Hastings and Year 5 working with the Shakespeare Company.

As we are now in the month of May, we will be crowning Our Blessed Mother Mary after Mass on 25th May.

*You are most welcome to attend Mass with us on that day. This year, we are asking that any flowers donated to school for Our Lady are **potted plants**. As a school we are working towards the CAFOD live simply award and are doing all we can to be sustainable. The next couple of weeks are important weeks in school for the children completing their statutory tests. Next week, Year 6 will complete their SATs and they have all worked so hard to prepare. Have a good rest this weekend and an early night on Sunday.*

Miss Price

Gospel Focus

John 21: 1-19

"Jesus took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish.

This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead"

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- Jesus, the Son of God, is alive today!
- Jesus loves us and wants to feed us.
- We can trust Jesus to feed us and provide for our needs.

Dear Jesus,

We want to get closer to you.

You give us all we need.

Guide us on our way.

Help us to remember to look to you, look to ourselves and look to others.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

YR Mass in Church - 11.5.22 at 9:15am - 4th Week of Easter

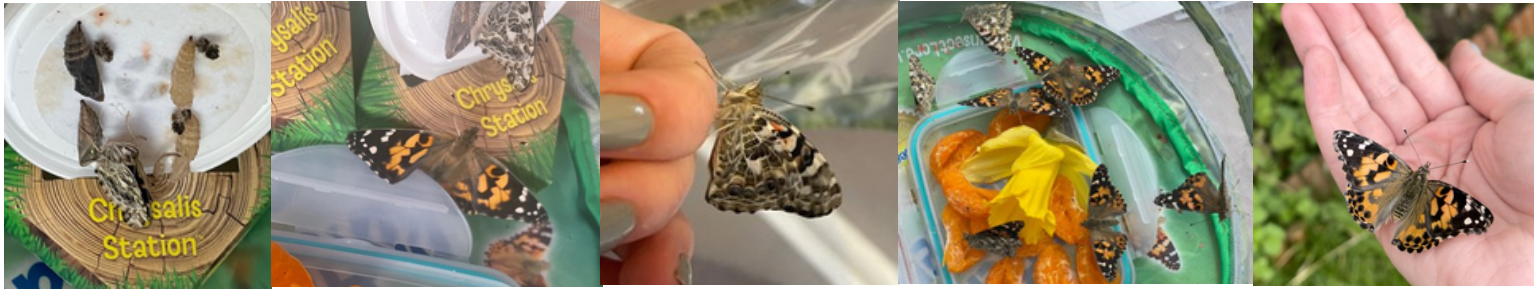
Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 11th May 2022, starting promptly at 9:15am.

Reception pupils and staff will be leading us in our first Mass after Easter break and they will be accompanied by Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. Parents from Years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are welcome to attend. **(If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings and to sit in the old part of the Church on the left hand side).**



It was fabulous to see so many of you continuing to interact with us over Easter break to show some of the wonderful things you were getting up to. Here are some of our favourites...

Reception class caterpillars emerged as beautiful Painted Lady Butterflies.



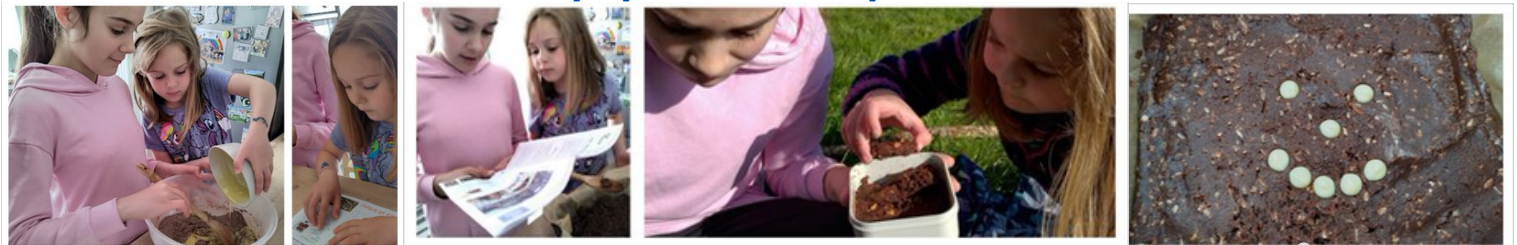
St Mary's love reading and the children found new and exciting places to enjoy their books (and newspapers).



Many entered our Queen Portrait competition and 'got arty' over the break.



Some of you were inspired to bake, following the recipe in our pupil newspaper - 'The Pupils' Voice;



Many of you enjoyed the Easter football holiday club ran by Ben Markall.



