



## Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/ Carers

Happy Jubilee Year 2025. The theme for the jubilee is Hope . The children and staff in school have been very busy, as you can see in the photographs above creating, imaginative doors of hope in their classrooms. There will be more about the Jubilee and our Academy Feast Day build up in this newsletter.

The weather did play havoc with a smooth start to this Lent term, but we are incredibly thankful for your support in ensuring the children attend school and on time. It has been wonderful to see very high attendance these last 3 weeks. The rain, snow and ice, causes constant damage to the playgrounds, but within a very restricted budget, we will always look to improve facilities around school and to continue to make it safe. With breakfast club funding, more equipment has been purchased for this and can also be used at playtimes-such as an Archery and boccia kit, balances, hoops, balls and other items.

Thank you too, for your responses to the Academy survey. 41 responses were completed. It was great to see that the vast majority of the responses were very positive about all aspects of the school and we cherished the lovely comments about the staff and leadership of the school. Your improvement points are always looked at and worked on. In this newsletter, there will a section on the Catholic life of the school and how we teach other Faiths at St Mary's School. We work daily on developing friendships between the children in school and the school's anti-bullying policy and most parents stated that the school deals with bullying quickly and effectively. There were just 2 parents who commented that this could be better-please do help us, to improve this- there are several ways: become a parent Governor, be a parent representative for your class, contribute to the FOSM and most importantly come and talk to us. Our behaviour policy is based on restoration , listening and forgiveness and so we spend time listening to all sides when a friendship issue arises and this results in positive consequences, much more than when a parent approaches another parent. On Arbor, and class dojo we are training staff to show positive points, rather than just negative incidents too. We look forward to inviting families to school this term to see the great learning in lessons.

Miss Jordan

Miss Jordan

St Mary's - January 2025

# Contact Info

Address: Hastings Street, Loughborough, LE11 5AX Phone: 01509 212 621

Email: [office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk) Website: [www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk](http://www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk)



## Dates for your diary



Tuesday 28th January 2025: The School celebrates St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day celebration.

Thursday 6th February 1.30p.m-6p.m: Parent/ Teacher meetings in the school hall- please book on Arbor

February 2025: School Valentine Disco- Tuesday 11th February 2025.

14th February: Own Clothes Day FOSM

17th February - 21st February 2025- Half term holiday

Lent 2 term begins: 24th February 2025

4th March: Talent show rehearsals begin

5th March: Ash Wednesday ( children attending 9.15a.m mass at St Mary's Church. Beginning of Lent.

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day

10th March: Other Faith's week learning in RE lessons-Hinduism

11th March: Talent Show rehearsals

13th March: individual and Sibling photos ( family photos before school begins)

18th March: talent show rehearsals

Friday 28th March: Talent Show

3rd April: Rock Steady concert

7th April: Holy week Liturgies in school

Easter holidays begin 14th April to the 25th of April

School begins for the Pentecost term (Summer Term- 28th April)



# Contact Info

Address: Hastings Street, Loughborough, LE11 5AX Phone: 01509 212 621  
Email: [office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk) Website: [www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk](http://www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk)



## Catholic Life and Mission and Other Faiths at St Mary's

### Catholic Life and Mission at St Mary's

St Mary's School is not just a Catholic School by name- the Catholic faith is central to every part of the school day and curriculum. The Catholic life and mission of the school, as directed by Nottingham Diocese and the St Thomas Aquinas Academy (which all 23 catholic schools are members of in Leicestershire) permeates through every part of the school day and the Gospel is the foundation of all that we do. St Mary's is a Catholic Diocese school. We have a celebration of the word ( the newer name for Liturgy) every day of the week and prayers throughout the day- singing can be part of this. The daily celebrations of the Word ( scripture based from the bible) are mainly led by the children and are themed each week, with a virtue and catholic social teaching action for children to act on. The children also have a weekly mission.

### Religious Education teaching at School

As a Catholic Diocese school the children follow the Come and See Religious Education teaching, There is 2 hours and 20 minutes of RE teaching a week and just slightly less for younger children. Each lesson would have a bible focus, but is related to real life examples. The children are encouraged to question and make links to their daily lives. All Catholic schools in 2026 will start a new RE Scheme of work. Staff at St Mary's will receive further training on this in the Summer Term.

