



# February Newsletter 2025

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*28.02.25*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a real joy to be writing to you again as I return from maternity leave. I want to take a moment to say how much I have appreciated the warm welcome back and how so many of you have asked after my new son. Your support and kindness have meant so much to me and my family.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr Wilkes, who has provided such excellent leadership as Interim Executive Principal in my absence, and to Mr Lodge for stepping up to Head of School during this time. Their hard work and dedication to the school community are truly appreciated.

As we move forward together into this next half term, I look forward to reconnecting with you all and continuing the wonderful work that makes our school such a special place for children to learn and grow.

Wishing you all a restful and blessed weekend.

Take care and God bless,

Mrs Borriello

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope



What is a Jubilee?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

### **What is the theme for the Jubilee Year?**

The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

### **When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?**

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door on Christmas Eve 2024 to begin the Jubilee year. In schools, this officially launched 24th January 2025.

### **The Jubilee Prayer**

The official Prayer allows pilgrims from all over the world to use the same words to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness. The official prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Holy Year, this can be found in other languages on the website of the Jubilee. The Jubilee is an experience of faith and a profound encounter with the Lord.

*Prayer Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen*



Our Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle for Spring term 2 is:  
**Option for The Poor and Vulnerable.**



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*The Headlines for this Newsletter:*

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- *Safeguarding*
- *Class Attendance*
- *Attendance - What does this mean?*
- *Rocksteady Reminder*
- *Ash Wednesday*
- *Local Links - Brierley Hill Library*
- *SEND - Dudley's Local Offer*
- *Dyslexia support*
- *Black Country CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops*
- *Dudley Family Information Service*

- *Celebrating our God-given talents*
- *Half Termly Dates*
- *Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for February*
- *Contact School*

## Safeguarding



If you find you are ever facing something challenging in your family life, please come and see us. We are always here to help you and your child(ren).

### **Early Help**

An Early Help Assessment is a great way of getting your family some support, whether it be with your child's behaviour, their sleeping pattern or social and emotional wellbeing, or something that effects the whole family, housing and finances, for example.

It involves a meeting with professionals from different agencies (dependent on your family's individual needs) and a plan will be put in place to show the different support you will receive and who is responsible for getting this done.

It is not input from Social Services: it is there as a support tool only, for a variety of different reasons.

If you have any questions, or feel you may benefit from this, please contact Ms Mosley on 01384 985 005, or contact the school office to arrange an appointment to see her.

### **Safeguarding**

Please be aware that we have a duty of care to all children at St. Mary's and this may mean we need to contact Social Services/Family Support for advice or to report a situation. We understand that this can be distressing for those involved, but please be assured that we **always** have your child's best interests at heart.

If you have any concern or worry about another member of the St. Mary's School community, please don't hesitate to contact any of our DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads): Mr Lodge, Miss Clewley or Ms Mosley. Our Interim Executive Principal, Mr Wilkes, will also be a member of our DSL team too.

## Class Attendance - February



Reception:86 %

Year 1: 91%

Year 2: 90 %

Year 3 :93 %

Year 4: 89 %

Year 5: 91%

Year 6: 90 %

National Average: 94.5 %

### **Attendance record and lessons missed**

- 95% attendance means 50 missed lessons. This means a child missed about 10 days or 2 weeks of lessons in the school year.
- ***90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.***
- 85% attendance means 150 missed lessons. This means the child misses almost 6 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 80% attendance means 200 missed lessons. This means the child misses over 7 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 75% attendance means 250 missed lessons. This means the child misses about 9 weeks of lessons in the school year

### **Punctuality**

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year, that's 20 lessons missed
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year, that's 55 lessons missed
- Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to 19 days absence a year, that's 123 lessons missed



## Attendance - What does this mean?

# Attendance Matters



This newsletters' attendance is 90 %, which needs huge improvement! If you're unsure about your child's attendance, worried about getting them into school or just want advice and support then please come and speak with us. Together, we can work hard to improve this.

On average, this would mean that:

- **90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.**

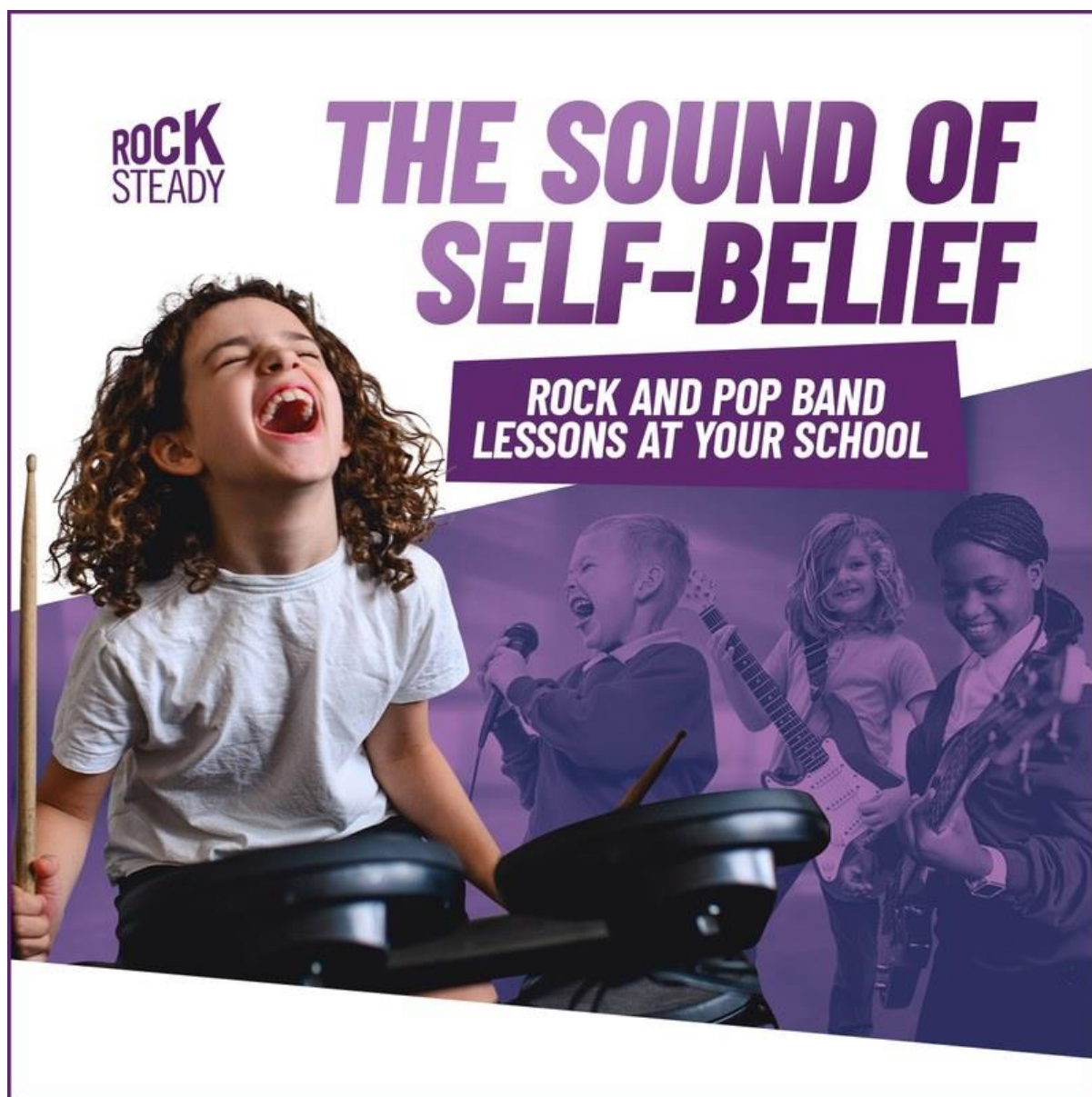
Please do reflect on this; 100 missed lessons could cause significant interruption to children's learning and would mean that learning outcomes may not be as strong as they could be.

We would obviously love to be as close to 100% as we can. The government, rightly so, has a huge focus on attendance as, ["research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well."](#) There is a clear link between attendance and better outcomes so well done to everyone that has focussed on this; by doing so, you are prioritising a brighter future for your child/children.

Attendance is everyone's responsibility just like the safeguarding of every child and young person.

Please understand, that if attendance shows deterioration, you will be contacted - this is to establish a path forward so that we can raise the level of attendance, which is heavily linked to raising the performance of your child in their crucial education. We need to prioritise this so join us and work with us!

Thank you and God bless, Mr Lodge.



We partner with Rocksteady Music School to deliver fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons.

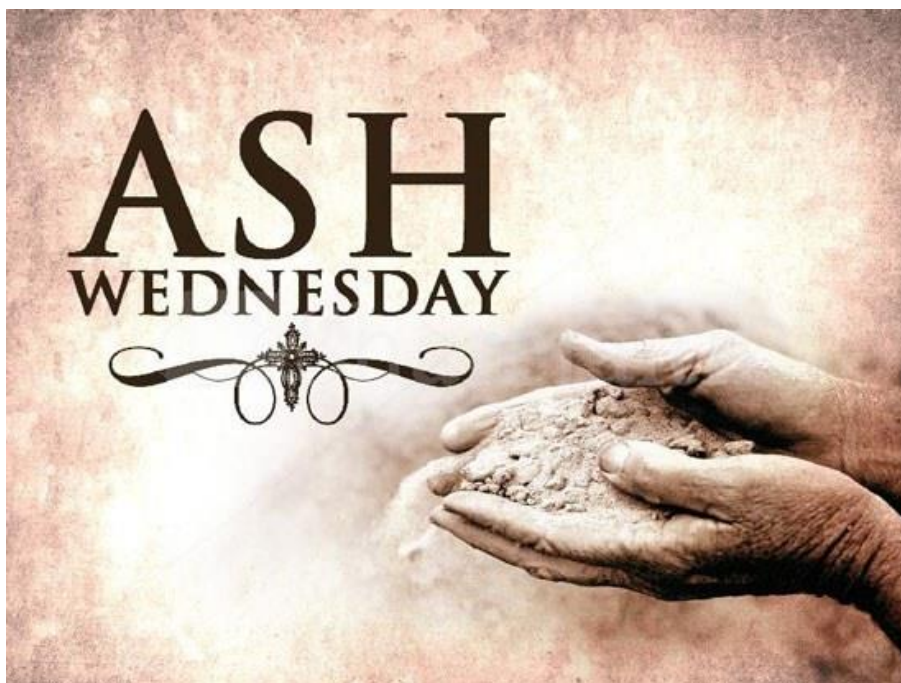
These weekly music lessons take place in school and are led by professional musicians who make learning music fun. It's the perfect way to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time – all at school! Rocksteady lessons are also shown to amplify confidence, wellbeing and social skills. How does it work?