We welcome all parents to tag us in with what your children are doing on twitter by using [@StMaryB17](https://twitter.com/StMaryB17)

Reception news: -

Reception class have been declaring "alleluia" this week



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 learnt about attacking and defending, and applied this in a game of 'Stuck in the mud'



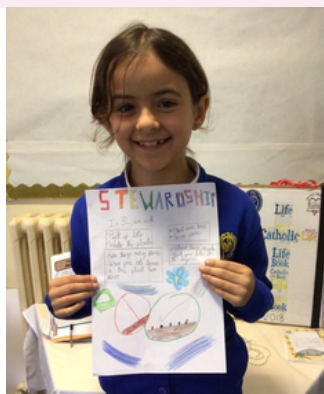
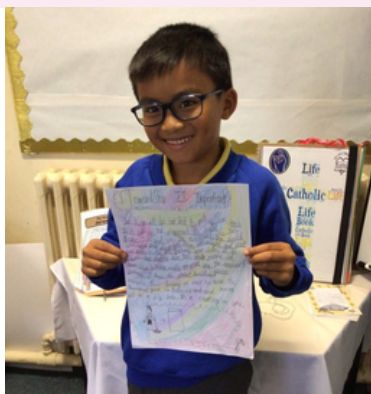
Year 2 news: -

Year 2 have been exploring the beautiful variety of plants in our school grounds.



Year 3 news: -

Year 3 have been learning about what it means to be a Steward of our faith and created their own Class Charters with ways we can protect our world for the future.



Year 4 news: -

Year 4 made shields and then used them to re-enact the Battle of Hastings.



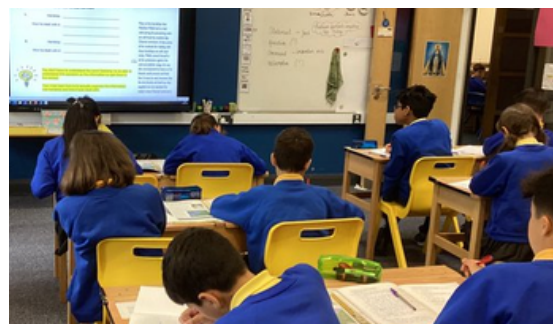
Year 5 news: -

Year 5 enjoyed interacting with the Shakespeare Theatre Company to learn more about the Tempest, a text that they have been reading in class.



Year 6 news: -

Year 6 have been revising really hard for their SATs next week but still playing games as part of their revision and running the daily mile for their brain breaks





The Great Bug Hunt Competition

To enter, all you have to do is identify a local habitat, explore the minibeasts that live there and record your findings in any way you choose (posters, poems, tally charts, etc)!
 Entries to be handed into Miss Smyth by 5/6/22.

Platinum Portraits Competition

The children will be judging our entries for the Platinum Portraits Competition next week before we send them off to be formally judged. The shortlisted entries will be displayed on Harborne High St. in the weeks leading up to the Jubilee.



Maternity News



Mrs McConnell

Mrs. McConnell

We are delighted to announce that Mrs. McConnell and her husband are expecting their second child at the end of the Summer.



Mrs Richards

Mrs. Richards

Mrs. Richards will soon be going on maternity leave and her last day working in the school building will be **Friday 20th May**.



Miss Ruhan

Miss Ruhan

Miss. Ruhan will soon be going on maternity leave and her last day working in the school building will be **Friday 27th May**.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing our expectant mums all the best as they prepare for their new arrivals.

Next Week

SATs Week for Year 6

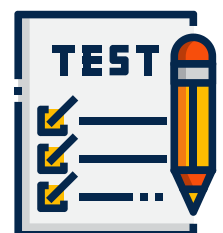
Children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs Tests from **Monday 9th to Friday 13th May 2022**.

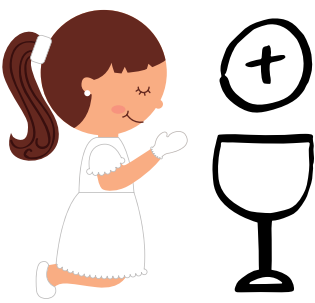
All Year 6 children are required to be in school at 8am, every day, Monday – Thursday, during SATs week.

Please make sure that the children go to bed early next week and are well rested ahead of their tests.

Monday 9th May	Tuesday 10th May	Wednesday 11th May	Thursday 12th May
Reading Test 45 minutes (plus 15 minutes reading time)	Writing Test (Short) 20 minutes Spelling Test 10 minutes	Mental Mathematics Test 20 minutes	Mathematics Test B 45 minutes
	Writing Test (Long) 45 minutes	Mathematics Test A 45 minutes	

THIS WEEK





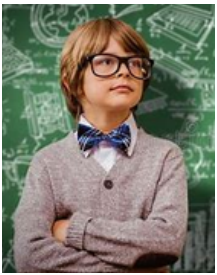
Holy Communion Retreat

On **Tuesday 10th May 2022**, we have a very special day planned for our Year 3 children. One Life Music are returning to St. Mary's to help prepare the children for the Sacrament of Holy Communion next month. Through music, prayer, team building, plenty of fun and specially designed activities, the retreat will gently strengthen the faith of the entire year group, whilst focusing on Jesus the giver of life.



