



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](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

[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.

## September is dedicated to Mary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Dignity of the Human Person'

Our virtues for this half term are: - Eloquent and Truthful



Dear Parents and Carers,

5th September 2024

Welcome back to all our children—and a particularly warm welcome to our new Reception pupils and their families, who have joined the St. Mary's family. I hope you all enjoyed a restful summer break and are settling back into routines as we begin another exciting school year.

For both new and returning families, I'd like to remind you of the importance of regularly checking our school website for key information including term dates, policies, newsletters, school menus, uniform guidance, admissions, and curriculum details. We work hard to keep the site updated so that everything you need is easily accessible.

Please also follow our X account @StMaryB17, where we share curriculum highlights and important updates throughout the week.

If you need to pass on any information to school, there are several ways to do so:

- Speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team at the gate each morning
- Make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher
- Contact the school office on 0121 464 2141 or email [enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

Our weekly newsletter, sent out every Friday, will include any further updates. It's also available on our website and X page. Please ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details so you don't miss any important communications.

This week's newsletter includes **all key dates for the Autumn term**. While we aim to stick to these, please note that changes may occasionally occur and if this is the case, we'll always give advance notice. You'll find the diary dates on the penultimate page.

PE days have also been confirmed. On these days, children should come to school wearing the correct PE uniform. We conduct daily uniform checks, and parents will be contacted if uniform is not right. No jewellery should be worn on PE days. Please speak to a member of SLT if you need support with uniform.

PE days - Autumn 1	
Reception	Wednesday - Hands Friday - Gross Motor skills
Year 1	Wednesday - Basic Skills Thursday - Dance
Year 2	Monday - Dance Friday - Locomotion
Year 3	Tuesday - Gymnastics Thursday - Cricket
Year 4	Monday - Rounders Friday - Dance
Year 5	Wednesday - Dance Thursday - Exercise for Health
Year 6	Thursday - Swimming Friday - Orienteering

Regarding jewellery: children may wear stud earrings and a watch (not a Fitbit or smart watch). No other jewellery—including religious necklaces or bracelets—is permitted. This is to ensure safety during playtimes, PE lessons, and use of gym equipment.



## 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. .

I would also like to confirm end-of-day pick-up procedures...

### End of day

**Please take note of the end of day timings and where you need to stand to collect your children.**

**At 3:10pm, Reception parents are to gather on the left hand side in green zone (as shown by the green arrows).** Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

**At 3:15pm, Year 1 and Year 2 parents are to walk down the drive on the right hand side and gather in red zone (as shown by the red arrows)** Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

**At 3:20pm, siblings will be released to parents, who will walk down on the right hand side and gather in blue zone (as shown by the blue arrows).** Siblings is for when your children are in different key stages i.e. one child in KS1 and one child in KS2. If your child is in the same key stage, they will come out with their class. Siblings will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

**At 3:30pm, Year 3 and Year 4 parents are to walk down the drive on the left hand side and gather in green zone (as shown by the green arrows).** Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

**At 3:30pm, Year 5 and Year 6 parents are to walk down the drive on the right hand side and gather in red zone (as shown by the red arrows)** Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

### END OF DAY COLLECTION POINTS AND TIMES –



#### Please note: –

**The school has a walking home policy that states that children should be picked up by the parents. We encourage children to only walk home by themselves in the Summer term of Year 6.**

Please stay behind the 'invisible line', in your zones, at dismissal so that staff can safely hand over children and maintain privacy for any conversations you need to have with teachers. Children must not run or scoot around the car park—it's not safe and parents please do not lean on staff cars as they get scratched.

## Parking

We ask for everyone's commitment to safe driving and parking around school.

### Please do not: –

- stop or park on double yellow lines,
- stop in the middle of the road,
- stop or park on the zig zag lines outside of school
- block the school entrance,
- obstruct dropped kerbs meant for pushchairs,
- obstruct side roads such as Vivian Close.



Parking opposite the school is particularly dangerous for families crossing the road.

We work closely with the Council and Police, and fines may be issued. Any person of the community can photograph inconsiderate or dangerous parking and report...

We have an allocated police officer – PC Anthony Henry, badge no 30847, who is leading 'operation snap' <https://betterstreetsforbirmingham.org/op-snap/> where you can report directly to the Police

### 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 includes 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 the Council –

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report\\_an\\_illegally\\_parked\\_vehicle](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle)

Every parent is tied in to a home / school agreement with our school – if a member of staff asks you to move your car, we will not accept verbal aggression towards us (this may lead to you being banned from the school site) and we will expect you to move your car and park safely.