### Other Faith's teaching and Opportunities for celebrating Diversity

At St Mary's school other Faiths are taught at least 3x a year. This year in the Autumn term, the children learnt about Judaism and in this Spring Term they will also learn about Hinduism. The RE programme has two faith's weeks a year- where Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam are taught on a rolling programme in a 3 year cycle. To reflect the diversity of the children in school, at St Mary's we have an additional other faith's week-which is led by the children. On Pentecost week, we also encourage the children to come in their cultural clothes and share other faiths, food, dance and other cultural practices. To reflect the diversity of the school, on the Chaplaincy team, we ensure we have children who are baptised Catholics, but also children who are of another Christian background or religion and children who are not of a faith. This year we have chosen a child from another religion to be a leader of this on the Chaplaincy team to guide the children how to make links to the Catholic faith to other Faiths. We also make visits to different places of worship and have visitors in from other faiths. We also make links with other faith's in the calendar for celebrations. The EYFS class celebrated Diwali. We also looked at Holi and Eid this year. The new RE curriculum for Catholic schools that starts in 2026 has links to more faiths in each unit and encourages children to look more deeply into this.

St Mary's - January 2025

# Contact Info

Address: Hastings Street, Loughborough, LE11 5AX Phone: 01509 212 621

Email: [office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk) Website: [www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk](http://www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk)



## Jubilee Year-Pilgrims of Hope



In this Jubilee year, Pope Francis invites us all to be signs of hope in our world and this holy year will be a significant and memorable moment for children and young people. Reflecting on Jesus' message of the good news of justice, freedom and love, there are opportunities for the whole school community to experience the joy of taking action as Pilgrims of Hope in building a better world.

A Jubilee is a significant moment in the life of the Church that happens every 25 years.

Biblically, the Jubilee is a time of renewal, celebration, rest and freedom. In Old Testament times, debts were cancelled, prisoners and enslaved people were freed, and even the land was able to rest.

Pope Francis has called this Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'. It's an invitation to renew our hope. He has asked us to be signs of hope for others, by putting Catholic Social Teaching into action through caring for our common home, and supporting our sisters and brothers who are experiencing war, hunger or poverty.

At St Mary's school we began the Jubilee year with the official launch date on the 24th of January. We had a special Liturgy using the Cafod materials and thought about what we hope for-thank you so much to the parents who joined us for the Liturgy. The children wrote prayers of hope-which you can see on some doors. Each class decorated their class door on the theme of Hope and the art club has decorated the door into the school hall with symbols of hope. The children will make pilgrimages to St Mary's church and other churches. Mrs D'Arcy has even decorated the staff gate with butterflies and plants-symbols of hope. The Jubilee year will finish on November the 21st. We do hope you will join us for our Jubilee events this year-such as the 'Big Lent Walk' and for other events. The Catenian Society have very kindly donated some money to the school for Catholic life- we have purchased the Catholic social teaching board in the hall and some Stations of the cross pictures to go outside. This will enable us to also achieve the initial level for the Oscar Romero award. The children really enjoyed preparing for the Feast day of St Thomas Aquinas on the 28th of January, learning about a different saint every day.

**Why is this such a great opportunity for our school?**

Rather than feeling powerless when they watch the news, and feel anxious when they hear statistics, our pupils can explore the vital role they have in making change and bringing hope in an unfair world. We will have an opportunity to renew our mission as Catholic school.

It's a time for us to experience and renew our hope and put Catholic Social Teaching into action.

We can be part of something big as part of the Catholic community, not only in England and Wales, but globally. How can you be involved too?