PTA meeting

Our next PTA meeting will be on **Thursday 12th May 2022** at 3:30pm. Meetings are often in the evening, however we are trialling this new time to see if more parents can make the meetings at this time. Children that attend St. Mary's will be able to stay in one of our classrooms during the meeting if no other provision is available.



Swap clothes fundraiser

Our School Council have organised a swap clothes fundraiser on **Friday 13th May 2022**, as they are hoping to make enough money to buy water fountains for our school playground. The School Council would like pupils to come in dressed as the teachers and for teachers to come in dressed as the pupils, and to donate £1 to the school fund.

Reminders

Hair styles

Pupils are **NOT ALLOWED** two-toned hair colours in school. We will be speaking to any parents in violation of our uniform policy. Large bows, hair accessories and dyed hair is also **not allowed**. Extreme hair styles and shaved lines are also **not allowed**. All hair styles must be plain and sensible and not a distraction to others. All long hair needs to be tied back.



Summer uniform

Children are now able to wear their Summer Uniform, which consists of a yellow Summer dress and black shoes for the girls and grey shorts, yellow polo shirt and black shoes for the boys.

Girls' Summer Uniform

- Yellow summer dress
- Black shoes



Boys' Summer Uniform

- Grey shorts
- Yellow polo shirt
- Black shoes

PE

- Blue shorts
- Yellow t-shirt
- Black, blue or white trainers / black indoor pumps



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.



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



Online Safety

Keep your children safe online

As parents, it is important that you do your homework on new games before letting your children play them, using sites such as: -

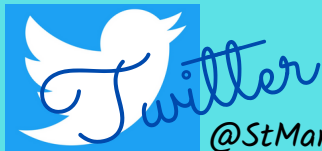
<https://www.common sense media.org/game-reviews>

Age recommendations are given to protect your child from harm.

Please speak to a member of SLT or our computing lead Miss Thompson if you require more information.

Follow this link to find out more about how to keep your children safe when they play online games: -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>



@StMaryB17

Stay up to date with everything that is happening at St. Mary's by following us on our Twitter Page and giving us more likes!!!

Parking outside school!

We are sure most of you are all aware of the continuing issues regarding parking outside school during drop off and pick up times. Unsafe, inconsiderate and dangerous parking is an offence and an increasing problem, causing chaos for local residents and ultimately putting the safety of our children and others at risk.

Please STOP and THINK before parking!!

Consider, am I being respectful? Am I parking illegally? Is my parking dangerous? We can all do our bit to reduce the issues of parking during school drop offs & collection times. For the safety of your child, their friends and the local community we kindly request that you all park safely, legally and considerately.

Remember:

- DO NOT park on single or double yellow lines
 - DO NOT double park
- DO NOT stop or park on the zig zag lines or pedestrian crossing
 - DO NOT park on pavements, corners or junctions
 - DO NOT obstruct footpaths or cycleways
 - Consider car sharing
 - Walk or cycle to school where appropriate
- And finally...DO NOT block the driveways of local residents

St Mary's Church will retain all its Covid precautions for the foreseeable future, despite widespread relaxations.

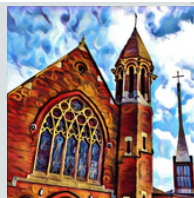


Friday morning adoration

Every Friday after 8:30am Mass, St Mary's will now have a dedicated half hour session in order to worship and adore the Blessed Sacrament.

All are welcome to join for this private and special time with the Lord.

9:00am - 9:30am



The About Being Catholic (ABC) will return this week - Thursday 5 May 2022. The About Being Catholic programme is for those interested in knowing what Catholics believe in order to help the children with their faith, will be on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the St Mary's Parish Centre, - with masks and social distancing.



St. Mary's Church is open 8:00am - 4:00pm every day

The Church is open for private prayer, candles at Shrines and personal Stations of the Cross.

Community News

RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE LOCAL AREA...



EARLY HELP DROP-IN

AT HARBORNE BAPTIST CHURCH

THURSDAY 19TH MAY
10.30AM-12.30PM



For all families
with children under 18

We can offer signposting to helpful services, organisations, and community groups, as well as family support.

e.g. support mental health, food/utilities, finance/debt, youth support, parenting, SEND, housing advice, bereavement, domestic abuse, etc.



Support and services at St Mary's and in the wider community...

On **Tuesday 17th May**, starting **2:45pm**, we are hosting, in the school hall, a drop-in session for parents, where you will have the opportunity to find out more about the support and services, that are available to you at St. Mary's and within the local area.

