



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: 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.

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

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



Dear parents and carers

9th October 2026

Grandparents' Day: Celebrating families and communities

This week, we were delighted to welcome grandparents and wider family members into school as part of our Building the Kingdom theme of Families and Communities. It was wonderful to see so many visitors enjoying time with their grandchildren and experiencing school life first-hand. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many sharing how special it was to be inside the school, see the school and gain an insight into where their grandchildren spend so much of their week. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the occasion such a memorable celebration of family, community and belonging, and to our PTA for supporting.

'Hello yellow' for World Mental Health Day

Today, our school was awash with yellow as children and staff took part in Hello Yellow for World Mental Health Day. By wearing yellow, we joined thousands of others in raising awareness of the importance of mental health and wellbeing. Throughout the day, children explored ways to look after their minds, build positive relationships and recognise the importance of talking to trusted adults when they need support. We are proud of the thoughtful discussions that took place and of the children's growing understanding that mental health is just as important as physical health.

Year 6 assembly: A message of peace

A huge well done to our Year 6 children for their beautiful assembly on the theme of Peace. The children confidently shared learning from across their curriculum and linked it thoughtfully to our Catholic Social Teaching values. Their excellent articulation, joyful singing and heartfelt prayer made the assembly a wonderful reflection of all they have been learning. Thank you to Year 6 staff and families for supporting the children in preparing such a meaningful celebration.

Parents' Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our upcoming Parents' Evening, which provides an important opportunity to discuss your child's learning, progress and development with their class teacher. Appointment slots are available on School Gateway, and we encourage families to book early to secure a convenient time.

Harvest Collection

As we prepare for our Harvest Mass on Wednesday 21st October, we are now collecting donations for our Harvest appeal. We would love every child to contribute at least one non-perishable item. If each child brought in a single item, we could donate over 420 items to support individuals and families within our local community. Thank you for your generosity. We look forward to displaying donations during our Harvest celebrations.

Winter Uniform

Children should now be wearing their full winter uniform, including school tie and black school shoes, unless it is their PE day or alternative arrangements have been agreed with school. Jewellery is not permitted, other than stud earrings and a watch. Smart watches should not be worn in school, and necklaces and bracelets should remain at home.

Please also remember that **Thursday 15th October 2026** is School Photo Day. Even if your child would normally have PE on this day, they should attend school in their full winter uniform for their photograph.

Safety at pick up

As we continue to welcome large numbers of families onto the school site at the end of the day, we would like to ask for your support in helping us keep all children safe during collection times.

If you are bringing younger children onto the school grounds, please ensure they remain with you at all times and do not wander around the car park, pathways or school entrances unaccompanied. The car park can be very busy at dismissal, and it is important that all children are closely supervised.

We would also like to remind families that, once children have been dismissed from their class teacher, they remain the responsibility of their parent or carer. Children should stay with the adult collecting them and should not run around the car park, climb on equipment or shelters, play in the stone areas, or move away from their family while on the school site.

Thank you for your support in helping us ensure dismissal remains a safe and positive experience for everyone. Working together, we can keep all of our children safe as they leave school each day.

Parking Pledge

As part of ongoing efforts to safeguard our children, family and community, we are launching the **St Mary's Parking Pledge**.

We are asking every Parent/Carer to sign the pledge to commit to safer parking and vehicle use in/around school. Please use this QR code to sign the electronic pledge.

We will also talking to the children about the pledge so your children may also ask you to sign it.

The more families who sign, the stronger the message that our school community values:

- Children's safety above convenience.
- Respectful and considerate parking.
- Safe roads and pavements for walking families.
- Positive relationships with local residents.
- A calm and welcoming start and end to the school day.

Signing the pledge also helps demonstrate to other parents that safe parking matters to our community.

It shows that many families want to see safer behaviours around school and are willing to play their part in making this happen. Thank you for your help with this very important initiative.

Thank you

As always, thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. The strong relationships between home and school make a tremendous difference to the experiences and opportunities we provide for our children. I wish you all a restful, happy and enjoyable weekend with your families. God bless.

Mrs Yorke, **Headteacher**





Catholic Life

This week's Gospel and Prayer



Matthew 21:42

'Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes'?"'