- There's no experience necessary and all instruments for lessons are provided.
- Watch as your child performs in their end of term concerts, showing just how far they have come.

- Children learn up to 300 instrument, band, and performance skills, whilst playing songs they love.
- Children can achieve an Ofqual-regulated Music qualification, accredited by Trinity College London, without having to take a single exam.
- You'll receive regular progress updates, including photos.

There's a money-back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. To sign up today, visit [rocksteadymusicschool.com](http://rocksteadymusicschool.com) or call 0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate) or email [info@rocksteadymusicschool.com](mailto:info@rocksteadymusicschool.com)

### Ash Wednesday at St Mary's – 5th March



We warmly invite all members of our school community to join us in celebrating **Ash Wednesday** with a special **Mass led by Father Shanju** on **Wednesday 5th March**. This important day marks the **beginning of Lent**, a sacred season in the Church's calendar.

### **What is Ash Wednesday?**

Ash Wednesday is a significant day in our Catholic faith, marking the start of **Lent**—a **40-day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving** leading up to **Easter Sunday**. During Mass, our priest will place ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, reminding us of our **need for repentance** and our journey towards spiritual renewal. The ashes symbolise humility and a fresh commitment to living as Jesus taught.

### **Why is Lent important?**

Lent is a time for **reflection, sacrifice, and growth in faith**. It is an opportunity to **draw closer to God**, to make small sacrifices, and to help those in need. Through prayer, fasting, and giving to others, we prepare our hearts for the celebration of **Christ's resurrection at Easter**.

We encourage all children, parents, and carers to join us for this special Mass as we begin Lent together as a school community. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to sharing this meaningful time with you.

## [Local Links - Brierley Hill Library](#)



### **Sustaining Our Local Links with Brierley Hill Library**

At St Mary's, we love encouraging a passion for reading, and we are delighted to continue strengthening our **local links with Brierley Hill Library**! The children have been **excited to visit once again**, exploring the wonderful selection of books available.

During their visits, the children have enjoyed **choosing a book to take home**, and we know many would love the opportunity to **return and swap them for new ones**. We encourage families to make the most of this fantastic community resource and keep the joy of reading alive!

Don't forget that Brierley Hill Library is also hosting a **World Book Day costume swap**, where families can **donate and exchange costumes** for this year's celebrations. It's a great way to reuse and share while making sure every child has something special to wear on the day.

We look forward to more visits and ongoing collaboration with Brierley Hill Library—let's keep our children **engaged, inspired, and reading!**

Take a look at what's been happening around School



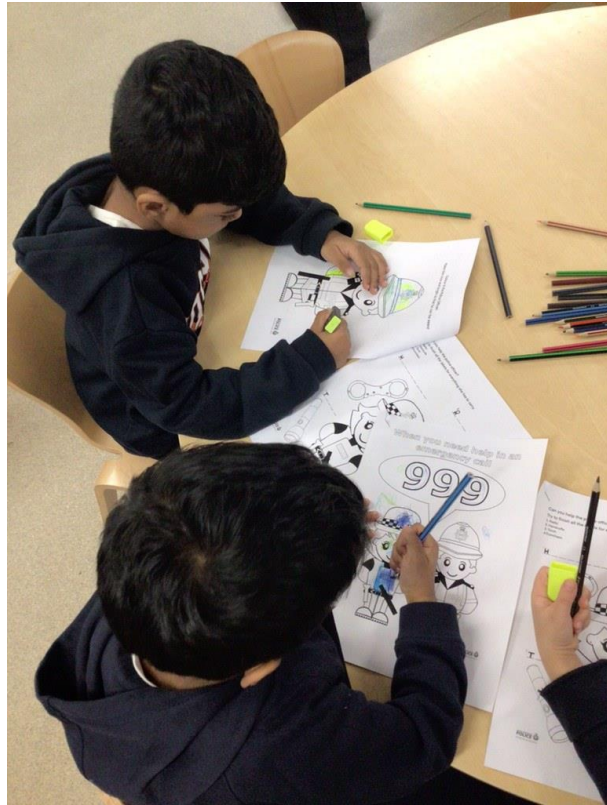
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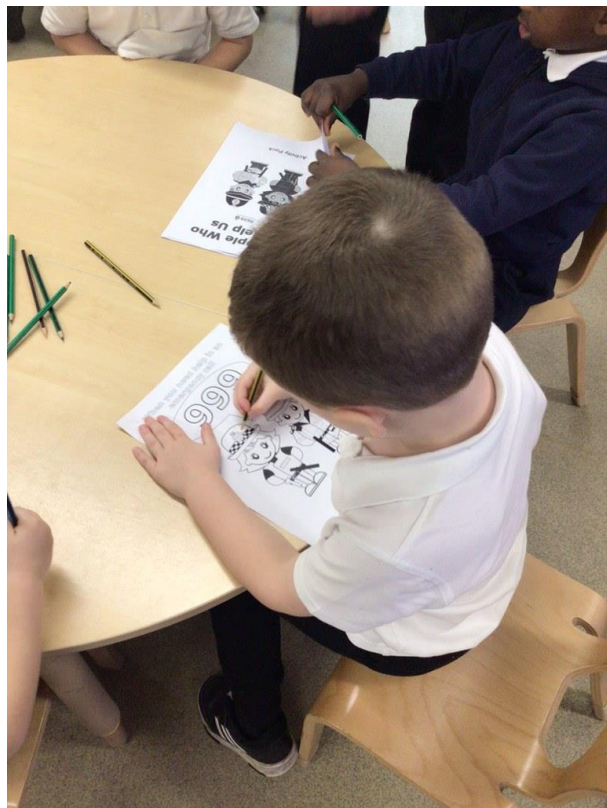
2 - Reception



