



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

“Shine as to be a light to others”

Headteacher: Mrs C. Wilson



Friday 17th March

Dear Parents and Carers,

Collective Worship

Liturgical Year and Cycle:

3rd Sunday of Lent | Cycle A

Key Scripture: John 4:5-16, 19-26, 39-42

Through the Gospel story where Jesus meets a Samaritan woman, children learnt that just like our bodies are thirsty for water, our souls are thirsty for God. They learnt to invite Jesus to be their source, who sends them the ‘living water’ of the Holy Spirit.

‘But anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again.’

John 4: 14

Stations of the Cross

This week, Y5 visited the Oratory Church to participate in Stations of the Cross. Father David sent a special message to say how proud he was of the conduct and reverence shown by the children. Well done Year 5!

Celebration Assembly

Along with celebrating those children who have been demonstrating our virtues: **Learned and Wise** and our school rules: **Ready, Respectful, Safe**, we considered how God wants us to be wise and plan to use our talents to help others.

We were thrilled to welcome Sandra from HSBC into our assembly today to present us with a financial education award!

School Developments

This week we have immersed ourselves in all things STEM as part of our enrichment Curriculum. Look out for our STEM week special newsletter telling you more about what we have done.

We held parent’s evenings for Reception, Year 2, 3, and 4 this week. Thank you to all who attended it is so important to work together to help the children be their best.

Staffing Update

On Monday we welcome Miss de Silva, a permanent member of staff to our teaching team. She is an experienced teacher and will be teaching Y3. This means that Miss Riju will no longer teach Y3, but as she has been at our school for a number of months now and knows our children, systems and policies well, she will move to Y1 and will be their teacher until we make further permanent appointments.

Easter Activity Extraveganza

The PTA have organised an Easter Activity evening for the children on Monday 27th March straight after school until 4.45pm. There will be face painting, chocolate Easter nest making, egg and spoon races and more. Please do come along and join in the fun!

Parent Governor Vacancy.

We have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested in joining the governing body to help on our improvement journey please see the email sent out from school or contact the office for a pack outlining further details of this rewarding role. Please submit your nominations by **Monday 20th March.**

School Easter Events.

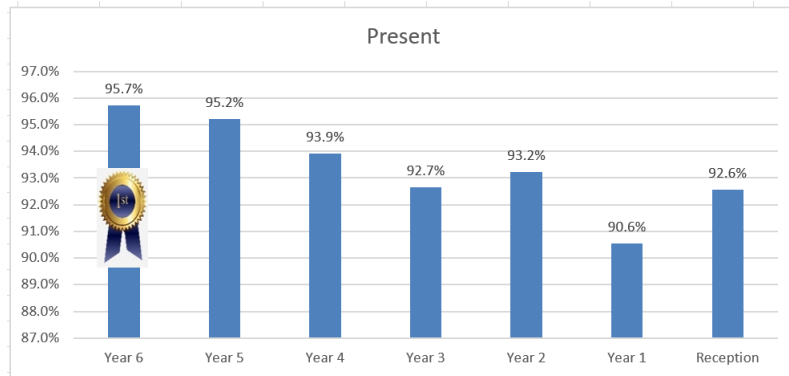
As part of our preparations for Easter we would like to invite the children to take part in our Easter events. On Tuesday 28th March we invite the children to take part in our Easter Festivities. Early Years and KS1 will have an Easter bonnet parade. The children can make Easter hats at home and wear them for the parade and during the school day.

KS2 are invited to make an Easter garden and bring it in to be displayed in the hall for everyone to see. All of the school are invited to create a character or scene from an egg to enter into our egg-sibition. We will give the eggs to the children next week to decorate at home if they wish. Bring them back to school on Monday 27th March.

Attendance

Please bring your children to school every day! It is so important that they don't miss out on their learning. If they are under the weather slightly, you can still send them in and we will monitor them closely as long as they have not vomited/had diarrhoea or a temperature.

Well done to our **Y6** class this week who have won the attendance cup (for the 8th time in a row!) with **95.6%** attendance!



Awards

Well done to these children!



Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues: Learned and Wise

Pupils are growing to be learned, finding God in all things; and wise in the ways they use their learning for the common good.

Living our Catholic Virtues of **Learned and Wise** this week are:

Nursery	Aron	Mia
Reception	Kendall	Natan
Year 1	Ezra	Marta
Year 2	Melissa	Rhian
Year 3	Melvin	Rosalya
Year 4	Markus	Theresa
Year 5	Milka	Hannah
Year 6	Damian	Rhylee

Following our school rules: **Ready-Respectful-Safe** this week are:

Nursery	Skye	Soren
Reception	Oliwia	Ethan
Year 1	Malachi	Massi
Year 2	Mayley	Emilia
Year 3	Lily	Ebuka
Year 4	Tomas	Leo
Year 5	Ahmed	Tishany
Year 6	Merry	Kelsey

Sacramental preparation

It is so important that children are prepared for these significant events in their life. The teaching that goes on in school is only part of what the children need in preparation for making their First Holy Communion and Confirmation – there is an expectation that parents/carers take children to Mass every week to further prepare them. Remember to take Mass attendance cards with you to have them signed at the end of Mass.

