



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

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

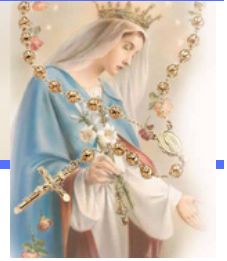


St. Mary's mission: To love God above all things by: learning together, loving ourselves, loving each other, loving all people, loving life itself and constantly striving for excellence worthy of our God-given gifts.

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'



22nd October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we draw to the end of a busy half-term in school, we give praise and thanks for all the wonderful things that have happened at St. Mary's these past weeks. We thank the Lord for all the work offered by the children and the staff, and the support we have received from the Parish and parents.

We have had two wonderful parents' evenings this week and had 128 responses to our parent questionnaire - I will share some of this information with you when we return to school.

I hope that you all have a lovely week with your family and friends. I will see you on Monday 1st November. God bless.

Miss Louise Price

This week's Gospel and prayer

Mark 10:35-45

"Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all"

Reflecting on this week's Gospel message we learn:

- the importance of following Jesus' example by serving others and doing good.
- that by dying on the cross, Jesus won for us the greatest prize - the joy of living with him forever.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving us so much that you gave your life for us. Help us to follow your example and serve others. Thank you for sharing with us the greatest prize of all - the joy of living with you forever.

Amen

Catholic Life in School

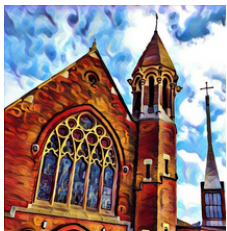
Reception Welcome Mass in Church - 20.10.21 - HARVEST!

On Wednesday, we officially welcomed our Reception pupils in to our St. Mary's family in Mass. We also celebrated the harvest and were really well supported by parents, who stood out in the rain to give a guard of honour to the children. Thank you to everybody who donated to our harvest collection.



Year 1 Mass in Church - 3.11.21 at 9:15am - celebrating all saints!

Our next Mass in Church will be on Wednesday 3rd November, starting promptly at 9:15am. Year 1 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).



Orange hearts - a symbol of hope, love and compassion for refugees
 This week, each class have made orange hearts to welcome refugees.



This week's news



Reception made posters to show that we are all unique and what are we proud of?

Year 4 have been learning about Julia Tertia, a wealthy Roman woman and Septimius Severus, the first African Roman emperor – they looked at a portrait of his family and asked questions about his life.



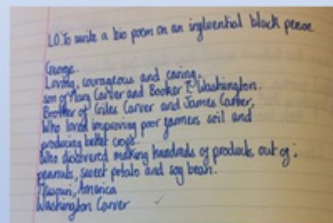
Year 5 learnt about inspirational Black women and made

Black History Month

Year 1 learnt about an incredible explorer called Matthew Henson and the actress Lupita Nyong'ô



Year 6 wrote amazing poems about inspirational figures.



Year 2 have been inspired by icons such as Ruby Bridges and Lewis Hamilton to create posters to promote equality, diversity, and justice.



Year 3 talked about Black women who have changed the world.



Book Fair

Our book fair in school has been very successful and we have sold so many books. We will let you know after half-term how much we have made. The money given back to the school will be spent on new non-fiction books for our class libraries in school.



Reception news: -

Reception class built the dark dark town from 'funnybones' and have been learning about refugees.



Year 1 news: -

Year 1 have been learning about what makes them unique and have been naming 2D and 3D shapes in maths.



Year 2 news: -

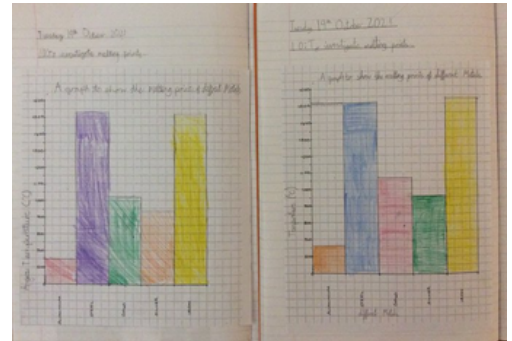
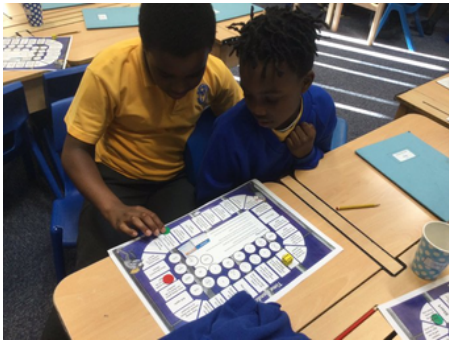
Year 2 have been learning about baptism with Fr. John.



