



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.

September is dedicated to Mary.

Our theme for the Autumn term is: 'Family and Community'
Our virtues for this half term are: - Compassionate and Loving



Dear Parents and Carers,

18th September 2026

Education Sunday

This past Sunday we marked Education Sunday, a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in education. Held each year on the second Sunday of September, it is an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of education and to reflect on the important role our schools play in shaping both lives and communities.

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the power of forgiveness and calls us to be instruments of God's love, grace and peace in the world. These values are at the heart of Catholic education, where children are encouraged to grow not only in knowledge but also in faith, compassion and service. In his Education Sunday pastoral letter, Archbishop Bernard Longley spoke of the vocation of all who serve in our schools and invited Catholics to consider becoming Foundation Governors or Directors, describing governance as a practical way to serve Christ and help keep the mission of Catholic education at the heart of school life

We give thanks for all those who minister in education and for the privilege of working together to form Christ-centred pupils with kind hearts, questioning minds and a hunger for justice.

Pupil Leadership in action

It has been a wonderfully busy and inspiring week for our pupil leadership teams. Our School Council, Spiritual Council, CAFOD Club and Rights Respecting School Monitors have come together to share ideas, plan initiatives and explore ways to further enhance school life while supporting those in need through charitable outreach. Their enthusiasm, commitment and creativity have been a real joy to see, and I look forward to sharing updates as their exciting plans begin to take shape.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find photographs of our School Council, Spiritual Council, CAFOD Club members and Rights Respecting School Monitors. Next week, we will be celebrating our Prefects and House Captains, so look out for their photographs in the next edition.

Admissions Update

We've had an overwhelming response from prospective families, with over 60 new applications across various year groups since the start of term. It's incredibly heartening to see that St. Mary's continues to be a school of choice within our community. We are currently at full capacity, with a growing waiting list. As a Catholic school, applications from Catholic families are prioritised. While we regret not being able to offer places to more children, this interest is a testament to the strength, warmth, and reputation of our school.

Important Allergy Reminder

A gentle but important reminder: we have children in school with severe nut allergies. For their safety, no products containing nuts are allowed in school—this includes items such as nutty breakfast bars, almond cakes, and Nutella sandwiches. If your child brings a packed lunch, please ensure it is completely nut-free. Additionally, children should not bring lip balms, sprays, or creams into school, as these may contain ingredients that pose a risk to those with allergies. Any creams or medications must be handed in via the school office so they can be stored and administered safely. You can find our full medicines policy on the school website.

Winter Uniform

As the mornings grow chillier and summer begins to feel like a distant memory, we kindly ask that all children now transition into their winter uniform. This includes a gold shirt or blouse, striped tie, royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan, and grey school trousers, skirt, or pinafore. Footwear should be plain black shoes—please note that trainers and boots are not permitted. We are incredibly proud of our school identity, and the winter uniform really helps our children look smart, confident, and ready to learn. If you need any support sourcing uniform items, please don't hesitate to contact the school office—we're here to help. A gentle reminder to ensure all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name. With **school photos taking place on Thursday 15th October**, it's important that all children are in full winter uniform by then. Children continue to wear their PE kits (where plain trainers are allowed) on their PE days.



Winter Uniform – includes tie



PE uniform – still in school colours

Cultural Awareness Week: Celebrating Belonging

As we look ahead to Cultural Awareness Week, taking place from 21st September, we are excited to celebrate the many cultures, traditions and experiences that make our St. Mary's community so special. This year's theme, "Belonging," invites us to recognise and appreciate the unique stories, backgrounds and gifts that each person brings to our school family.

We warmly encourage children to share something that reflects their culture, faith, heritage or family traditions. This could be a photograph, artefact, treasured item or story that is meaningful to them. Our week will culminate in a special celebration day on Friday 25th September, when children are invited to wear cultural dress and take pride in sharing their heritage with others. We look forward to learning from one another and celebrating the wonderful diversity that enriches our school community.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We're delighted to begin our charity work this term by supporting the Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Parish. We warmly invite parents to join the School Council for a hot drink and slice of cake after drop-off on Thursday. Any remaining cakes will be available for children to purchase on Friday. To help make this event a success, we're kindly asking for donations of savouries or cakes that are shop-bought or homemade to be brought in to school at the start of next week. If you're donating a homemade cake, please include a list of ingredients for reference.