Sunday Mass times at the Oratory Church:

7.30am Mass (Latin)

8.30am Mass (English)

10.30am High Mass (Latin)

12.15pm Mass (English)

4.30pm Sung Vespers & Benediction (Latin)

5.30pm Mass (English)

Safety

Parking

Please make sure that if you are dropping off or collecting your children from school that you do not park or stop on the yellow zig-zag lines outside either of the school entrances. They are there to make sure that the pavements are clear for people wishing to cross the road. Parking or stopping in these zones puts the children in danger. Please help us to keep all the children safe.

Snacks and food in school

A number of children have been bringing unhealthy snacks into school for break time. Any snacks should be fruit or vegetable based or plain biscuits. Can I also remind you that we have a number of children with **severe nut allergies** in school so products containing nuts should not be bought into school, this includes chocolate spreads. We are aware that some chocolate spreads do not have nuts in them however as we cannot see the ingredients list, **we cannot take the risk.**

Absence reporting procedures

If your child is going to be absent please call school **on each day of your child's absence by 9am.**

Please call 0121 454 0600 and leave a message on the absence line. Include your child's full name, class and reason for absence. Please tell us where possible the nature of the illness as 'sick' or 'unwell' does not outline the reason for the absence. This will ensure that we have an accurate attendance record for your child.

If no reason is given it will be an unauthorised absence.

Please ensure that your children are on time for school. School doors open at 8.40am (8:30 Y6) when the children come into school for a prompt start to their learning which begins at 8.50am. At 8.50am we expect all children to be seated in class ready to commence their learning as this is when lessons will start promptly. Some children are consistently arriving after the school gates are shut and this is impacting on their well-being and leading to lost learning time.

A big thank you to the majority of parents and carers who make sure their children attend school regularly!

Attendance Monitoring

If your child's attendance has fallen below 95%, or they have a number of unauthorised absences we will be in contact with you, and depending on the reason for their absence we may ask you to come to school for a meeting.

If you have received an attendance letter and would like to come into school to meet with Mrs Wilson to discuss it, please make an appointment at the school office.

PLEASE NOTE: Family holidays in term time are not allowed in law and are unlikely to be authorised. Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Notifying the school of leave due to a family emergency does not mean it will be authorised. Any notifications must be made in writing and addressed to the Headteacher (communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk can be used).

Physical Education

Nursery - Friday
Reception – Thursday
Year 1 – Wednesday & Thursday
Year 2 - Wednesday & Thursday
Year 3 - Monday & Thursday(*Thursday = Swimming)
Year 4 - Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 5 - Monday & Tuesday
Year 6 – Monday & Tuesday

On PE days, children should come to school wearing:

- Plain white t-shirt (no football tops or t-shirts with logos)
- Black shorts
- Black pumps
- Tracksuit - black or dark blue for colder weather (no logos)
- Trainers (to be worn for outdoor PE only)

Children in Y5/6 may also bring a small towel and roll-on deodorant on their PE day.

Please ensure children come to school in the correct PE kit. It is important that they are wearing suitable clothing and footwear for physical activity and that the kit is in line with school expectations. Speak with your child's class teacher if there are any problems with this. Reminders will be sent out to parents of children who do not have the correct kit.

Current Clubs:

- Breakfast club (every morning) £2.50, 8am – 8:40am

Monday –

- Football (Y4/5/6)
- Dance (Rec/Y1) **4:15pm finish**

Tuesday –

- Multi sports (Y1/2/3)
- Y6 Maths club (by invitation)

Wednesday

- Multi Sports (Y4/5/6)

Thursday –

- Football (Y1/2/3)
- Choir club (Y3/4/5/6)

After school clubs finish at 4:30pm

Send your children to school with their own water bottle, a coat and their reading book and reading record every day.

Encourage healthy eating through the snacks / lunches you send to school.

On Friday, school finishes at 1:20pm. For those who stay on a Friday, they need collecting at 3:15pm.

Please be prompt in collecting your children

Operation Encompass

The Oratory is an Operation Encompass School, working closely with West Midlands Police to identify and support victims of Domestic Abuse. We remain vigilant and urge anyone suffering domestic abuse to contact the school or Police for help.

Have a wonderful weekend and happy St Patrick's Day!

God Bless,

Mrs Wilson & Team

Key Dates

Tuesday 28th March Parents' evening: Y6, Y5 (TO BE CONFIRMED)
Wednesday 29th March Parents' evening: Y6, Y5 (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Friday 31st March **END OF TERM – School closes for Easter**

Monday 17th April **School reopens for pupils**

Year 1 parents' evening will take place after the Easter holiday – date TBC

Monday 1st May Bank Holiday
Monday 8th May Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation
Tuesday 9th May Y6 SATs week begins
Wednesday 17th May King and Queens Day!
Dress up as a King or Queen or in royal attire to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation! We will celebrate in school by having a special themed lunch at lunchtime
Thursday 18th May Special lunch menu: all day breakfast

HALF TERM 29th May – 2nd June

Monday 5th June **INSET DAY**
Tuesday 6th June **School reopens for pupils**

Sunday 11th June First Holy Communion (Y4)
Sunday 18th June Blessed Sacrament procession (Y4)

Wednesday 12th July Confirmation at 7pm (Y6)

**One more INSET day TBC*

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