



Archdiocese of Birmingham  
**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
 SCHOOL**

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Headteacher: Miss L. J. Price M.Ed.

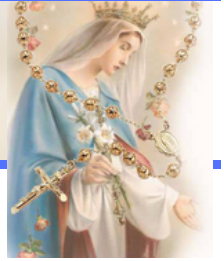


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

## October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

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

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



1st October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It has been another busy and wonderful week in school. We have had exciting Science investigations, multiplication competitions for World Multiplication Day and fabulous DT and Art projects (as well as lots of hard work in our maths and English lessons). Every Friday, throughout October, Mrs. Davis is praying the rosary with the children in our outside prayer area and we had a lovely uptake for this today. It is wonderful to meet so many parents through school masses and I'm beginning to learn more of the children's names when they are sent to show me their good work. I look forward to another busy and exciting week next week, but until then, have a restful and lovely weekend.

Miss Louise Price

### This week's Gospel and prayer

Mark 9:38-48

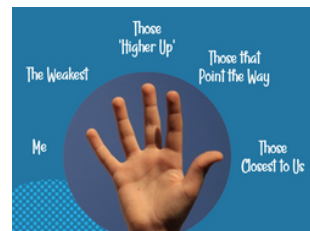
"If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off"

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn that:

- Jealousy can stop us from celebrating and encouraging others
- Jesus asks us not to stand in the way of others' attempts to do good

Use your fingers to pray for:

- those who are closest to you
- those who point you in the right direction
- those who are higher up
- those who are weak
- you



### Catholic Life in School

#### Year 4 Mass - Archangels

Y4 lead us in our Mass to the Archangels on Wednesday. We had beautiful singing and reading. And it was lovely to see so many parents.



#### Year 3 Mass in Church - 6.10.21 at 9:15am

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 6th October, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 3 pupils and staff will be celebrating next week's Mass and **parents are welcome to attend** (If you are an adult attending Mass, we ask that you continue to please wear face coverings).

## SPIRITUAL COUNCIL

**The Spiritual Council met and have lots of ideas for our retreat day next week, dedicated to St. Therese of Liseux**



## Year 6L Assembly

6L led us in a fabulous assembly dedicated to St. Therese of Liseux. It was wonderful to welcome parents in to the building to watch the assembly.



## October - Pray the Rosary

This Friday is the first day of October – and 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'.

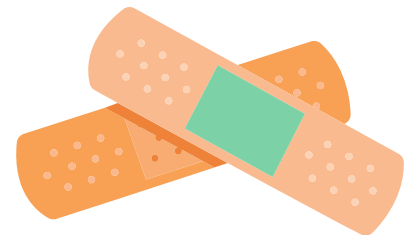


## This week's news



### First Aid training

Hayley from First Aid For Life delivered fantastic training to 11 members of staff, meaning we have more first-aiders in school.



### Reception news: -

Reception visited the Church and Fr. John gave a guided tour. He even baptised a teddy for us to see! The children loved looking at the stained glass windows and all the different statues.



### Year 1 news: -

Have been enjoying their PE lessons outside





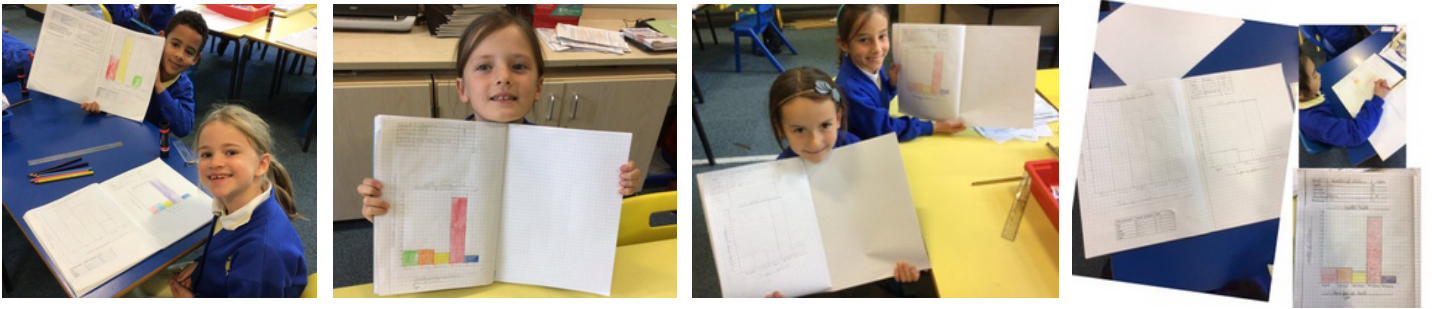
*Year 2 news: -*

Year 2 have been sorting materials according to their properties in Science.