Mrs Yorke, Headteacher

CATHOLIC LIFE

This Week's Gospel

*'Peter came up and said to Jesus,
"Lord, how often will my brother sin against me and I forgive him?"'
Matthew 18:21*

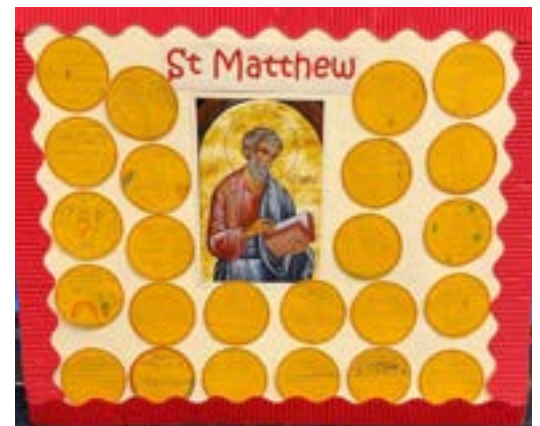
God wants us to: –

- **Know** that hurtful choices and actions can separate us from God and from each other;
- **Have confidence** in God's mercy and forgiveness;
- **Live out** Jesus' teaching to 'love one another';
- **Forgive** one another, close the gap made by hurtful choices and reset our friendships.



This week's Mass – Y2 Mass – Votive Mass of St. Matthew

This week, Year 2 led their first mass of the school year for their Year 1 peers and their parents. It was a lovely Mass dedicated to St Matthew. Their beautiful service was filled with joyful hymns and readings.



Our next Mass – Year 6 Mass – 23.09.26

Our Lady of Walsingham

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday
23rd September 2026, starting promptly at
9:15am. Year 6 will be leading our Mass and Year 5
children will also be in attendance –
all parents are welcome to attend.



CATHOLIC LIFE

EDUCATION SUNDAY

We have celebrated Education Sunday this week.

This year's theme comes from Jesus' teaching on forgiveness in Matthew's Gospel: "do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

As a Catholic school, we give thanks for all involved in education and reflect on how we can show God's love through kindness, forgiveness and respect for one another.



Mrs Yorke read this Sunday's Gospel and we heard Jesus' teachings about forgiveness. She introduced the theme of Education Sunday and everybody prayed for and gave thanks for those who work in Catholic education – through their dedication, our children are rooted in Christ and committed to the service of others.



Year 2 discussing how we can live well as a community. The children spoke about forgiveness and how we can always forgive to form stronger communities.



Lord. Thank you for our pupils.
May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them.
We pray that through their time as school, they will flourish, strive for excellence, use their God-given gifts and grow in to who you have called them to be.

Amen.

CATHOLIC LIFE

RE learning



Year 3 have been exploring how we are made in the image and likeness of God. In pencil they wrote how we show God's likeness, and in purple pen, actions that do not show God's likeness.



Year 6 have been learning about the impact of original sin. They also thought about positive actions they can do, to live in a God-centred world rather than a human-centred world.



Year 1 have focused on the Creation story recapping all the things that God made. The children reflected on the beauty of the world, from animals and plants to the sky and sea.



Year 5 have been reading the Bible this week finding out more about the 10 commandments and their importance.



Reception have been learning all about Creation in our RE lessons this week.

"God knew about me before my mummy and daddy even knew about me."
Reception child

"He created all the stars and the moon and the sky and me."
Reception child

CATHOLIC LIFE

A message from Fr. Hilary

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have decided to face one of my fears and I need your help!

Recently, I heard about an inspiring 90-year-old parishioner, who completed a zip wire challenge. Her courage made me think: if she can do it at 90, perhaps I have no excuse!