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message, God wants us to:

- Know that God will keep on reaching out to us with love.
- Respect Jesus by listening and responding to His message of love.
- Understand that we can make good choices that show respect and love to others.



Year 5 Mass – 7.10.26 – Votive Mass of St. Faustina



Year 5 led a wonderful mass on Wednesday dedicated to 5F's Class Saint – St. Faustina.



Next week's Mass: – Y1 Mass – Votive of St. Luke

Our next Mass in Church will be on **Wednesday 14th October 2026**, starting promptly at 9:15am.

Year 1 children will be leading our Mass and Year 2 children will attend too. All parents/carers are welcome to attend.



CATHOLIC LIFE



IT'S BIBLICAL

The Rosary contemplates the great mysteries of the Christian Faith; each mystery has its source in the Holy Scriptures.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the
Holy Spirit.
Amen



IT WEAKENS THE DEVIL

The Rosary has the effect of weakening the action of the devil in the world and in our lives.

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



IT HELPS US BE HOLIER

This prayer has been a great help to many in their path to holiness when prayed with devotion.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death
Amen



THE VIRGIN HAS ASKED US TO

In several Marian apparitions (as Fatima), our Mother has asked us to pray the Rosary for the world's salvation.

Glory Be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end.
Amen





CATHOLIC LIFE



OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Our Spiritual Council have worked hard to prepare prayer bags for October, the Month of the Rosary. These will travel home with our children, helping families share a special time of prayer together. Please return them to school the next day. Please do share photos with us through enquiry email or X.



YEAR 6 ASSEMBLY - FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER



Year 6 taught us all about the importance of peace and reflected upon their learning about World War One.





CATHOLIC LIFE



Families and Communities: **Grandparents' Day - Monday 5th October**

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome our Grandparents and wider relatives into school on Monday. The children were delighted to be able to share a story, colour a bookmark and do puzzles with their relatives while enjoying a cake and a drink. We really do appreciate all our Grandparents and wider relatives for all they do for the children and our school community.



*"I got to see my grandparents and celebrate Grandparents Day with them."
W (Year 6)*

*"My Grandmother is going home soon (overseas) and I loved being able to spend time with her and show her my school."
A (Year 6)*

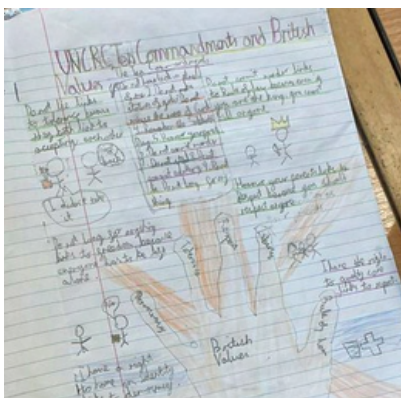
Due to demand, we are now running an additional Grandparents' afternoon on Monday 12th October – please do book on School Gateway if Grandparents or wider relatives would like to attend.

Families and Communities:

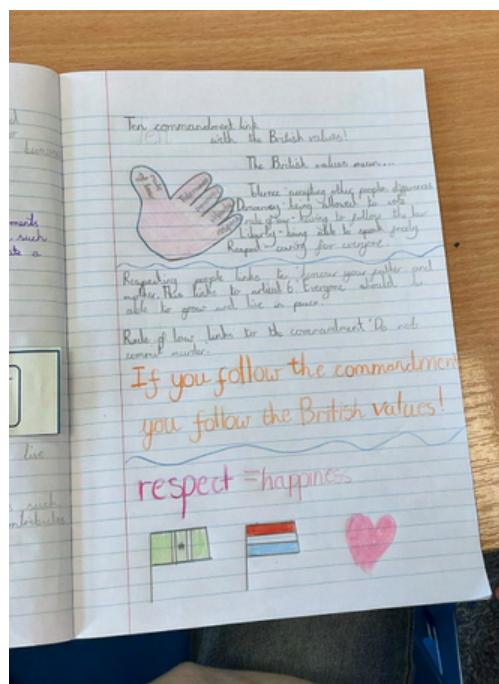
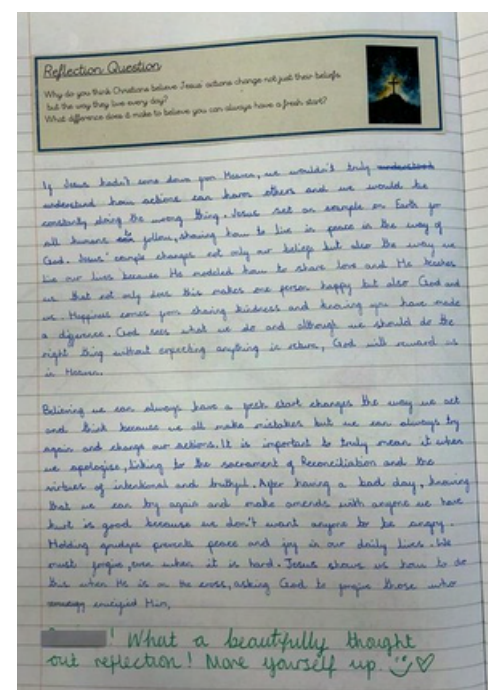
Year 6 are role models to their Reception buddies supporting their learning and play