Safer options for parking include parking at Waitrose or Harborne Cricket Club and walking your child to the gate—thank you for helping us protect our community. I do know that it is a handful of parents who do this and I am very thankful to the majority of our school community who take the safety of our children seriously and park responsibly.

### Finally

I want to say what a joy it's been to return to school. Well done to all our children for a fantastic first week of learning and for showing such beautiful behaviour. We're excited to see what this year brings. Our school choir is singing in Mass on Sunday at 5pm and it will be great to see you there. Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Yorke (Head teacher)



# CATHOLIC LIFE

## *This week's Reading*

Luke 14:13

"But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you."

Reflecting on this week's reading, we learn: -

- Jesus invites us to generously love all people.
- As Pilgrims of Hope, we can see others as Jesus does and reach out to them with love and care.
- We are all invited to put God first in our lives this school year. .



## Our next Mass – Whole School Mass – Nativity of Our Lady

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 10th September 2025, starting promptly at 9:30am. The children are preparing in school for this important Mass learning about their Marian Devotion and creating birthday cards. Years 1 – 6 will attend this Mass and all parents are welcome to attend.



## Class Saints

The children have also been learning more about their class Saint this week: -





# Summer Challenges

Well done to all the children who took part in some of our Summer challenges – it was great to see you out and about over the Summer break.

## Summer reading challenge: –



## Bulls in the City: –



## Pilgrims of Hope: –







### Year 6 prefects applications

Applications for Year 6 Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl are due in to school next week  
Good luck!

## General school consent

As part of our continuing efforts to enrich the curriculum and serve our community, we arrange trips and activities off the school site. We have therefore prepared a General School Consent for this purpose i.e.: so you do not have to complete multiple consent forms throughout the year. This is not intended to replace consent forms for class trips or residentials but rather trips and activities in our local area e.g.: Harborne Library, a local care home or park. A link will be sent to you by email and we would be grateful if a form could be completed for each child.

### St Mary's Catholic Primary School General School Consent 2024

From time to time, the school organises additional trips and activities to enrich your child's learning or to fulfil our responsibilities to our community in carrying out our Mission, and to ensure the safety and security of your child, we require your consent for your child to participate.

This form represents a General School Consent (GSC) which will endure for the duration of their time at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, unless withdrawn in writing.

The trips and activities covered by this GSC include any visit within the UK that is not residential and that does not require transport e.g.: trips to Harborne Library, a local park or care home for carol singing etc.

The school will still send you information about each trip and activity before it takes place. Please note, this information may be communicated verbally or electronically by email.

The trips and activities covered by this GSC will only take place with express permission from the Head Teacher (or whomever deputises).

All trips and activities covered by this GSC will adhere to statutory or recommended requirements for supervision.

If your child is involved in any other trips or activities not covered by this GSC e.g.: a residential trip or a trip that requires transport, you will receive further information and additional consent will be required.

You must complete a separate GSC for each of your children at the school.

### Healthy Snacks

Please may we remind all parents that only healthy snacks are permitted in school – your child may have a piece of fruit at break time. Do not send your child in with crisps, sweets or chocolate as they will not be able to consume this on site. Please also be aware that we do not allow nuts, in order to reduce the chance of children with allergies from having a reaction.



### Coats

As the weather is changeable now, please ensure that your child comes to school with their waterproof coats.



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:



**Laura Noone**  
Lead DSL  
DHT



**Louise Yorke**  
Headteacher



**Jade Preedy**  
AHT



**Rachel Jones**  
Senior Teacher



**Sharon Tame**  
School Counsellor



**Rachel Richards**  
EYFS Lead



**Shania Birchenall**  
SENDCo

## 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.

## Attendance and Punctuality: -

Our attendance for last week was -

**Week 02/09/25-05/09/25**

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	93	100	93	93	91	90	86	97	96	90	98	91	100	92
Lates	1	0	1	1	6	1	8	7	8	6	2	0	1	3
Whole School Attendance so far this year						94.05%			School Target				97%	