So, on **Tuesday 13 October**, Fr Anil OSA and I will take on the Zip World Challenge to raise funds for the much-needed refurbishment of St Mary's Parish Centre.

Our Parish Centre has served generations of children, families and the wider community.

We want to ensure that it remains a welcoming place for generations to come.

St Mary's Catholic Church HARBORNE

THE AUGUSTINIAN ZIP CHALLENGE

TAKING THE LEAP FOR ST MARY'S PARISH CENTRE

One Community One Mission A Brighter Future

ZIP WORLD

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2026

Higher for a Brighter Tomorrow

Fr Hilary OSA Fr Anil OSA

Two Friars. One Big Challenge. A Brighter Future.

SUPPORTED BY OUR AUGUSTINIAN BROTHERS
Fr Ian OSA | Fr Laurence OSA | Fr Sean OSA

A SPACE FOR PEOPLE
Welcoming all generations

A STRONGER COMMUNITY
Supporting faith and life

A BRIGHTER FUTURE
Refurbishing for tomorrow

Our Parish Centre has served generations of our community. Now it needs significant refurbishment so it can continue to be a place of welcome, faith, friendship and service for many years to come.

Please sponsor Fr Hilary and Fr Anil as they take on Zip World. Every donation makes a real difference.

SCAN TO DONATE

Scan to donate to Hilary Basil's fundraiser "Refurbishing the parish community centre"

Thank you for your support!

We will take the leap —
but we need the St Mary's school community behind us!
Please sponsor us by scanning the QR code.
Whatever you can give will make a difference,
and please share our appeal with family and friends.
Thank you for your support —
and please keep Fr Anil and me in your prayers on 13 October!
With every blessing,
Fr. Hilary OSA and Fr. Anil OSA

School Representatives 2026–2027

Congratulations to our newly elected: –

School Council



Spiritual Council



CAFOD Club



RRSA monitors



Phonics Parent Workshop

It was fabulous to see so many of our parents attend our phonics workshop in the week. Parental involvement in our phonics workshops plays a vital role in supporting early reading development. As parents, joining us in learning how phonics is taught at school, helps us to create a consistent and encouraging approach towards teaching your child to read. Thank you for your support this week, and joining us in school.



Science in Creation learning



The children have enjoyed their Science in creation learning this week. Here we see Year 3, who explored habitats and learnt how animals depend on specific environments for survival. Our Science in creation learning has linked beautifully with our learning on St Francis, stewardship and caring for creation.

Money Matters



Instead of asking my mum to go places that cost money, I'm going to ask her to take me to the park.



Reception class learning about money matters from a young age – what they can spend their money on and choosing sensibly.



Year 5 deliberating pros and cons of how easy it is to spend money online.



It was really helpful information and I'm going to start saving my money!



Year 3 learning about the difference between needs vs wants when spending money.



Year 6 thinking about correct use of credit cards, interest and ways to spend money.

I learnt that we should have a monthly budget but try to spend a bit less than the budget. We should also focus on making memories rather than buying things!



Thank you Nicki for delivering our money matters workshops to all the classes this week and presenting us with our award. We learnt so much about the world of money and finance.



Curriculum Learning

A snippet of all our wonderful learning this week...



Reading for pleasure

Year 6 boys have organised their class library and created a new box for the book corner, filling it with their own books and comics they've created!



Early mathematics

Reception have enjoyed exploring the number 3 in maths this week. They have been counting, recognising and representing 3 in lots of different ways. What fantastic learning!



Music

Year 5 enjoyed their music lesson about musical chords and having the opportunity to play them.



Library visit

Year 5 enjoyed their visit to Harborne Library on Tuesday and having the opportunity to explore and read new exciting books.



Exciting Writing

Year 3 have produced some wonderful pieces of writing in their Exciting Writing sessions this week.



Science

Year 2 planted their own seeds to show how St Francis encouraged people to appreciate the natural world and Year 4 have been learning about ecosystems.