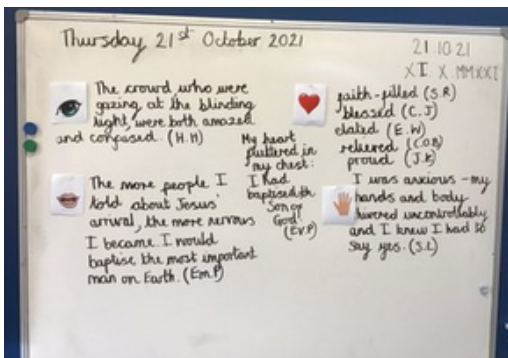
Year 3 news: -
Year 3 have been designing their own stone age houses.



Year 4 news: -
Year 4 have been using their Maths and Science skills, converting units of time and drawing bar charts.

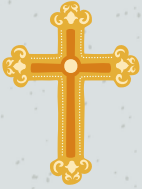


Year 5 news: -
Year 5 completed a senses trail before writing a first person account from John the Baptist's perspective.



Year 6 news: -
In Science, Year 6 have been using their classification skills and knowledge.





Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are on Saturdays at 12:00 and 6:00pm
Sundays at 9:30am, 11:00am and 5:00pm
St. Mary's Church is open weekdays at 8:30am for a twenty-five minute Mass and then remains open till 4:00pm for private prayer and candles.



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, continues on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the St Mary's Parish Centre, - with masks and social distancing.



Baptism

If you are looking to have your child / baby baptised at St. Mary's, please see Fr John, - or come to the Parish Office and speak with the the Parish Secretary.



Confession

Confessions at St Mary's Church are on Saturdays,
10.30 - 11.30, in the Sacristy, behind a screen

Other News



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Open Afternoon



Do you or someone you know have a child due to start school in September 2022? If so, and you would like to have a tour of the school and ask some questions, please call the school office (0121 464 2141) to book your preferred slot:

Thursday 4th November – 1:30-2:00
Thursday 4th November – 2:00-2:30
Thursday 4th November – 2:30-3:00



At this stage, the tour is for one parent per family – no children please.

Book bags - not rucksacks



After half-term, **school will no longer be able to allow large and bulky ruck sacks in to the building.** We are asking that all bags brought in by the children fit the pegs that children are assigned.



For health and safety reasons, your child will need to use their book bag and draw-string PE bag **or similar sized bag (preferably blue in colour).**



Any children still attending with large ruck sacks that are too bulky for the pegs, will be asked to leave their ruck sacks at the 'ruck sack' stop which is situated next to the lunch box stop. I am taking parent feedback on board, whilst still following the school prospectus and health and safety procedures.

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 **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.



Coats

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

Labelling of clothing

There is a very high volume of unnamed jumpers, cardigans and coats now in the parent shelter.

Please label all belongings for your child (including lunch boxes / water bottles / 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.



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.



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**.

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



Asthma / inhalers in school

Letters have now been sent home to all children with asthma to update our records. If you have not received a letter to update your child's details, please collect one from the office and return marked FAO Mrs Davis.

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.



'Moms' Meeting' - Thursdays 8:45am - 9:45am in the Parish Centre

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

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

KEEPING SAFE

Online Safety

www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers



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

ONLINE SAFETY TIP: -

Speak to your child about who they can turn to if they feel unsafe

Identify with your child three trusted people that they can go to if they come across stuff online that makes them feel uncomfortable. A trusted person can help them process what they saw and prevent them from seeing more like it in the future.