*Year 3 news: -*

Year 3 have been enjoying their data handling lessons in Maths.



*Year 4 news: -*

Year 4 have been making Roman Mosaics



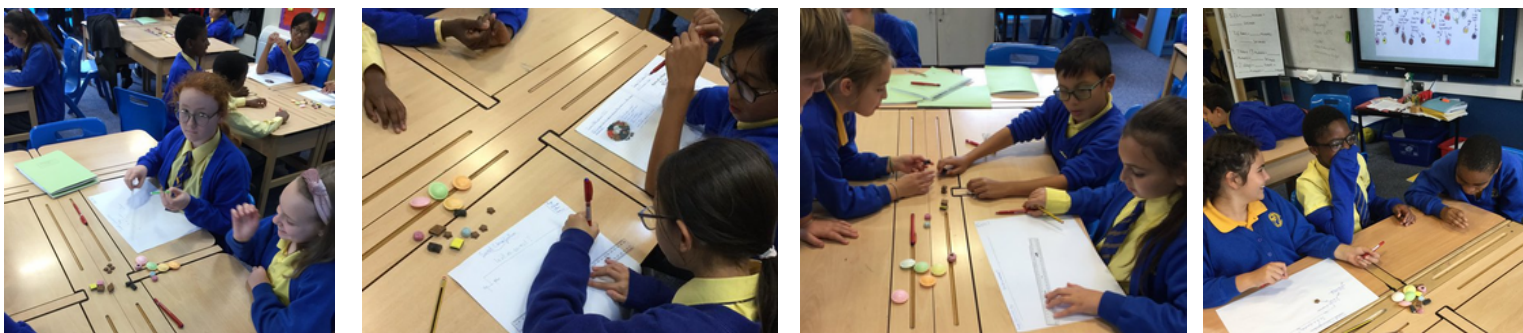
*Year 5 news: -*

Year 5 have been practising their timestables for World Multiplication Day.



*Year 6 news: -*

In Science, Year 6 have been making sweet classification keys.







Monday 4th October marks the end of the Season of Creation on the Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.



## READING WORKSHOP

On Tuesday October 5th at 9am there will be the opportunity for you to attend a 'Phonics and Early Reading' meeting in the school hall. During this meeting we will outline our approach to reading and phonics at Saint Mary's, show you how we use different strategies to help the children learn to read and give you lots of ideas and strategies to use at home when you read with your child.

### Hot Dog Day

On Thursday 7th October 2021, we are having hot dog day in school – please let the office know if your child doesn't normally have a school dinner, but would like a school dinner that day.



## National POETRY Day 7 October 2021

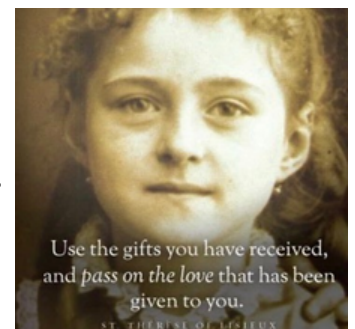
### National Poetry Day

Thursday 7th October is National Poetry day and the theme this year is choice. We look forward to reading, listening to and enjoying poetry on this day and maybe even writing some of our own.



### Retreat - 8.10.21

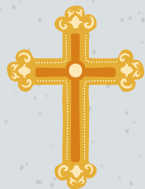
Next week, we will be learning more about St. Therese of Lisieux and our Spiritual Council has planned a retreat for each year group where we find out more about her relationship with God.



### October - Pray the Rosary

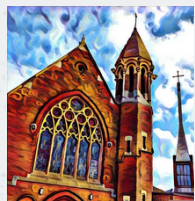
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### Church Opening Times and Masses

St. Mary's Church opens weekdays at 8:30am for a twenty-five minute Mass. The Church will stay open for prayer and candles till 4:00pm. Sunday Masses, both 9.30 and 11.00 are well attended, – but the 5pm and the two Saturday Masses 12 and 6 are less well attended and have spaces.