Our RE learning



Year 5 linked the Ten Commandments with the British values and UNCR rights



A beautifully thought out reflection from a child in Year 6.

Families and Communities: Black History Month Learning



Year 1 have been celebrating Black History through learning about Birmingham football star Jude Bellingham. The children explored why Jude is such an inspiring role model, showing determination, hard work and kindness. They created portraits to celebrate his achievements.



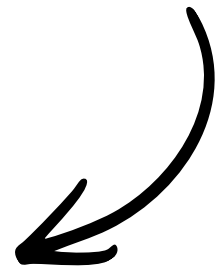
Year 5 have been learning all about Daniel Sturridge and created watercolour portraits as part of their learning.



Year 2 have been learning about Denise Lewis as part of Black History Month. The children learned about her achievements and then spoke about their own achievements and God-given gifts and talents.



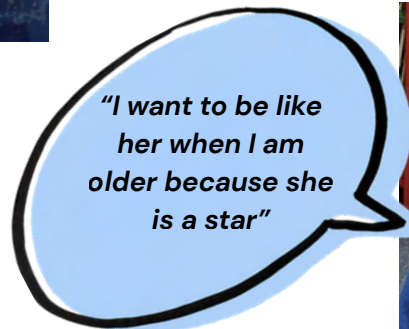
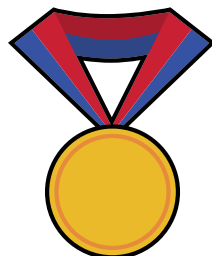
Look at the wonderful Year 5 work in progress!



Families and Communities:

Inspiring Visit from Past Pupil and Paralympic Gold Medallist - Megan Richter

This week, we were delighted to welcome former St. Mary's pupil and Paralympic Gold Medallist, Megan Richter, back to school. Megan spoke to the children about overcoming challenges, showing resilience and pursuing her dreams, even when the journey was not always easy. Her visit brought our school mission of 'Striving for Excellence' to life, as she shared how determination, perseverance and belief in herself helped her achieve success at the very highest level. As a former St. Mary's pupil, it was particularly inspiring for our children to see what can be achieved through hard work, resilience and making the most of their God-given gifts and talents. Megan is a wonderful role model, and we thank her for taking the time to inspire the next generation of St. Mary's learners.