CULTURAL

Awareness Week

Next week (WB 21st September 2026), we will be celebrating our annual Cultural Awareness Week, this year our learning will be centred on the theme of **Belonging**. Throughout the week, children will explore what it means to belong to a family, a school, a parish and a wider community. Through prayer, discussion, music, service and celebration, pupils will learn to value both the things we share and the differences that make each of us unique.

Linked to our Building the Kingdom theme of Families and Community, the week will help children develop respect, empathy and understanding for others, while deepening their appreciation of the rich diversity within our school and beyond. Special events, including the Day of Prayer for Peace, African drumming workshops, School Council charity initiatives and our Cultural Celebration Day, will provide opportunities for children to celebrate their own identity and heritage while learning from one another.

Our message throughout the week is simple and important: At St Mary's, everyone is welcomed, everyone is valued, and everyone belongs.

International Day of Peace – 21st September 2026

Established by the United Nations, this special day encourages people of all ages to promote peace, understanding and reconciliation within their communities and across the world. Through prayer, reflection and classroom activities, our children will explore how they can be peacemakers in their daily lives.



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

African Drumming Workshop – 21st / 22nd September 2026

As part of our Cultural Awareness Week, and thanks to the generosity of our PTA, children will take part in African drumming workshops. These sessions are not only an exciting musical experience but also support our theme of Families and Community by helping children understand how music brings people together, celebrates cultural heritage and strengthens a sense of belonging.



"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1)

Cultural Dress Celebration day – 25th September 2026

Wear your best cultural dress on this cultural celebration day!

We will end our Cultural Awareness Week with a Cultural Celebration Day, where children are invited to wear cultural dress and bring in artefacts, photographs or special items that reflect their family's heritage. Through sharing and celebrating our different traditions and stories, we will recognise the richness of our school community and the importance of belonging.



"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

WB 21.9.26 -**Donations of cakes needed for
Parish Macmillan Coffee morning**

Our parish will soon be hosting its annual Macmillan Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes, biscuits or other baked treats to help make the event a success. Whether homemade or shop-bought, every donation will help raise valuable funds for this wonderful charity, which provides support to people affected by cancer and their families. Please provide ingredients used if home-baking cakes for allergy reasons.

Thank you for your generosity and support. Together, we can make a real difference to those in need.

***Year 3 Harborne Library Visit - 22.9.26***

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.

**Film club for Y4, Y5 and Y6 "Hoppers"**

- 22.9.26 3:45-5:15pm

St. Mary's PTA will be showing "Hoppers" (Universal rating) after school. Children will receive a snack of popcorn and fruit as part of their film evening. They must be collected by an adult on our contacts list at 5:15pm from the hall.

**Film club for Y1, Y2 and Y3 "Hoppers"**

- 23.9.26 3:30-5:00pm

St. Mary's PTA will be showing "Hoppers" (Universal rating) after school. Children will receive a snack of popcorn and fruit as part of their film evening. They must be collected by an adult on our contacts list at 5:00pm from the hall.

Thursday 24th September 2026

**COME FOR
COFFEE
AND
CAKE**

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

8.45am onwards

**WORLD'S
BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**

Tombola Jumble Sale

St Mary's Parish Centre

WB 28.9.26

Monday 28th September 2026



The first Annual General Meeting of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of the New school year will be on **Monday 28th September 8am**. Children of St. Mary's can be looked after in school if you need this option. We look forward to welcoming new parents who would like to join the PTA in supporting the school run events throughout the school year.



On **Monday 28th September**, we will be celebrating Saint Vincent de Paul, the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor. **Children who are in St. Vincent De Paul House Group – can come in to school wearing white on this day!**



Tuesday 29th September 2026 – pm



A group of Year 5 pupils will attend Play Leaders Training at Bishop Challoner Secondary School, travelling to and from the venue by bus. Children should come to school in their P.E. kits and bring a packed lunch, snack, and drink. This exciting opportunity will help them build confidence and develop leadership skills. Once trained, they will take on the role of St Mary's Play Leaders, supporting games and activities during break and lunch times. Please give your permission via Gateway.