### About Being Catholic Course St. Mary's Church

The *About Being Catholic* programme, for those interested in knowing what Catholics believe so as to be able to help the children, begins Thursday 30th September at 7.30pm in the St Mary's Parish Centre, – with masks and social distancing.



### First Holy Communion and Confirmation

St Mary's Parish First Holy Communion programme (for Year 3) and the Confirmation programme (Year 6) will begin after Christmas every second Saturday, in the Parish Centre, 9.30–11.00am for Communion, 11.30 – 12.45 for Confirmation.



### Certificate of Catholicity for Secondary School

If you are a parent of a Year 6 child, who will be requiring a Certificate of Catholicity (e.g. for St Paul's) and wanting Fr John to sign it, please note: he needs to know the family are regularly at Mass in St Mary's!

### 'Together we can make a difference' Competition

**"Climate change is a global problem with serious implications. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." Pope Francis**

Can you do a **poster, picture, story board or model to show what we can do to make a difference?**

These will be displayed in the porch and the church to give us all ideas of what to do.

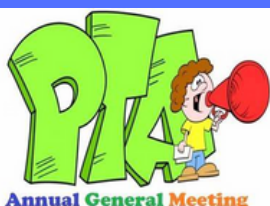
Please put your entry in the box on the piety stall before October 19th.

( Or you can give entries in to school). Please put your name and contact details on the back of your entries.

We hope there will be lots of entries from adults and children of all ages. Combined efforts from families or classes or groups of friends are also welcome. Size should be at least A4 but bigger posters are welcome too. The main end purpose is to have a great display in Church encouraging people to think about what steps they can take personally to reduce the increase in global warming.

If you need ideas check out the CAFOD website at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

### Other News



Annual General Meeting

The first Annual General Meeting of the PTA (Parent Teacher Association) of the New school year will be on Thursday 14th October at 7pm. We look forward to welcoming new parents who would like to join the PTA in supporting the school run events throughout the school year.

### Getting together after School/Nursery Drop-Off – A Place to Belong

Every Thursday 8.45-9.45am

in The Parish Centre, starting Thursday 14th of October.

Are you a mum rushing to get the children to school or nursery on time? Or are you a 'new mum' looking for a place to dwell? Come and chat over a coffee after the school drop-off! We will get together for a natter and a little time of reflection every Thursday morning. Everybody is welcome (including your little ones who do not go to school/nursery!)? For more info email Elena: [erivafisher@gmail.com](mailto:erivafisher@gmail.com)

## Reminders



### *Please use book bags rather than rucksacks*

Please can children attend school with their book bag and draw string PE bag.

The book bag has sufficient space for reading books and homework and the PE bag should contain pumps for indoor PE, that can be kept in school for the half term.

We are asking for this rather than the rucksacks as the rucksacks are too bulky and there is not enough space on the children's pegs for them all.

We will 'phase out' ruck sacks over the next few weeks and after half-term break it will be book bags only please.

Logo prints provide a service where book bags can be personalised if you wish for your child to have a bag that feels unique and special to them.



## 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. .

## ***Y6 applications for Secondary Schools - apply before 31.10.2022***

If you have a child currently in Year 6, please make sure that you have applied for their Secondary School.

If you live in Birmingham you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) **between 1 September and 31 October 2021.**

It is important that you submit your application by 31 October 2021. Applications received after the national closing date of 31 October 2021 will be treated as late applications. Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools, and these applications will be processed after 1 March 2022, in accordance with Birmingham's coordinated admissions scheme.

## ***Eschools***

Eschools is a platform that teachers use to communicate with parents and set homework.

This is checked regularly by teachers but not necessarily daily. Eschools is not the most efficient way to communicate with the Leadership team - please contact enquiry email or phone school for more urgent matters.

If your child needs a new password for Eschools, please contact the class teacher. If a parent needs a new password, please email school on

[forgottenpassword@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:forgottenpassword@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk)

Again, this may take a few days to reset.

We encourage parents to keep their passwords safe so that they do not miss any key information.





### Homework

The school is currently in the process of reviewing homework. Following COVID, there have been lessons learnt and changes to expectations. We will provide more information in the upcoming weeks.



### Coats

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

### Additional school clubs

We have several school clubs running in school now

#### Before school clubs

Wednesdays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2, Y3 and Y4  
Thursdays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y4, Y5 and Y6  
Fridays (7:45–8:45) – Karate – For Y1, Y2 and Y3 (*this club is full*).