During the session, a range of people will be available for you to talk to, including:-

- St Mary's pastoral team
- Pupil and School Support Services
- Gateway family services
- St Mary's SLT
- St Mary's SENDCo
- Parent and Teachers Association (PTA)
- After school provision - Kidz.comm

This is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about the range of help and support available to you. It is also a good opportunity to speak with staff, if you have any concerns, and to be signposted towards services if you need more specific support.

We look forward to welcoming you (with refreshments of course).

Dates for this term

WB 9.5.22 - all week -

10th May 2022 - all day -

11th May 2022 - 9:15am -

12th May 2022 - 3:30pm -

13th May 2022 - all day -

WB 16.5.22 - all week -

17th May 2022 - 2:45-3:45pm

18th May 2022 - 9:15am -

20th May 2022 - 9:15am -

24th May 2022 - 8:45-10:00 -

24th May - 7:00pm -

25th May 2022 - 8:45-10:00 -

25th May 2022 - 9:30am -

26th May 2022 - 8:45-10:00 -

27th May 2022 - 9:15am -

27th May 2022 - normal time -

8th June 2022 - 9:15am

14th June 2022 - 7:00pm

15th June 2022 - 9:15am

16th June - all day

16th June 2022 - 7:00pm

21st June 2022 - 7:00pm

23rd June 2022 - 7:00pm

Y6 SATs Week - 8am Breakfast Club in school for Y6 children only

Y3 Holy Communion Retreat in Hall (for children only)

Reception class Mass in Church (Reception, Y1, Y2 parents welcome)

PTA meeting in school

School Council fundraiser - Freaky Friday - dress as a teacher (details to follow)

Y2 SATs Week

Parent Early Help Drop-in session in school

Y5 Mass in Church (Y5, Y6 parents welcome)

Y1F Class Assembly in school (Y1F parents welcome)

Reception parents maths workshop with the children in class

Y6 children Confirmation Mass

Reception parents maths workshop with the children in class

Whole School Mass in Church for Ascension and crowning of Mary (parents too)

Reception parents maths workshop with the children in class

Y1L Class Assembly in school (Y1L parents welcome)

Break up for Whitsun week

Y4 Mass in Church (Y4, Y3 parents welcome)

Y3 children Holy Communion Mass - Group 1

Y2 Mass in Church (Y2, Y1 and YR parents welcome)

School photographer in school all day

Y3 children Holy Communion Mass - Group 2

Y3 children Holy Communion Mass - Group 3

Y3 children Holy Communion Mass - Group 4

Do not book holidays during term time

Summer 1

Tuesday 3rd May – Children return to school

Thursday 5th May - Closed for Local Election Day

Ends: Friday 27th May

Half-Term:

Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2022

Summer 2

Starts: Monday 6th June

Tuesday 5th July - INSET - Children NOT in School

Ends: Thursday 21st July 2022

Friday 22nd July - Closed for Queen's Jubilee

Summer Holidays:
Start Monday 25th July 2022

This is a reminder that 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. Term dates are on this newsletter and on the website.

Attendance and Punctuality: -

Good attendance, after the disruptions of the last two years, continues to be a school and government priority. During Parent consultations, staff will be giving out your child's attendance this term and discussing any concerns. 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 Miss Price or Mrs. Davis.

Week 11th April – 14th April

Class	YRF	YRL	Y1F	Y1L	Y2F	Y2L	Y3F	Y3L	Y4F	Y4L	Y5F	Y5L	Y6F	Y6L	
%	94.6%	96.7%	92.5%	99.2%	95.3%	92.1%	89.1%	96.7%	89.2%	96.3%	90.8%	95.4%	90.0%	84.6%	
Lates	6	5	4	4	5	6	2	1	3	2	3	1	2	4	
Whole School Attendance so far this year						95.6%		School Target				97%			

Well done Y1F: - our Attendance Champions



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

Year RL	Anji	trying really hard with her independent writing
Year RF	Aaron	a brilliant attitude to independent learning
Year 1L	Nathan	showing maturity and being more independent when working
Year 1F	Tobi	super participation during maths lessons
Year 2L	Vincent	being an excellent role model in his behaviour and attitude to school life
Year 2F	Azucena	thoughtful and enthusiastic responses in assembly
Year 3L	Shaun	insightful responses during RE lessons
Year 3F	Kaiden	trying exceptionally hard with his maths work
Year 4L	Maggie	doing extra maths work during the Easter break
Year 4F	Ebubedike	fantastic attitude towards his learning
Year 5L	Nana	really thoughtful responses in our discussions about grateful and generous
Year 5F	Maya	showing kindness to her peers
Year 6L	Ajitesh	working really hard this week in preparation for SATs
Year 6F	Sophie	always quietly focusing in lessons