3 - Reception



4 - Reception



5 - Reception

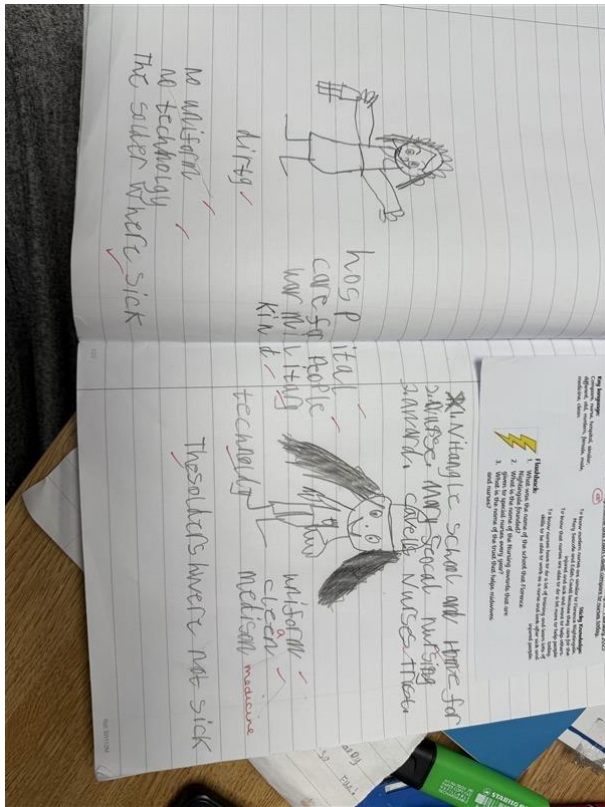


6 - Reception

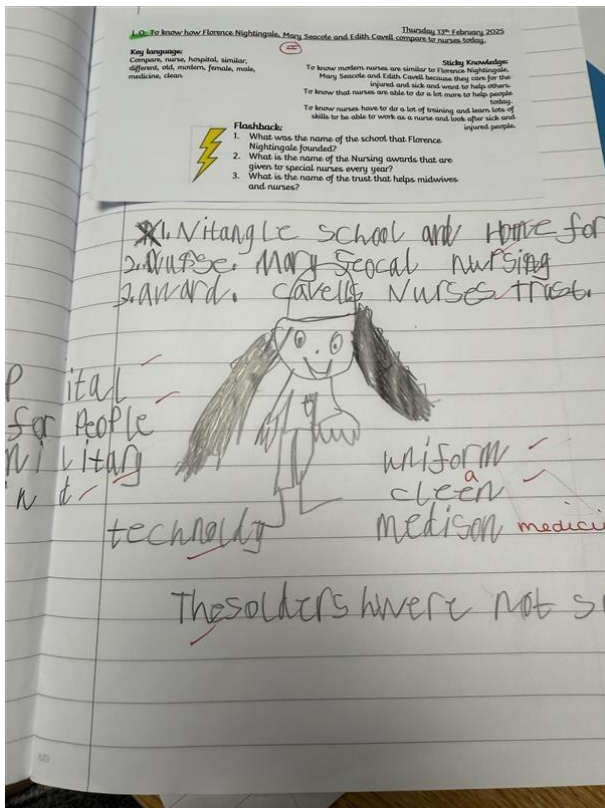


7 - Reception

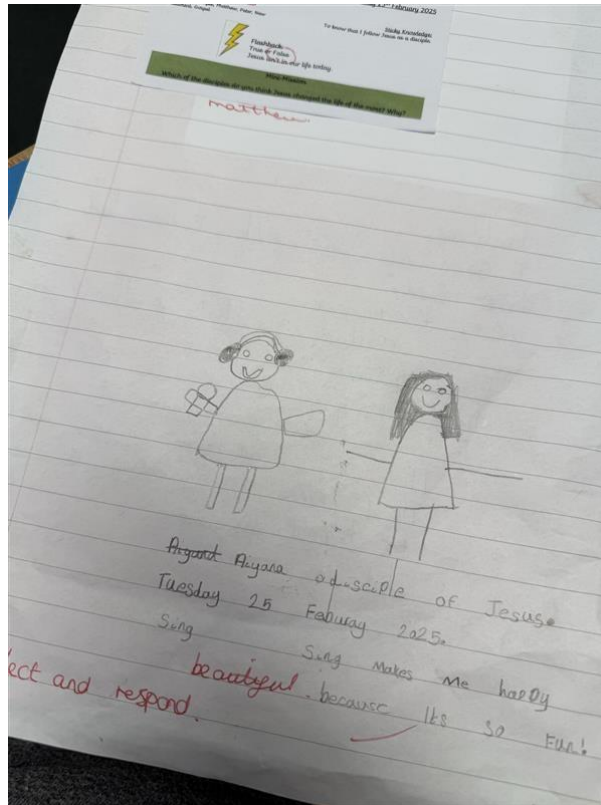




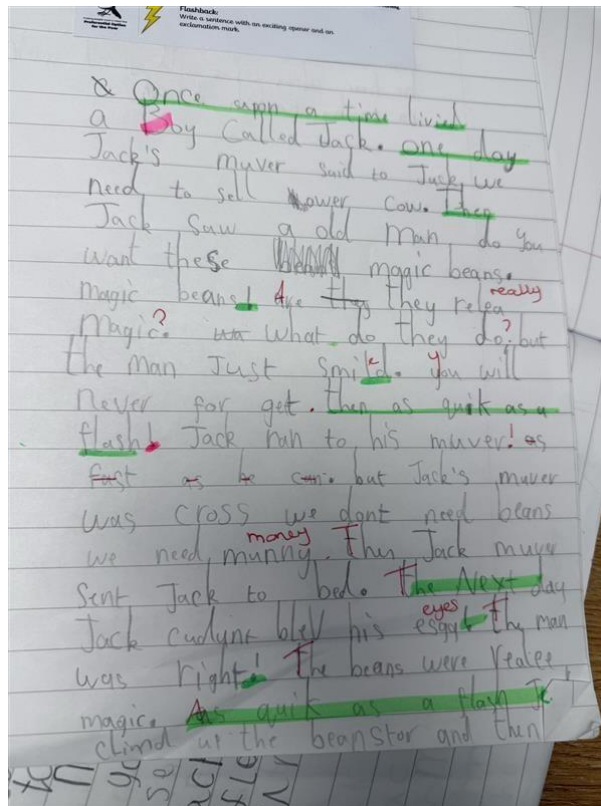
8 - Year 1



9 - Year 1



10 - Year 1



11 - Year 1

Saw a casual. Then a Tight was in  
 Can I eat, yes but quick the Tight  
 is about to <sup>come</sup> now. Then Jack  
<sup>heard</sup> a sound there sigh for 7 small a  
 man as a English mas he hear. dead or  
 be hear alive or I will grind your <sup>bones</sup>  
 in to by English & bread

12 - Year 1

NO WILLIAMS ✓  
 NO TECHNOLOGY ✓  
 THE SOLDIER WERE SICK ✓

DIRTY ✓

HOSPITAL ✓  
 CARE FOR PEOPLE ✓  
 NOW NOTHING ✓  
 KIND ✓

WISDOM ✓  
 CLEAN ✓  
 MEDICINE ✓  
 measure

TECHNOLOGY ✓

THE SOLDIER'S WERE NOT SICK

STUDENT SCHOOL AND HOME FOR  
 DANCING AND SOCIAL AND SING  
 SINGING, GARDEN, NURSERY, TREES

1. **Handbook**  
 2. **Handbook**  
 3. **Handbook**

13 - Year 1

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**LO:** To know how Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell compare to nurses today.

**Key language:**  
Compare, nurse, hospital, similar, different, old, modern, female, male, medicine, clean.

**Sticky Knowledge:**  
To know modern nurses are similar to Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell because they care for the injured and sick and want to help others.  
To know that nurses are able to do a lot more to help people today.  