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.

As we have been accepted as a charity for tax purposes, we can claim the tax on donations to school fund from parents who are UK 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 go further. Contribution to School 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.

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

Please consider this option, as consequently, by setting up a standing order, for say £2 per month per family, you will guarantee the school a monthly income on which we can reclaim tax and not have to think about it again whilst your child is at St Mary's.

If you feel unable to sign up to a monthly payment, why not pay £20 per year via SchoolGateway or a one-off bank transfer, again with a Gift Aid Declaration, if applicable. All we ask in this instance is that you send us your completed declaration form in an envelope clearly marked with the name of your child and the value of your donation.

This is an essential book-keeping requirement of the Inland Revenue.

A Gift Aid declaration and a standing order form, have been emailed to you alongside today's newsletter. Where appropriate, please complete and return them to school or if you prefer you can come in to school and fill in a hard copy.

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 wish for you to be assured of the confidential manner in which the school will treat your details.

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....

Guernsey Arete Duke of Edinburgh Belgium Valencia Rome Paris Poland Lourdes		Masses Prayer Services Reconciliation Retreats Prayer companions Liturgy Leaders Lourdes Rewards Community and Belonging Weeks
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OPEN EVENING

Thursday 17th September 2026, 6pm - 8pm.

OPEN MORNING

Tuesday 22nd September 2026, 9.10am - 10.00am.

See the school in action!

SATURDAY OPEN MORNING

Saturday 3rd October, 9am – 12pm.

Opportunity for an individual tour of the school.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School
Saturday 3rd October, 9:00am – 12:00pm



HAGLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
SEMPER FIDELIS

Called as God's Family, we strive to achieve our personal best, by living and learning in Christ.



OPEN MORNING

Saturday 3rd October 2026
9.00am - 12.00pm

Forming Christ-centered pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice.

PREBOOK A PERSONAL TOUR VIA EVENTBRITE
EVERY FAMILY WELCOME

We will be offering personal tours of the school site, there will be an opportunity to hear from the Principal and staff and you will be able to discover the wonderful education that is awaiting you and your child, as part of the Hagley Family.



EMMAUS CATHOLIC MAC
Our journey with Christ

Hagley Catholic High School
Saturday 3rd October, 9:00am – 12:00pm

CLUBS Before School

	Mini Athletics	Mondays 8:00 - 8:45am	Years 1-5	£4.75 per session
	Karate	Wednesdays 7:45-8:30am	KS1 + KS2	£5 per session
	Karate	Thursdays 7:45-8:30am	KS1 + KS2	£5 per session
	Karate	Fridays 7:45-8:30am	KS1 + KS2	£5 per session

CLUBS After School

	Young Engineers	Mondays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Years 1-6	£15 per session
	Girls Netball	Mondays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Years 5-6	£5 per session
	Mixed Football	Mondays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Years 5-6	£85 per term
	Chess	Mondays 3:30 - 4:45pm	Year 3	£125 annually
	Mixed Football	Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Year 1	£85 per term
	Create Club	Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	KS1	£40.50 per 6 week block
	Mixed Football	Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Years 3-4	£85 per term
	Chess	Wednesdays 3:30 - 4:45pm	Years 4-6	£125 annually
	Mixed Football	Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Year 2	£85 per term
	Create Club	Thursdays 3:30 - 4:30pm	KS2	£40.50 per 6 week block
	Chess	Thursdays 3:30 - 4:45pm	Years 4-6	£125 annually
	Choir	Fridays 3:30 - 4:30pm	Years 3-6	£2.50 per session



Coats

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



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. .

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.



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

Or report directly to the Council –

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

Labelling of clothing with child's name and class name

Please label all belongings for your child (including lunch boxes / water bottles / school bags / clothing...) Items that are labelled are returned to your child's classroom when they are left somewhere else in school. Items that are not labelled are placed in the parent shelter. You can claim any items needed from the parent shelter. To ensure that no items are lost, label everything with child's name and class.