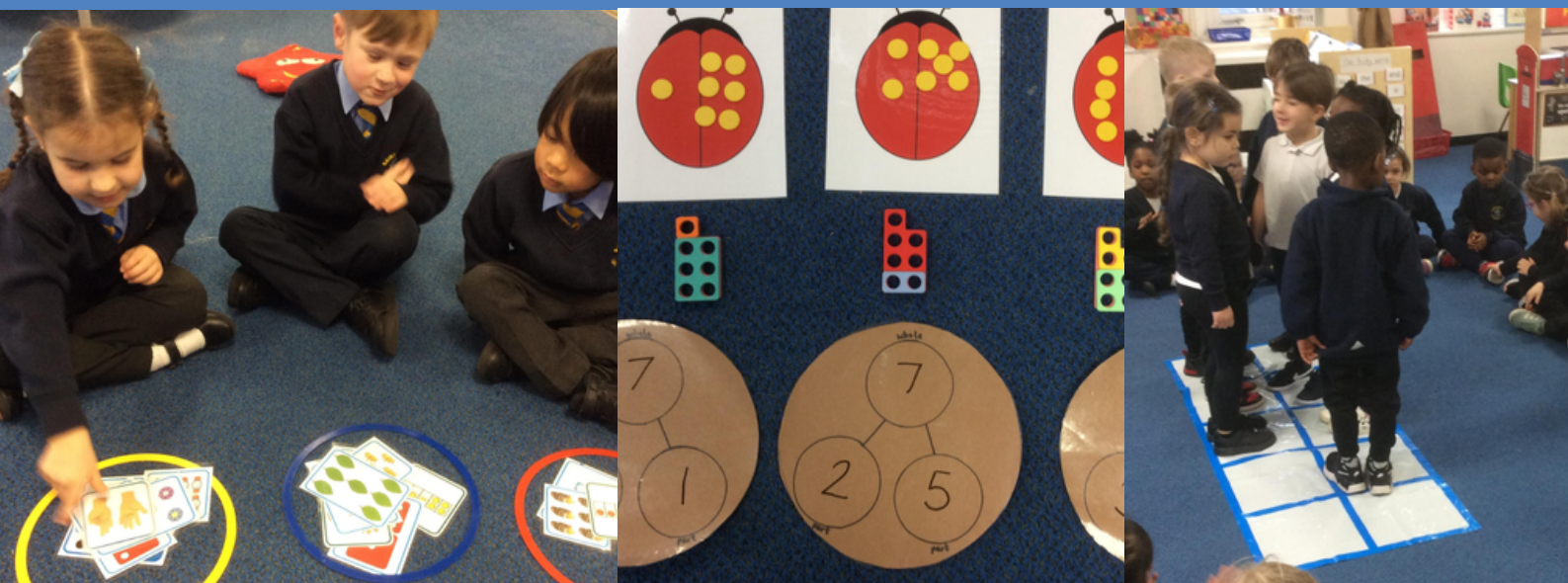


St Mary's - January 2025



# Contact Info

Address: Hastings Street, Loughborough, LE11 5AX Phone: 01509 212 621  
Email: [office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk) Website: [www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk](http://www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk)



## Number Day : Friday February the 7th

The fun events and activities that occur on NSPCC Number Day are all centred around numbers, arithmetic and mathematics. Children on the day are encouraged to embrace the use of numbers and math in ways that are creative and enjoyable while raising funds for an important charity NSPCC!

The children can wear number themed non-uniform on the day and will participate in math's activities and games. Families are very welcome to come and join us in the morning for the math's activities and to ask about math's in school on the day.

## Careers Week at St Mary's: from the 17th of March

We need your help! To raise pupil aspirations, at St Mary's we would love to have a career's week. The school council has asked if all the children if they wished to, could dress up in a job they would like to have in the future on the 18th of March. We would also like to have lots of parents in that week to talk about their jobs and have a career's fair in the hall. Please let us know if you can help us with this- you could leave a message on dojo. We will be inviting the teaching school in that week, the university and will also make further links with Secondary schools. We'd love for you to be involved. Thank you.

## FOSM- items purchased from Fundraising

Thank you so much for supporting the Fundraising events organised by the FOSM and time given to the events. St Mary's really cannot do without this support. This academic year: more books have been bought from the book Fair worth £100. This has gone into the school Library. Two lovely jigsaw benches and tables were purchased for the KS2 and KS1 playground, which the children have asked for. New chairs for the junior shared area has also been purchased, as well as other items. The children also enjoy the events. Thank you for your support.





# More January 2025 highlights