To know nurses have to do a lot of training and learn lots of skills to be able to work as a nurse and look after sick and injured people.

**Flashback:**

1. What was the name of the school that Florence Nightingale founded?
2. What is the name of the Nursing awards that are given to special nurses every year?
3. What is the name of the trust that helps midwives and nurses?

~~St. Vitangle school and home for~~  
~~2. Nurses. Mary Seacole nursing~~  
~~3. Award. Cavell Nurses Trust.~~

hospital  
for people  
military  
not  
technically  
uniform  
clean  
medication

The soldiers however not si

14 - Year 1

Saw a casual. Then a fight was in  
 Can I eat. yes but quick the fight  
 is about to <sup>come</sup> now. Then Jack  
<sup>heard</sup> a sound there fight for 7 small a  
 man as a English man he hear. dead or  
 be hear alive or I will grind your <sup>bones</sup> beans  
 in to by English & feed

15 - Year 1

Flashback:  
Write a sentence with an exclamation mark and an exclamation mark.

Once upon a time lived a boy called Jack. One day Jack's mummy said to Jack we need to sell our cow. They Jack saw a old man do you want these magic beans. Magic beans! Are they really magic? What do they do, but the man just smiled. You will never forget. Then as quick as a flash! Jack ran to his mummy as fast as he can. but Jack's mummy was cross we dont need beans we need money. Then Jack mummy sent Jack to bed. The next day Jack woke up blind his eyes. The man was right! The beans were really magic. As quick as a flash Jack climbed up the beanstalk and then

