



Together with Christ, we love,  
Live and learn.

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Executive Principal: Mr N Porter  
Head of School: Mrs C Noble-Barton

Dear Parents & Carers,

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

### Reflection: May is the Month of Mary

May is the Month of Mary, a time to pause and reflect on her gentle faith. It fits beautifully with the Easter season, when we celebrate the new life and hope Christ brings. Mary shows us how to live as Easter people; with trust, courage, and an open heart.

Her yes made the joy of Easter possible, and her example still guides the Church today. Honouring Mary in May doesn't take us away from Easter; it helps us go deeper into its meaning. As we continue through this season, Mary stands with us, helping us recognise the risen Christ and encouraging us to say our own simple, faithful yes.



### Wednesday Word

Please follow the link below to enjoy this week's Gospel as a family:

[Click HERE for the Wednesday Word](#)

### Easter Garden Trail

*We are delighted to invite you to visit our Easter Prayer Gardens on Wednesday 20th May from 3:00-4:00pm.*

This special event is being hosted by our Social Action Group as a fundraiser in support of Father Hudson's Caritas, all donations will go towards helping those with disabilities. *All children across the school are invited to take part by creating their own Prayer Garden. Using a shoebox, plant pot or other container. Pupils can design a small reflective scene inspired by the Easter story. This can be as simple or as detailed as they wish. Ideas might include:*

- The empty tomb
- A stone rolled away
- Flowers
- Messages such as 'Jesus is alive'

**SEE EXAMPLES BELOW.**

We encourage pupils to use their creativity and faith to make their garden a meaningful and reflective piece.

**Please bring completed prayer gardens into school on Friday 15th May.**

On the day, families are invited to walk around and explore the beautiful prayer gardens created by the children, taking time to reflect on their messages as we come towards the end of the Easter season. Children are of course welcome to join you after collection at 3:30pm.

There will also be a **cake sale** hosted by the pupils, so please bring a few coins if you can. All proceeds from the event will go towards this very worthwhile cause. If there are any keen bakers that would like to contribute, please let Mrs Bowen know via the enquiry email.



### Staffing News

Mrs Noble-Barton, who has worked four days a week in recent years, will be returning to a full five- days from September. We're pleased to welcome her back full- time.

Huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Bowen, who are expecting their second child in October. What a wonderful blessing from the Lord for their family.

### Lighthouse Preschool - PLACES AVAILABLE

Lighthouse Preschool, run by Mrs Carole Baird, offers a high-quality, nurturing early years provision for 3 and 4 year olds, helping children grow in confidence and prepare for school life.

Parents are welcome to get in touch for an informal chat or visit:

▫ 07590 411118

[Lighthousechildcare2023@outlook.com](mailto:Lighthousechildcare2023@outlook.com)



**\*\*\* CHANGES \*\*\* Gifts from God Assembly Dates** In a change to the advertised dates, the remaining Gifts from God assemblies for Summer 1 will be on: **Friday 8th May and Friday 15th May.**

### Pyjama Day - Well done

A huge well done to our Year 2 girls for organising today's Pyjama Day in support of Cancer Research UK. Their enthusiasm and hard work helped raise an impressive £159.80. Thank you to everyone who donated and joined in; your kindness makes a real difference.



### Smartphone Free Childhood Movement

If you haven't already, school and the SFC parent movement would be grateful if you would fill in a short anonymous parent survey to help us understand views across our school community which can be found here: <https://forms.gle/H1p7auQJni2vZBbn9>  
Your feedback will help shape how we continue to support families and keep children safe.



Thank you for taking part and for supporting this whole- community conversation.

### Attendance

Let's see which class had the highest attendance this week...

Year group	Attendance for w/c 27/4/26
EYFS	100%
Year 1	95.67%
Year 2	98.33%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	98%
Year 5	97.33%
Year 6	93%

Well done to this week's winners...EYFS! You can choose a reward with Mrs Bowen next week.

**Dates for the diary**

*Please continue to check this section frequently as it is subject to change.*

March 3rd - April 28th	<b>St Nicholas Parish Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>
Weeks commencing 27th April and 4th May (minus the Bank Holiday)	<b>Year 3 swimming each afternoon -</b> <i>Children will need to bring the following kit in a separate bag every day:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Girls: one-piece swimsuit</i></li><li>• <i>Boys: swimming trunks or shorts (not long board shorts)</i></li><li>• <i>A towel</i></li></ul> <i>If your child wishes to bring swimming caps or goggles, they must be able to put these on independently.</i> <i>A reminder that all jewellery and watches should be left at home for safety.</i>
Monday 4th May	<b>Bank Holiday - school closed</b>
Friday 8th May	<b>Gifts from God Assembly - 2.45pm in the school hall</b>
Weekends of: 9th/10th May 16th/17th May 23rd/24th May	<b>St Nicholas Parish First Holy Communion Masses</b>
W/c 11th May 2026	<b>KS2 SATs Week (Y6)</b>
Thursday 14th May	<b>2.15pm Whole School Mass - Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord - in church</b>
Friday 15th May	<b>Year 4 trip to Ironbridge 'Enginuity' Museum</b>
Friday 15th May	<b>Academy Photography to shoot Y6 leavers' photos</b>
Friday 15th May	<b>Gifts from God Assembly - 2.45pm in the school hall</b>
Tuesday 19th May	<b>May Procession &amp; Crowning of Our Lady</b> for the whole school - pupils can bring flowers to adorn our Lady if they wish.
Thursday 21st May 2026	<b>Year 3 to visit Blists Hill Victorian Town</b>
Friday 22nd May 2026	<b>Sacrament of Confirmation Mass @ 7pm in church</b>
<b>MAY HALF TERM</b> <b>Week commencing 25th May 2026</b> <b>School closed to children</b>	
Monday 1st June 2026	<b>TT Rockstars Day - Y4 only</b>

Friday 5th June 2026	Year 1 trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Monday 8th June 2026	Phonics Day - Y1 only
Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th June	Y6 to Blackwell Adventure
Friday 26th June	Year 3's 'Going Forth' Celebration 8.30am - Photographs 9.15am - Mass in church
Friday 3rd July 2026	INSET Day - school closed to children
Friday 10th July 2026	***Sports' Day*** first choice date
Wednesday 15th July 2026	***Sports' Day*** back up date in case of rain on 10/7.
Friday 17th July 2026	2pm - Leavers' Assembly

### **St John Paul II Multi Academy Schools - Term Dates 2026/27**

Our MAC term dates follow Birmingham City Council (BCC) dates.

**INSET days will be published separately before the start of the 2026/27 school year.**

#### **Autumn Term 2026**

- Term starts: Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Half-term: Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October 2026
- Term ends: Friday 18 December 2026

#### **Spring Term 2027**

- Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027
- Half-term: Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February 2027
- Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

#### **Summer Term 2027**

- Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027
- Half-term: Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2027
- Term ends: Wednesday 21 July 2027

Mr Porter

Mrs Noble-Barton

Miss Smith

Executive Principal

Head of School

Assistant Head