*Follow
your
DREAMS*



CATHOLIC LIFE



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



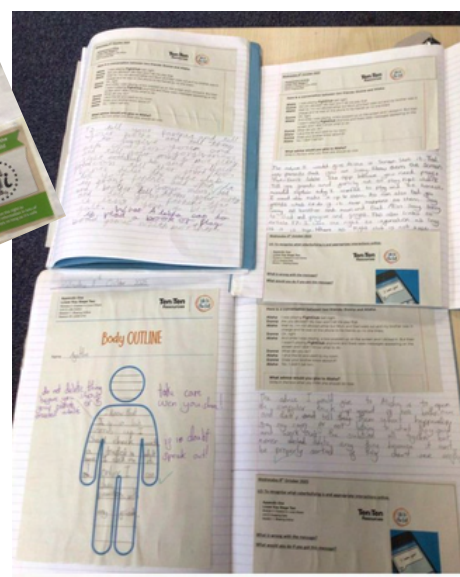
CURRICULUM

RHE Curriculum Workshops

This week, we welcomed parents to workshops focused on our Relationships and Health Education (RHE) curriculum, providing a clear overview of what children are taught and creating space for questions and discussion. We deliver RHE through Ten Ten: Life to the Full, a programme endorsed by the Diocese and fully aligned with statutory guidance from the Department for Education. These sessions reinforced our commitment to a curriculum that promotes respect, emotional wellbeing, and personal development, while supporting children to build healthy relationships and make informed choices—key elements in preparing them for life in modern Britain.

"RHE is very useful as it helps you know where to get help if you need it."
P (Year 6)

"RHE is also about our faith. It is useful to us as we get older and we will know what is ahead of us."
L (Y6)

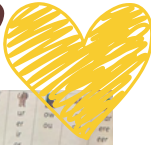


We were delighted that feedback from the session was overwhelmingly positive. Parents who responded agreed or strongly agreed that the workshop helped them understand the RHE curriculum, how learning progresses across the year groups, how children are taught to keep themselves safe, and how they can continue these important conversations at home. Parents also appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the programme with staff.

Statement	Strongly agree	Agree
The workshop helped me understand what my child will learn in RHE.	60%	40%
I understand how the teaching develops as children move through the school.	80%	20%
I understand how RHE helps my child learn about keeping safe.	60%	40%
I feel more confident discussing these topics with my child at home.	60%	40%
I had sufficient opportunity to ask questions during the workshop.	90%	10%



Mental Health Day - 9th October 2026



***"It's important to raise awareness about mental health as there is help available and people around to help."
A (Year 6)***



Children wore yellow to school on Friday in support of World Mental Health Day and the national 'Hello Yellow' campaign. Throughout the day, children took part in age-appropriate activities and discussions focused on mental health, wellbeing and the importance of looking after our minds, just as we look after our physical health. They explored ways to build positive relationships, recognise and talk about their feelings, and identify trusted adults who can support them when they need help. It was wonderful to see the school filled with yellow as we came together to promote kindness, understanding and the message that it is always okay to talk.



***"It's good to raise awareness about mental health as some people don't have good mental health."
P (Year 6)***



Waitrose Green Token Scheme

We are delighted to announce that St Mary's have been successful in securing the sum of **£1500**, the maximum amount, from the Waitrose green token scheme! This truly demonstrates the support of our families and community for our school.

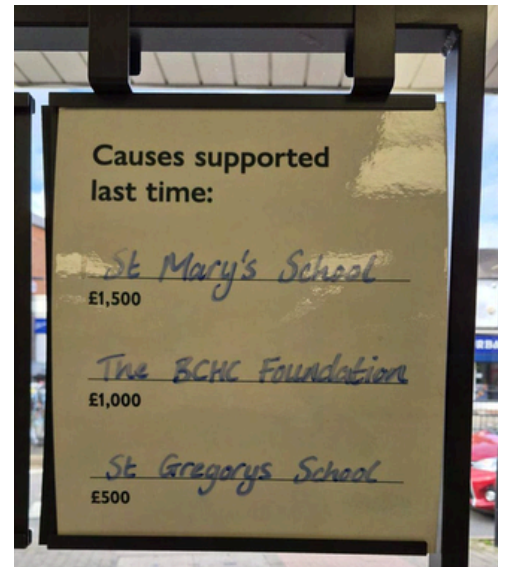
Thank you to everyone who dropped a green token in the box!

We are so grateful to the PTA and a group of parents who helped with this initiative – this really was a team effort!

The money raised will go towards our new activity trail, which the children are very much looking forward to.



**WE
DID IT**



Next week - WB 12.10.26

October - Pray the Rosary

As we journey into the month of October, we will be praying the rosary in school. This is a good time to pray and meditate on our Lord's life, faithfully witnessed by Our Blessed Mother. The rosary is the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the 'Glory Be'.