16 - Year 1



17 - Year 2



18 - Year 2



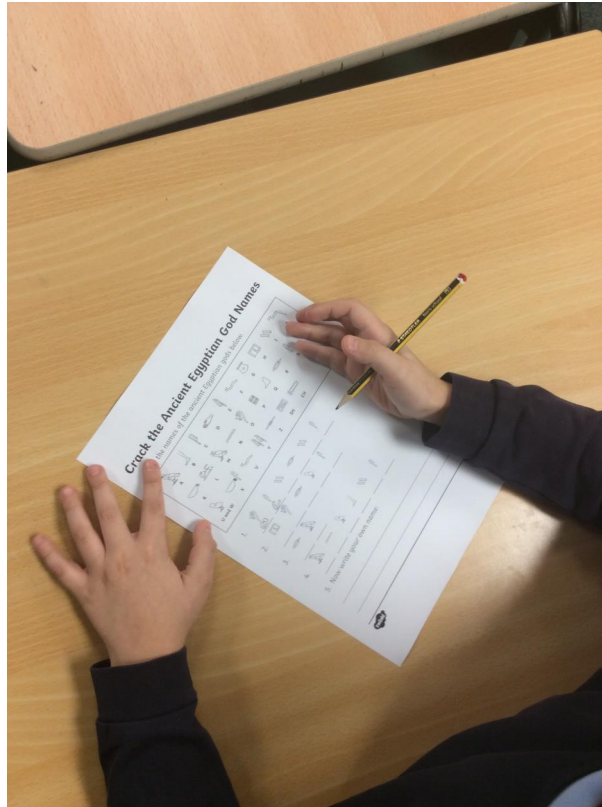
19 - Year 2



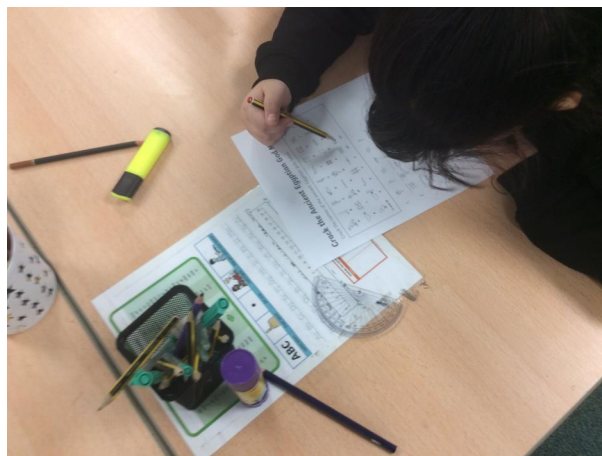
20 - Year 2



21 - Year 2

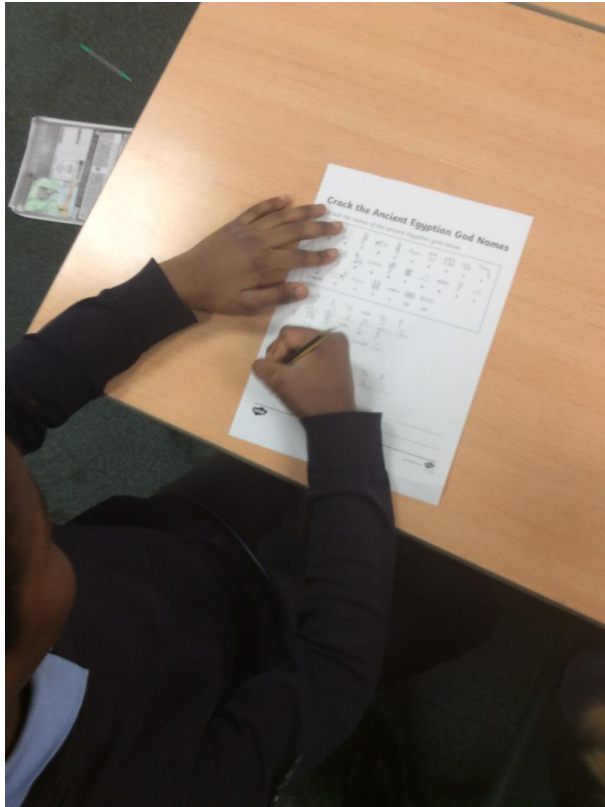


22 - Year 3

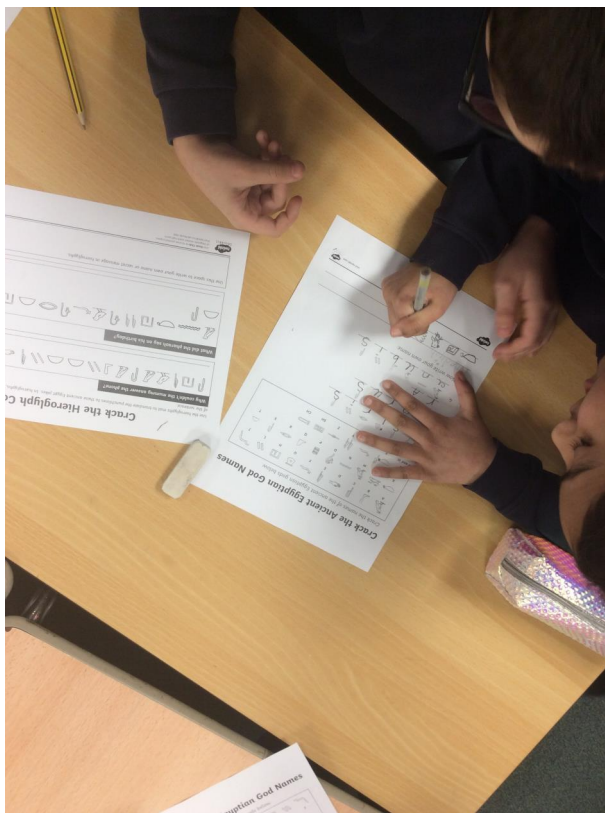


23 - Year 3





24 - Year 3



25 - Year 3



26 - Year 4



27 - Year 4



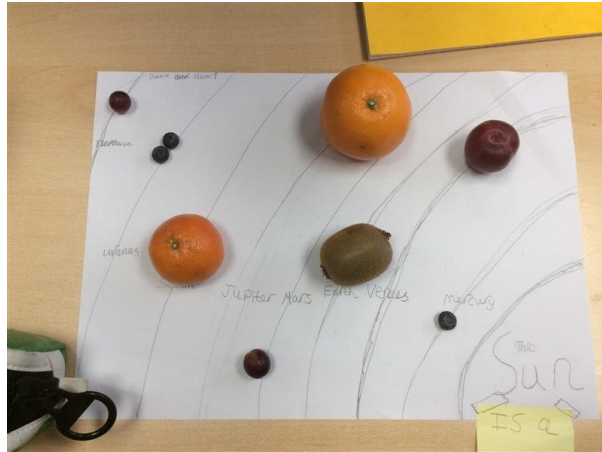
28 - Year 4



29 - Year 4



30 - Year 5



31 - Year 5



32 - Year 5



33 - Year 6

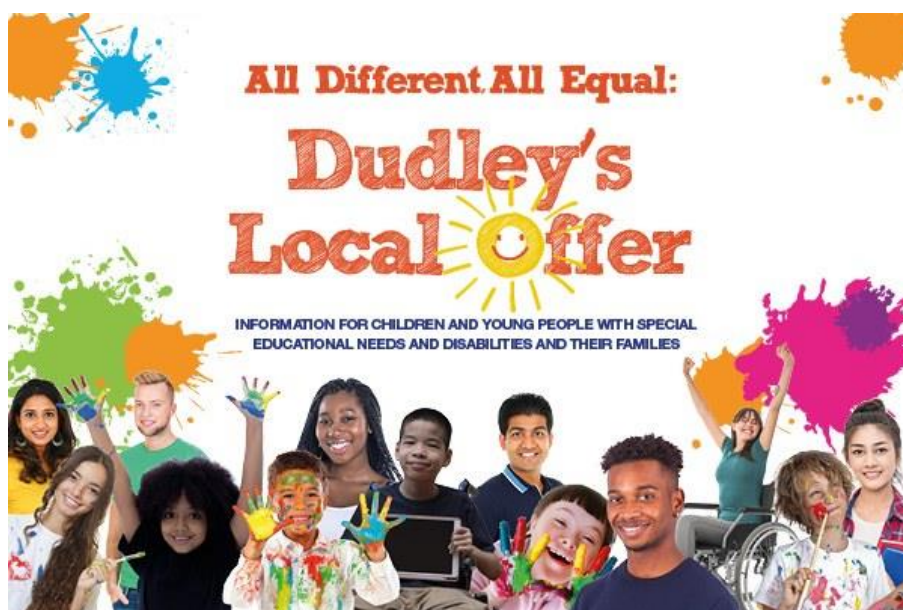


34 - Year 6



35 - Year 6

## SEND - Dudley's Local Offer



### **Dudley's Local Offer**

The Local Offer is full of information and advice on things to support you and your child with Special Educational Needs or disabilities. If you need advice on health, education, social care and community support for you and your family visit the Local Offer website:

[www.localoffer.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.localoffer.dudley.sch.uk)

### **Dudley Parent Carer Forum**

Parents and carers from across Dudley borough who have children with disabilities and special needs are being invited to join the Dudley Parent Carer Forum.

Dudley Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parent carers of children and young people (0-25 years) with disabilities and additional needs. The forum provides a safe environment for parent carers of children with disabilities or additional needs to share their thoughts and concerns and to empower them to have their voices heard in a way that influences change and service design.

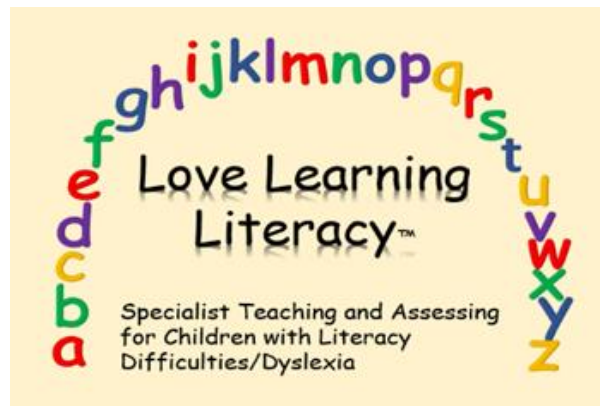
Any parent carer of a child with a disability or additional needs, residing in Dudley borough can become a member.