We are aware of the Netflix series 'Squid Game' being big news at the moment and its popularity is beginning to spread across various online platforms. The content connected to this show - ranging from memes to apps - is very violent, so it is important for parents, carers and educators to understand the basis of Squid Game and the potential risks to young people who might be exposed to it. Please continue to monitor carefully all content that your children are viewing online.

Parking Safety

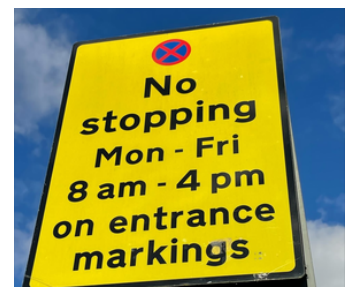
Parking

The School Council representatives met with me yesterday to ask for a fundraising day so that the bollards (left) could be purchased. to prevent people from **stopping** on the yellow lines outside of the school at drop off and pick up.



NO STOPPING

The yellow lines outside of school have a 'NO STOPPING' rule between the hours of 8-9 am and 3-4 pm.



SAFE PARKING

There are places where you can park safely around the school area - please be considerate and keep our children safe by choosing one of these options.

Own clothes day - Friday 26th November. All money raised to go towards small people bollards!

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 16th 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.

Half-term homework

3rd November 2021 - 9:15am -
4th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00pm -
8th November 2021 - all week -
8th November 2021 3:30 - 5:00 -
10th November 2021 - 9:15am -
10th November 2021 - 3:45 - 5:15
12th November 2021 - all day -
12th November 2021 - 9:15am -
15th November 2021 - all week -
16th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -
17th November 2021 - 9:15am -
17th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -
19th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -
22nd November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -
23rd November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -
24th November 2021 - 9:15am -
24th November 2021 - 1:30-3:00 -
26th November - all day -
26th November 2021 - 1:30-3:30 -
30th November 2021 - 6:45 - 8:45pm
1st December 2021 - 9:15am -
3rd December 2021 - 9:15am -
7th December 2021 - 3:15 - 4:15 -
9th December 2021 - 3:30 - 4:30 -
10th December 2021 - all day

WB 13.12.21 - Nativities in school

17th December 2021

Create a piece of art work for our 'all Saints display'

Y1 Mass in Church (Y1 parents welcome).
Reception open afternoon (for prospective parents of the school).
Remembrance week in school.
Film night for Reception and KSI (PTA)
Y2 Mass in Church (Y2 parents welcome).
Film night for KS2 (PTA)
Children in Need non-uniform day in school.
Year 5F Class Assembly in school (5F parents welcome).
Anti-bullying Week in school.
Y3 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).
Y6 Mass in Church (Y6 parents welcome).
Y4 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).
Y5 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).
Y1 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).
Y2 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).
Y5 Mass in Church (Y5 parents welcome).
Reception Advent Inspire (parents and children work together).
Non-school uniform day in school to raise money for school council.
Y6 Advent Inspire (parents and children work together in school).
PTA Wreath making workshop for parents in school.
Y4 Mass in Church (Y4 parents welcome).
Year 5L Class Assembly in school (5L parents welcome).
Reception and KSI disco in school
KS2 disco in school
Christmas jumper day and Fr. Christmas in school

More information about nativities to follow...

Break up for Christmas break!

1:40 finish time - Reception classes

1:45 finish time - KSI classes

1:50 finish time - sibling group

2:00 finish time - KS2 classes

Star of the week

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

Year RL	Hannah	being kind and helpful in school.
Year RF	Anya	being such a kind and caring friend.
Year 1L	James	always being a good role model and making the right choices.
Year 1F	Phobe	her positive attitude to learning and great contribution in class.
Year 2L	Sam	his positive attitude and being a friend to all.
Year 2F	Mariam	writing imaginative instructions.
Year 3L	Luke	his fantastic fossil presentation to the class.
Year 3F	Benjamin	his brilliant kenning performance.
Year 4L	Ben	continued improvement in his behaviour and attitude to learning.
Year 4F	George	his amazing power project and positive attitude.
Year 5L	Eric	a wonderful recount of Jesus' baptism.
Year 5F	Aidan	being always eager to share his ideas, particularly in history.
Year 6L	Samuel	being an excellent role model to his reception child buddy.
Year 6F	Karson	his super division work in maths.