Black History Month

In October, we learn about black role models and inspiring people. We celebrate all races and cultures and the children will have the opportunity to celebrate their own families, cultures, traditions and backgrounds – please send in anything your children could show and talk about to support our learning.



The Book Fair is Here!



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:



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.

Parent Consultation Evening

Log in using your personal information i.e. Parent name and child's Date of Birth.

**Parents' evening appointments will be carried over two days –
Tuesday 13th October 2026 and Wednesday 14th October 2026.**

All appointments take place in the school hall.

There will be an opportunity to look at your child's books following your appointment.

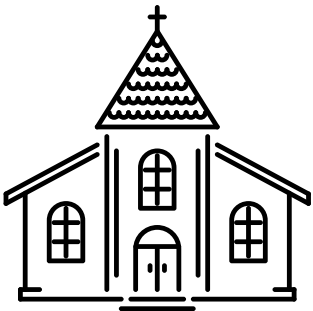
The appointment will last for ten minutes and timings will be strictly kept to. Please do not arrive any more than 5 minutes early for your appointment to help us with numbers in the school hall.

It is better if you do not bring your children (including pre school children and babies) to your appointment so that you can focus on the information given to you.

We do realise that this is not always possible. Children of St. Mary's will be taken down to the Year 2 classroom if you do bring them, where they will be taken care of by the staff.

We will be asking all parents to complete a parent questionnaire on the night. Please look out for this. We always take feedback on board to constantly improve and we love to hear all the things that you think are going well too.

There will also be the opportunity to visit our book fair.



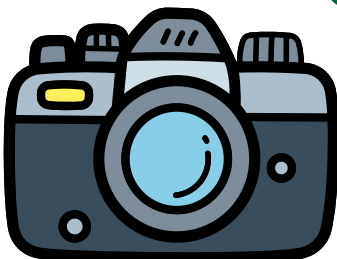
As part of Year 1L's feast day celebration...

Year 1 Mass for parents – 14.10.26 9:15am

Year 1 are inviting parents, grandparents, family members to join them in a special Mass to celebrate the feast of St. Luke – 1L's class Saint.

**Full school uniform for photo day
Thursday 15th October 2026**

Photo Day!



Thursday 15th October will be school photo day in school. Children will be having their individual photos and photos with siblings (who attend St. Mary's). It is important that children come to school on this day in full winter school uniform. If it is normally a PE day for your child, they just need pumps / trainers to change in to.



On **Friday 17th October**, we will be celebrating Saint Teresa of Avila, the Spanish Carmelite nun – who is one of only four women to be named doctor of the Church because of her writings about how to live a Christian life.

[Children who are in St. Teresa of Avila House Group – can come in to school wearing blue on this day!](#)



October collection for harvest

Throughout October, we will be collecting for our harvest festival. Here are the items to donate to school if you are able to support our charity work.

Feminine Hygiene Products

Socks and other Foot-care Items

Person Hygiene Items such as:

Shower gel, soap, deodorant, combs, hairbrushes, baby wipes,
hand cream, chap sticks, tooth brushes, tooth paste

New and unopened long life items such as:

Granola bars/snack bars, easy open cans (with pull tabs),
bottles of water, ready to eat meals, biscuits, crackers

Good quality used clothing such as:

Gloves, scarves, blankets, hats, sleeping bags,
warm clothing (jumpers, trousers, vests, coats etc)



Reception cohort - September 2027



Reception 2027

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Thursday 5th November 2026

- Morning Tour: 10:30 - 11:30
- Afternoon Tour: 13:45 - 14:45

Email: enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk
to book your place

OUR 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.

For more information call our school
office on: 0121 464 2141 or visit our
website:
https://www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk/web/september_2027_reception_class/720099

Have you a child who is
Reception age next year –
September 2027?

We'd love to extend our
welcome to you, to come and
look around our fantastic school.



**Contact the school office
to book your place!**

Request for assistance with research project

A member of staff within the Archdiocese is undertaking research as part of a PhD and is keen to hear the views and experiences of parents and carers whose children attend Catholic primary schools.

The research is a survey which should take no longer than 5 minutes.

The findings from this research will be used to help enhance and support Catholic education, so we would be very grateful for your participation. Parents and carers of all faiths, and those of no faith, are warmly encouraged to take part – your views and experiences are important.