For more information contact the forum via their Facebook page or by their website: [www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk/](http://www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk/)

### **Events and workshops for people with SEND**

Dudley SENDIAS (special educational needs & disabilities information advice and support) Service is running a range of online activities over the coming months to help parents and

carers or young people with SEND. Find out more at <https://dudleyci.co.uk/workshops-and-events>



**36 - Does your child have literacy difficulties/dyslexia? Would you like them to improve their reading and writing in the comfort of their own home?**

*I create and teach interactive, multisensory Online lessons using Dyslexia Action's highly effective Structured Literacy Programme. After an informal assessment, each lesson is tailored to your child's needs to ensure enjoyable progress. Lessons are for children aged 5-11 years and can be 30/40 minutes or one hour.*

*For more information, please contact Vee Bird (Specialist Dyslexia Teacher) on 07554 253 703 or write to: [//lovelearningliteracy@gmail.com](mailto://lovelearningliteracy@gmail.com)*

*Thank you,*

*Vee Bird (MSc, PGCE, Associate of The Dyslexia Guild)*

## Black Country CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops





### **CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops**

*Come and join our Parent/Carer Workshops, run by Black Country CAMHS services (on Zoom for 1.5hours) Groups held 12pm - 1.30pm.*

We know that suffering from mental health difficulties does not only affect the person struggling, but also the family around them. Parenting a child/young person with mental health difficulties can create additional challenges for parents.