#### After school clubs

Mondays (3:20 – 4:20) – Rugby – For Y1 and Y2 (to start after half term)  
Wednesdays (3:30–4:30) – Netball – For Y5 and Y6  
(3:30 – 4:30) – Football – For Y6  
(3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y3  
Thursdays (3:30 – 4:45) – Chess – For Y4, Y5, Y6



### PE day

Please make sure that children are still wearing PE uniform on the days that they are wearing their PE kit in to school. PE uniform is the Gold t-shirt, Royal blue shorts, dark navy or black tracksuit bottoms and **black trainers**.

### 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.



## COVID

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?



YES

- If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PRC test), NOT a Lateral Flow test.
- If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PRC test.
- **If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.**



NO

- All children **MUST** attend school unless they are ill.
- From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has Covid.
- Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.

## Dates for the diary

22nd September 2021 - 9:15am -  
24th September 2021 - all day -  
29th September 2021 - 9:15am -  
1st October 2021 - 9:15am -  
5th October 2021 - 9:00am -  
6th October 2021 - 9:15am -  
11th October 2021 - all week -  
13th October 2021 - 9:15am -  
14th October 2021 - 7:00pm -  
15th October 2021 - 9:15am -  
18th October 2021 - all week -  
19th October 2021 - after school -  
20th October 2021 - 9:15am -  
21st October 2021 - morning -  
21st October 2021 - 9:15am -  
25th October - 29th October -

Y5 Mass in Church (Y5 parents welcome).  
Macmillan cake sale (for children only) in school.  
Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome).  
Year 6L Class Assembly in School.  
Early Reading Workshop for parents in School.  
Y3 Mass in Church (Y3 parents welcome).  
Mental Health Awareness Week in school.  
Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome).  
PTA AGM meeting in school hall.  
Year 6F Class Assembly in School.  
Book Fair in school.  
Parent Consultations.  
Reception Welcome Service in Church (YR parents welcome).  
Photographer in school.  
Parent Consultations.  
Half term week.

## Online Safety



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

[www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)

Screen time and healthy balance quality not quantity

*Tip: - Instead of worrying too much about how long your child is spending online, encourage your child to use their device purposefully and for a range of different activities.*

## Attendance

RF RL IF IL 2F 2L 3F 3L 4F 4L 5F 5L 6F 6L  
97% 93% 97% 98% 95% 98% 96% 99% 98% 97% 98% 99% 97% 96%



*Start of the day - 'Drop and go'*

The gates will open at 8:30am. Miss. Price and/or Mrs. Davis will be at the yellow barrier.

*End of the day - 'Pick up and go'*

Please continue to be on time for pick up so that all classes are dismissed swiftly and safely.

**3:10pm - Reception parents** - walk down the drive on the **left** hand side.

Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

**3:15pm - Year 1 and Year 2 parents** - walk down the drive on the **right** hand side.

Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

**If you are collecting children in the KS2 classes or the sibling group - please do not arrive until 3:20 to allow time for younger children to be dismissed first.**

**3:20pm - Sibling group** - walk down the drive on the **right** hand side.

Your children will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

**3:30pm - Year 3 and Year 4 parents** - walk down the drive on the **left** hand side.

Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

**3:30pm - Year 5 and Year 6 parents** - walk down the drive on the **right** hand side.

Your child will be released to you, and you will leave by walking up the middle of the drive way.

*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.*



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

Year RF	Grace	Fantastic picture of a house.
Year RL	Imogen	Brilliant sorting in maths.
Year 1F	Darren	For always making the right choices.
Year 1L	Bobby	For trying hard in Maths this week.
Year 2F	Jasnoor	For trying his hardest in every lesson.
Year 2L	Scarlett	For always being a super role model.
Year 3F	Ethan	For writing an exciting Stone Age Adventure Story in English.
Year 3L	Seth	For writing a fantastic Stone Age story.
Year 4F	Martha	For being a superstar and always being kind and respectful.
Year 4L	Anna	For excellent behaviour at all times and super listening.
Year 5F	Nesta	For successfully increasing her writing stamina.
Year 5L	Lilianna	For really trying to challenge herself in all her work this week.
Year 6F	Patrick	For making sensible choices and for working hard in maths.
Year 6L	Sophie	For always being a wonderful role model to others.