Participation is entirely voluntary, and consent can be withdrawn at any time.

To find out more and take part, please visit:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/YcKE9XC8vC>

Thank you for supporting this valuable research.

PTA News



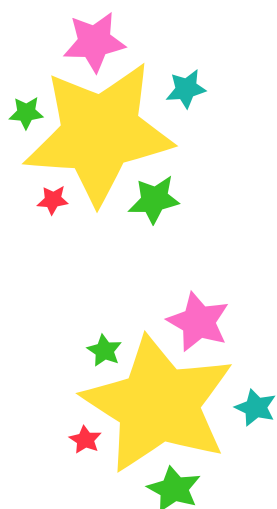
Please do come to the Pre-loved Uniform Shop - it's such a great way to ensure sustainability by giving these items of uniform a 'new home'!



Celebrating Out of School Achievements

A huge 'well done' to D and M in Year 4 who took part in the UK Charity Triathlon – Birmingham. The children completed a triathlon consisting of swimming, cycling, and running while raising money for St Mary's.

**D and M raised a total of £110.61 for the school!
What an incredible achievement - well done, children!**



*If your child or children take part in events, competitions or exciting activities outside of school, we'd love to hear about it. Please send us details including photos at the Enquiry email address - enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk
Thank you!*

Karate Club at St. Mary's



USKO KARATE
Respect. Discipline. Confidence.

FREE TRIAL SESSION

BUILD CONFIDENCE IMPROVE FOCUS MAKE FRIENDS GET ACTIVE

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY MORNINGS AVAILABLE
(Drop off from 7:40)

WORKS OUT AS **£5** PER SESSION

CONTACT JOSH
07824442833



USKO KARATE
Respect. Discipline. Confidence.

THURSDAY EVENINGS AT **ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

5:30 - 6:30 AGE 5+ | 6:30 - 7:30 AGE 11+

2 FREE TRIAL SESSIONS
(USUALLY £25 PER MONTH)

★ **FREE MEMBERSHIP & SUIT**

TRY BEFORE YOU JOIN!

CONTACT JOSH
07824442833

Strings Club October half-term

The Strings Club will be bringing their award-winning Holiday Camps to St Mary's this October half term, during the week beginning 26th October. Their fun-filled, screen-free days combine music with creativity, wellbeing and lots of opportunities to make new friends. Children can enjoy guitar, violin or ukulele sessions, alongside art, drama and creative workshops, energetic games and outdoor activities.

Children attending for more than one day can also benefit from free instrument hire, so no previous musical experience or instrument is needed.

Even better, St Mary's families receive 10% off The Strings Club Holiday Camps all year round. Simply use the code **STMPRI26** when booking.



THE STRINGS CLUB

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, B17 0DN.

ENTER STMPRI26 FOR 10% OFF

scan me

Make the school holidays unforgettable

- ✓ Award-winning Holiday Camps
- ✓ 550+ 5* Reviews
- ✓ Free Instrument Hire
- ✓ Tax Free & Childcare Vouchers
- ✓ 1 Adult to 8 Children Ratio

BUY WOMEN BUILT

www.thestingsclub.org | 0121 296 9204



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.

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.

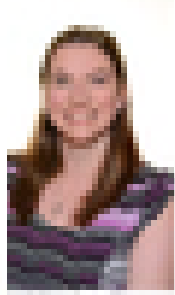
Pastoral Team

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



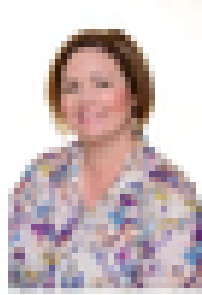
Louise Yorke
Headteacher



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 05/10/26-09/10/26

Class	YRB	YRT	Y1L	Y1F	Y2E	Y2G	Y3L	Y3T	Y4J	Y4M	Y5M	Y5F	Y6R	Y6O
%	99	99	99	99	97	100	99	98	98	99	100	96	97	100
Lates	1	3	5	3	2	1	4	4	2	2	0	2	1	0
Whole School Attendance so far this year						97.5%		School Target				97%		

Well done 2G, 5M and 6O: - Our attendance champions!