**Well done RT and 6R: - Our attendance champions!**

Autumn theme -

Autumn / Virtues

1st September 2025 - all day

2nd September 2025

8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

10th September 2025 - 9:30am

12th September 2025

WB 15th September 2025

16th September 2025 - 2pm

17th September 2025 - 9:15am

18th September 2025

18th September 2025 - 3:15pm

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 - 3:45pm

24th September 2025 - 9:15am

25th September 2025 - 9:00am

25th September 2025 - 3:30pm

26th September 2025 - all day

29th September 2025 - 8am

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

October 2025 - all month

1st October 2025 - 9:15am

2nd October 2025 - lunch time

3rd October 2025 - 9:00am

7th October 2025 - 2:30pm

8th October 2025 - 9:15am

8th October 2025 - 2:30pm

10th October 2025 - 9:15am

15th October 2025 - 9:15am

16th October 2025 - all day

17th October 2025 - all day

17th October 2025 - 6pm

WB 20.10.25

21st October 2025 - all day

21st October 2025 - 3:30-6:00

22nd October 2025 - 9:15am

23rd October 2025 - all day

23rd October 2025 - 3:30-6:00

23rd October 2025 - normal time

24th October 2025 - all day

Dignity of the Human Person

Eloquent and truthful

NSET day - school closed to children

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

Applications for Year 6 prefects / Head Boy / Head Girl due

Whole School Mass for the Birthday of Mary - parents welcome in old church

Class Leader elections for all year groups (incl School Council / Spiritual Council...)

Education Sunday

Phonics Workshop for Reception parents

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

Year 6 swimming sessions begin

PTA welcome meeting for new Reception parents

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

Y6 Mass in Church (Y5 to attend) - Parents welcome

Macmillan Coffee Morning in Parish supported by School Council

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

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

PTA Annual General Meeting in school hall

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

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

Year 3 Mass in Church (Y4 to attend) - Parents welcome

Themed Lunch in the canteen

Year 1 Prayer Service for parents

RHE talk for parents - KS1

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

RHE talk for parents - KS2

Year 6 Year Group Assembly

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

Photo Day - Children in full winter uniform please

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

PTA Fundraising - Children's disco in Parish Centre

School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair

Flu vaccinations in school

Parent Consultation Evening

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

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

Parent Consultation Evening

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

INSET day - School closed to children



*Autumn theme -*

*Autumn 11 Virtues*

*3rd November 2025 - all day*

*3rd November 2025 - 9:30am*

*6th November 2025*

*7th November 2025 - 9:00am*

*WB 10th November 2025*

*WB 10th November 2025*

*12th November 2025 - 9:15am*

*17th November 2025 - all day*

*19th November 2025 - 9:15am*

*21st November 2025 - 9:15am*

*22nd November 2025 - 12:00pm*

*Dignity of the Human Person*

*Learned and Wise*

*Children return to school at normal time*

*Whole School All Saints and Holy Souls Mass in Church (Parents welcome)*

*St. Mary's Open Day for Reception class 2024 (10:30) or (1:45)*

*Year 4 Prayer Service for all Year 4 parents*

*Other faiths Week*

*Remembrance Week*

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

*PTA non-uniform day in support of Parish Fete - bring sweets/bottles*

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

*Year 5 Year group Assembly*

*Parish Fete*

# PTA date for our new Reception parents



Reception parents – come and join us on **Thursday 18th 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!

## Term Dates for this 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

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

Year RB	Xexe	For being very Enthusiastic and settling in well during her first week!
Year RT	Jochebed	For starting each day with a beautiful smile during her first week at school!
Year IF	Martin	For his beautiful sentences in English: remembering to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.
Year 1L	Jessica	For having an excellent first week in Year 1
Year 2E	Immaculate	For a great start to St. Mary's!
Year 2G	Sparkle	For being a wonderful role model in class and her lovely positive attitude to learning
Year 3L	Aaliyah	For being a fantastic role model in class and her wonderful positive attitude to learning
Year 3T	Jayden	For a fantastic start to the year, eager and ready to learn and do his best
Year 4J	Janssen	For his excitement and engagement throughout the entire day, from the moment he steps foot through the classroom he is eager to learn!
Year 4M	Agatha	For being a great role model: active in lessons and helpful in class
Year 5F	Tobi	For fantastic focus and a wonderful attitude to his learning in the first week back
Year 5M	Nathan	showing such a positive attitude since starting Year 5. He should be really proud of his efforts.
Year 6O	Cara	For demonstrating excellence in all she does and being a true role model to Year 6 and the rest of the school.
Year 6R	Matthias	For always having deeply reverent and insightful answers when discussing our class saint and Marion Devotion this week.