Medical Conditions and Medication



Thank you to all parents/carers who completed our Pupil Medical Information Form at the end of the last academic year.

If you didn't complete the form, **please can you inform us as soon as possible if your child has a medical condition that we need to know about e.g.: a diagnosed illness or condition that affects or may affect their day to day functioning.** If your child requires any medication that needs to be given during the school day, it must be given to the school office – under no circumstances should it ever be put in a child's school bag.

All medication was returned to parents/carers at the end of last academic year – **please can parents/carers ensure that any medication that may be needed in school is returned or given to school as soon as possible.**

Is my child too ill for school?

As we approach the colder weather, we will see an increase in coughs, colds and illnesses generally. We understand that it can be difficult to sometimes know when your child is too ill for school so please refer to the guide below.



NHS guidance states that **it is fine to send your child to school with slight cough or common cold symptoms,** such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Yes	
	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics
No	
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...	
Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



The Book Fair is Coming!



The Scholastic Book Fair is a fantastic opportunity for children to buy quality books while raising money for the school at the same time...

We are able to buy many for the school after our book fairs and we'd love to continue doing this!

The Book Fair will be open on the following dates/times:

Friday 9th October – 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)

Monday 12th October – 3.15pm to 4pm (Hall)

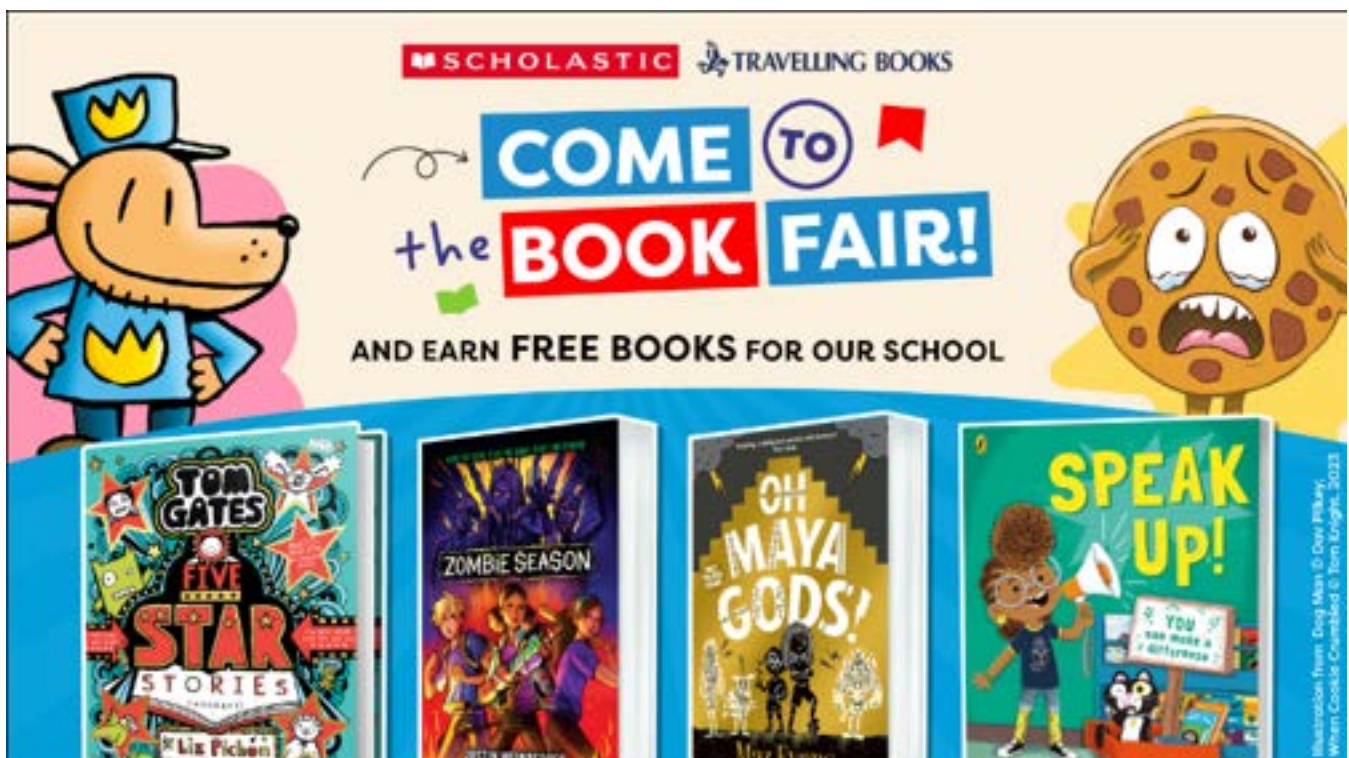
Tuesday 13th October – At Parent Consultations