As parents and carers, there are ways you can support children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy. Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills you can teach them from a young age.



Ways to support a child or young person



Be there to listen

Regularly ask your child how they're doing, to help them get used to talking about their feelings, and know there's always someone there to listen. You can get tips on [Young Minds: How to talk to your child about mental health](#).



Support them through difficulties

Pay attention to how your child is feeling or behaving and try to help them work through difficulties. It may not be easy facing challenging behaviour, but try to help them understand what they're feeling and why. Learn more from [the Maudsley Charity on difficult behaviour](#).



Stay involved in their life

Show interest in their life and what's important to them. It not only helps them value who they are but also makes it easier for you to spot problems and support them.



Encourage their interests

Support and encourage your child to explore their interests. Being active or creative, learning new things and being a part of a team helps connect us and boost our mental wellbeing.



Take what they say seriously

Listening to and valuing what they say makes them feel valued. Consider how to help them work through their emotions in constructive ways. [Anna Freud Centre's guide on ways to support children and young people](#) has more on this.



Build positive routines

Try to have structure around regular routines, especially around healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also important, so have a fixed time for going to bed and getting up. The [Sleep Charity](#) has relaxation sleep tips for children.

Further support can be accessed through:

- The school's Pastoral Team
- Forward Thinking Birmingham, the NHS mental health service for children and young people aged 0 to 25. Please visit: www.bsmhft.nhs.uk
- School Nursing Services for advice and signposting to appropriate support including the School Nurse Virtual Drop-in Clinic. Please visit: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20014/schools_and_learning/692/home_education/7
- Birmingham Family Hubs, offering wellbeing, parenting and family support services

If you would like advice about any of these services, please speak to Mrs Noone or a member of the Pastoral Team.

Early support can make a significant difference to children's wellbeing, confidence and resilience.



Family Hub Drop-in Surgery



The Early Help/Family Help Service are pleased to introduce their new Family Hub Drop-in Surgery, designed to provide accessible advice, guidance, support and signposting for families, carers, children, young people, and professionals across the city.

The drop-in surgeries provide a welcoming and confidential space where individuals can discuss concerns, seek information, explore available services, and receive support with Early Help processes.

When?

Every Wednesday
12:00pm to 4:00pm

Appointments available and walk-ins welcome (subject to capacity)

What support is available?

Information, advice and guidance
Signposting to local and specialist services
Parenting support
Child development advice
SEND information
Emotional wellbeing support
Housing and financial signposting
Community resources and local learning opportunities
Support with Early Help referrals and processes

Who can attend?

Families and carers
Children and young people – with parents/appropriate adult
Professionals from partner agencies seeking advice or support for families they work with

Location?

Family Hub venues across the city.

The service is delivered by Early Help Coordinators who can provide advice, guidance, signposting, and support to help families access the right support at the right time.

To book an appointment or find out more, please contact your local Early Help Coordinator or the shared mailbox: EarlyHelpCoordinators@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk



Dates for this half term

Autumn theme -

Autumn 1 Virtues

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

Families and Communities

Compassionate and Loving

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
- 1 more INSET day to be confirmed

Star of the week

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

Year RB	Hamdaan	For settling in well into Reception!
Year RT	Elora	For amazing progress in phonics and for trying her best in writing!
Year IF	Thea	For being a positive role model and always making great choices. Well done!
Year IL	Halima	For working so hard in all areas of her learning!
Year 2E	Rosabella	For always making the right choices and being a great role model to other children.
Year 2G	Libby	For working hard in maths and having neat presentation!
Year 3L	Eliana	For working really hard and improving the presentation of her work. Well done Eliana!
Year 3T	Kori	Consistently demonstrating kindness and respect towards others in our classroom.
Year 4J	Benji	For being an excellent role model to others-well done!
Year 4M	Sophia	For being a kind, helpful and caring learning partner.
Year 5F	Aryana	For excellent work in science!
Year 5M	Cyril	For his contributions to class discussions. Keep it up!
Year 6O	Amelia	For always being a fantastic role model and striving for excellence in everything she does!
Year 6R	Sienna	For writing a beautiful setting description in Exciting Writing! Well done.

