



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

BELONG THRIVE SUCCEED



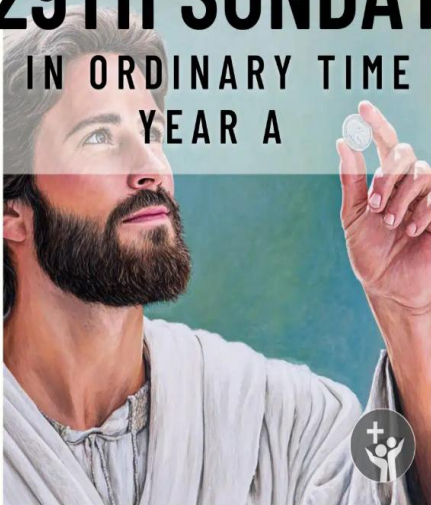
In this past fortnight the children have been preparing to celebrate Harvest and we are reminded of the many blessings we have to be thankful for and the importance of sharing what we have with others. Through this the children have been living out the Fruit of the Spirit of **love** in a very special way, generously donating food to support those in our local community.

Through kindness and generosity, our children are showing us that love is more than a feeling—it is something we put into action. As Jesus teaches us, *“Love one another as I have loved you.”* Their thoughtful contributions are a wonderful example of how small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

We are incredibly proud of the compassion, generosity and love our children and families have shown this Harvest season; our local foodbank will be exceptionally grateful. Thank you.

Whilst we're still experiencing this unseasonably warm weather the children may continue to wear summer uniform, we ask that they are wearing winter uniform after half term (3<sup>rd</sup> November 2026).

## 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time teaches that God's power reaches everywhere. He can work through anyone, even people who do not know Him. In the first reading, God uses Cyrus, a foreign king, to help Israel. This shows that God's plans move through all nations and rulers. Nothing is beyond His reach.

In the Gospel, Jesus faces a test about loyalty. His answer is simple but wise: give Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give God what belongs to God. This Sunday, we are reminded that faith calls for balance. We live in this world, but our hearts belong to God alone.

Have a super weekend,

Mrs McBrown  
Headteacher



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NEWSLETTER  
Friday 16th  
October 2026

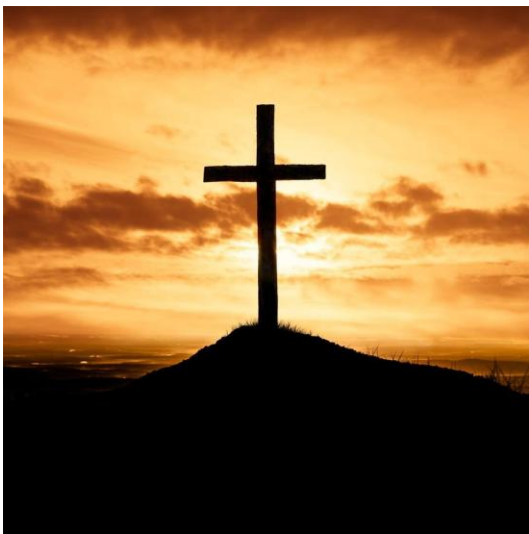
## First Holy Communion 2027

Father Anthony has asked me to remind you that registration for children in years 3 and above, to make their First Holy Communion, has begun. Registration forms can be collected from school or church but must be returned, along with your child's Baptism certificate to the church by Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October - no late applications will be accepted.



## School Council visit the Mayor!

Last week, our newly elected School Council enjoyed an exciting visit to the Mayor's Chamber, where they had the opportunity to experience local democracy in action. The children took part in a lively debate about the relevance of school uniform (!) sharing their ideas and listening to each other. A particular highlight of was getting to use the Mayor's gavel, making the experience feel even more special! It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to develop their confidence, practise speaking in front of others and learn more about how decisions are made in our local community. A huge thank you to Mrs Stanley and Miss Phillips for taking the children on this special trip.



## Y4 and Y5 Class Liturgies

Year 4 and Y5 have led their families in prayer through their class liturgies this fortnight with a focus on the story of Abraham and the Ten Commandments respectively. The children led their families in prayer with respect and care – thank you to the Year 4 and 5 teams for preparing this so beautifully.



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## Brilliant Learning!

**Nursery** have been super busy planning and hosting Spot the Dog's birthday party! They made birthday cards, party invitations, wrapped presents, baked cakes and chose a playlist of music we thought he would like. He had a fabulous time!



I have been lucky enough to teach in **Reception** this half term and I have seen some brilliant phonics learning this week! The children are beginning to blend their sounds for reading and segment them for writing with some super confidence! Well done Team Reception!



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**Year 1** have also been exceptionally busy applying their maths skills by subtracting through games and exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes in everyday objects. They have also become excellent geographers, finding the features of our playground, following and making maps and conducting a survey of our playground.



## First Holy Communion

Father Anthony has asked me to remind you the Enrolment Mass for the children who are starting their First Holy Communion Preparations is this Saturday at 6:30 pm Mass.



**Dear Lord,**

**Help us to remember that we belong to You and that we are called to share Your love with everyone we meet.**

**Teach us to be fair, honest and kind, to respect one another and to make choices that help others. May we use our gifts to make our school and our world a better place.**

**Guide us to follow Jesus and to let Your light shine through all that we say and do.**

**Amen.**





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## Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th October - **Year 4 Trip to Field trip to Anchor Fields, Tilbury**

Thursday 22nd October - **Heritage Day in school. Pupils may wear traditional costumes or clothes with colours of your national flag.**

Wednesday 21st October - **deadline for Owl Photo orders**

Thursday 22nd October at 5pm - **Meeting for Parents of Year 6 pupils who are going on the Year 6 residential in November.**

Friday 23rd October - **School closed for INSET Day**

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October - **Half Term**

Monday 2nd November - **School closed for INSET day**

Saturday 31st October **deadline for Parents of Year 6 pupils to apply for Secondary Schools.**

Tuesday 3rd November - **school resumes for Autumn 2**



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**ESSEX**

**DYNAMOS CRICKET HOLIDAY CAMP**

**FREE**

**Fun-filled, action packed  
GIRLS ONLY cricket camp during  
the holidays for 8-11 years**

**LOCATION:**  
Orsett Heath Academy,  
Stanford rd, Grays, RM16 4DG

**CAMP DATE:**  
Wednesday 28 October

**SESSION TIMES:**  
10:00-16:00

**AGES:**  
8 - 11 years (Girls only)

**CONTACT:**  
[adel.roets@essexcricket.org.uk](mailto:adel.roets@essexcricket.org.uk)

Free code:  
**FZJ5P**