We are running workshops exploring a range of difficulties that children/young people may experience, that can impact their emotional wellbeing.

10.07.24- Trauma and Attachment

11.09.24 - Autistic Spectrum Conditions

23.10.24 – Speech and Language

20.11.24- Depression / Low Mood

18.12.24 – Anxiety / OCD

15.01.25 – Self-harm

12.02.25– Anger / Conduct difficulties

12.03.25 – Anxiety

To register your interest telephone **Andrea Ehgartner** on **01922 607400**



## **Dudley Family Information Service**



Please click on the following link to access the latest bulletin from Dudley's Family Information Service:

[Family Information Summer Newsletter \(govdelivery.com\)](http://govdelivery.com)

## Celebrating our God-given gifts



**This months wonderful Gifts of God recipients are:**

**Reception Sienna.**

**Year 1 Arlo, Dominic, Ava, Lucas, Aria, Grace.**

**Year 2 Micah, Demie, Cian, Ava, Tommy, Brogan.**

**Year 3 Archie-Jon, Leilah, Komi, Milen, Romeo, Geoffrey.**

**Year 4 Theo, Evelyn C, Ella-Rose, Chloe, Antonio.**

**Year 5 Oliver T, Isla -Rae, Rory, Lilly.**

**Year 6 Sophie, Thomas,**

**A huge well done to everyone!**

## Half Termly Dates



### ***March:***

Sunday 2nd Year 5 read at mass

Tuesday 4th Book Fair arrives in school

Wednesday 5th Ash Wednesday Mass

Wednesday 5th Year 6 Library Visit (PM)

Thursday 6th World Book Day (non uniform)

Thursday 6th Confirmation Meeting 1

Friday 7th Year 1 Library Visit (PM)

Wednesday 12th Year 6 height and weight

Thursday 13th Year 5 class mass

Thursday 13th FHC Meeting 1

Sunday 16th Year 6 Confirmation commitment mass

Thursday 20th Year 4 Whole School Mass

Tuesday 25th STM Feast Day – The annunciation

Wednesday 26th EYFS and KS1 Lent service – parents welcome

Thursday 27th Year 3 Class Mass

***April:***

Wednesday 2nd KS2 Lent Service – parents welcome

Thursday 3rd Year 2 Whole School Mass

Monday 7th Rock Steady concert – parents welcome

Friday 11th Break up

**Dates for the new school year:**

Further dates for the term ahead are available on our website. If you require support accessing these, please contact our friendly office administrator, Mrs Bate, for additional help

You Said, We Did:

We received feedback to say that there is not enough advanced notice for dates, so we have added them to the monthly newsletter! Please do continue to provide useful feedback that could be used to enhance your Saint Mary's experience.

***Pope Francis' prayer intention for February***



**For Embracing Vocations:**

In February, Pope Francis invites us to pray for young individuals discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life. He emphasizes the importance of the Church community in supporting these vocations:

"Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel called to live Jesus's mission in life: either through the priestly life, or religious life."

[vaticannews.va](http://vaticannews.va)

Reflecting on his own journey, Pope Francis shared:

"When I was 17 years old, I was a student and was working. I had my own plans. I wasn't thinking at all of being a priest. But one day, I went into the church...and God was there, waiting for me!"

[vaticannews.va](http://vaticannews.va)

### **Prayers for Pope Francis's Health**

Recently, Pope Francis has been hospitalized due to a prolonged asthmatic respiratory crisis and a complex lung infection. His condition remains critical, and he is under close medical supervision.

[mysanantonio.com](http://mysanantonio.com)

Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller has called upon the faithful to unite in prayer:

"I invite the people of God and all people of goodwill to pray for Pope Francis. May the Holy Spirit sustain him and give him the strength to persevere to the end."

[mysanantonio.com](http://mysanantonio.com)

Let us all come together in prayer for the Holy Father's swift and full recovery.

### **Looking Ahead: March Prayer Intention**

For March, Pope Francis's prayer intention focuses on families in crisis:

"Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences."

[uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org)

As we approach March, let us keep families facing challenges in our prayers, seeking healing and unity through compassion and understanding.

Please join Pope Francis and the whole Church in praying these monthly intentions, particularly on Fridays at 12.30pm.

Polite reminder - teachers can be contacted using the class email address or through making a telephone appointment through the Main Office. Teachers will reply as soon as possible, during normal working hours. Out of school hours, in an emergency, you can contact us by completing this form here: <https://st-mary-bh.sch.life/page/detail/contact-school-1>



**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

Mill Street

Brierley Hill

01384 985 005

[enquiry\\_stmarys@emmausmac.com](mailto:enquiry_stmarys@emmausmac.com)

Visit us on the web at [St. Mary's Website](#)