Wednesday 14th October – At Parent Consultations

Friday 16th October – 3:15pm to 4pm (Hall)



Children will have the opportunity to browse the Book Fair during the school day but purchases will only be possible on the above dates/times. The Book Fair will be cashless, and we will have a card reader available too.



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



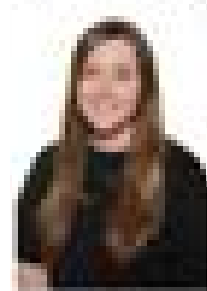
Jade Preedy
AHT



Rachel Jones
Senior Teacher



Sharon Tame
School Counsellor



Rachel Richards
EYFS Lead



Shania Birchenall
SENDCo

STAY SAFE ONLINE!

ALWAYS TELL A TRUSTED ADULT

If something online worries, upsets, confuses or scares you, talk to a trusted adult straight away.

CONTENT

Things You See Online

- Tell an adult if you:
- See upsetting, frightening or unkind pictures, videos or messages.
- See content that is hateful about people because of their religion, race, disability or gender.
- Find information that seems fake, confusing or doesn't feel right.
- See pictures or videos that may have been changed or created using AI.

Remember: Not everything online is true or real.

CONTACT

People You Meet Online

- Tell an adult if someone:
- Asks for your name, address, school or passwords.
- Wants to keep secrets from trusted adults.
- Tries to make you do something that feels wrong.
- Offers you gifts, rewards, money or game credits.
- Wants to meet you in person.

Remember: People online are not always who they say they are.

CONDUCT

How People Behave Online

- Tell an adult if:
- Someone sends unkind, rude or bullying messages.
- You see someone being left out or treated unfairly online.
- Someone shares a photo or video without permission.
- Someone pressures you to send pictures, messages or information.

Remember: Be kind, respectful and thoughtful online.

COMMERCE

Money and Online Scams

- Tell an adult if:
- A game asks you to spend money.
- Someone asks you to buy something online.
- You receive messages saying you've won a prize.
- Someone asks for bank details or personal information.
- A website or advert seems too good to be true.

Remember: Never spend money online without permission from a trusted adult.

STOP if something feels wrong.

CLOSE the app, game or website.

BLOCK anyone who is being unkind or makes you uncomfortable.

TELL a trusted adult straight away.

ATTENDANCE



Did you know that missing just 10 days of school a year (equivalent to one day every two weeks) can reduce a child's chances of meeting expected standards in reading, writing, and maths by 30%?

Every day at school counts!

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for a child's success in primary school. Being present and on time each day helps children build strong learning habits, stay on track with lessons, and develop a sense of responsibility. It also supports social development, as children form friendships and learn teamwork through consistent classroom interaction. Missing school or arriving late can lead to gaps in learning and make it harder for children to catch up. Encouraging good attendance and punctuality from an early age sets the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

If you need any support with attendance or punctuality, please speak to Mrs Noone.

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 -
Attendance

Week 14/09/26 – 18/09/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99	96	98	97	100	96	94	98	97	97	100	99	97	95
Lates	0	2	3	1	0	1	1	3	1	3	1	0	0	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						96.4%		School Target				97%		

Well done 2E and 5M: - Our attendance champions!

Dates for this half term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

WB 21.9.26

WB 21.9.26

21st September 2026 - all day

21st-22nd September 2026

22nd September 2026

22nd September 2026 - 3:45pm

23rd September 2026 - 9:15am

23rd September 2026 - 3:30pm

24th September 2026 - 9:00am

25th September 2026 - all day

28th September 2026 - all day

28th September 2026 - 8am

29th September 2026 - am

29th September 2026 - pm

30th September 2026 - 9:00am

October 2026 - all month

October 2026 - all month

October 2026 - all month

1st October 2026 - lunch time

1st October 2026 - 9:00am

2nd October 2026 - all day

5th October 2026 - all day

6th October 2026 - am

6th October 2026 - 2:30pm

7th October 2026 - 9:15am

7th October 2026 - 2:30pm

9th October 2026 - all day

Families and Communities

Compassionate and Loving

Belonging - Cultural Awareness Week

Donations of cakes please for Macmillan charity event

International day of peace - pray for peace

African Drumming in School

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

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

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

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

Macmillan Coffee Morning in Parish supported by School Council

Cultural Celebration - wear cultural dress / clothing that represents 'home'

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

PTA Annual General Meeting in school hall

Year 4 library visit - 4M (8:45) and 4J (10:15)

12 Year 5 children to attend Bishop Challoner for Play-leader training

Year 3 prayer service in school for St. Therese - for Y3 parents

Pray the Rosary

Black History Month

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

Themed Lunch in the canteen

Year 1 Prayer Service for parents

INSET day - school closed to children

Grandparents' Day

Year 6 library visit - 6R (8:45) and 6O (10:15)

RHE talk for parents - KS1

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

RHE talk for parents - KS2

Mental Health Day - wear yellow

9th October 2026 - 9:15am

WB 12.10.26

13th October 2026 - 3:30-6:00

14th October 2026 - 9:15am

14th October 2026 - 3:30-6:00

15th October 2026 - all day

16th October 2026 - all day

21st October 2026 - 9:15am

22nd October 2026 - am

22nd October 2026 - all day

23rd October 2026 - normal time

Year 6 Year Group Assembly

School Book Fair in school - please support our book fair

Parent Consultation Evening

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

Parent Consultation Evening

Photo Day - Children in full winter uniform please

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

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

Flu vaccinations in school

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

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

Term Dates for this year

Autumn Term	Wednesday 2 nd September - Friday 23 rd October
	Half-term
	Monday 2 nd November - Friday 18 th December
Spring Term	Monday 4 th January - Thursday 11 th February
	Half-term
	Monday 22 nd February - Thursday 25 th March
Summer Term	Monday 12 th April - Friday 28 th May
	Half-term
	Monday 7 th June - Tuesday 20 th July

School Closed:

- Monday 3rd May 2027 - May Bank Holiday

INSET DAYS

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Friday 2nd October 2026
- Friday 12th February 2027
- Monday 28th June 2027
- Wednesday 21st July 2027

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Austin	Taking his time and working really hard on his handwriting!
Year RT	River-Harlo	Fantastic responses in RE
Year IF	Salah	Working hard in English lessons and following all instructions. Well done!
Year IL	Suzy	Settling into Year 1 and for working super hard!
Year 2E	Raey	Joining in lovely with mass and signing the Hail Mary in front of everyone.
Year 2G	Elias	Working super hard in maths and listening to his partner during paired work!
Year 3L	Ava	For a fab start to year 3
Year 3T	Ian	Settling in to St. Mary's so well and for being an amazing role model to all the class!
Year 4J	Edward	Resilience and perseverance in everything he does!
Year 4M	Evan	Enthusiasm when answering questions and during class discussions.
Year 5F	Wayne	Excellent handwriting and work in English.
Year 5M	Debbie	Always striving for excellence across all of her subjects. Keep it up!
Year 6O	Eleanor	Fantastic participation in RE lessons- well done!
Year 6R	Bobby	Trying really hard with his handwriting this week!

