



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

"Shine as to be a light to others"

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Lynch



Friday 13th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Collective Worship

Liturgical Year and Cycle: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Cycle A. Key Scripture: Matthew 21: 33-43

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?'"

Matthew 21: 42

This week, KS2 attended a beautiful Mass led by Father David to celebrate the feast day of St John Henry Newman, one of our Patron Saints. Our beloved Cardinal Saint John Henry Newman is the founder of the English Oratory and played an important role in the rekindling of the Catholic Faith in Birmingham. Usually saints' feasts are observed on the day of their death – that is their heavenly birthday. Saint John Henry Newman died on 11th August, but due to other feasts occurring that week, it was decided that his feast should be kept on the day of his reception into the Church. Children had the chance to walk past the special shrine which had been set up and say their own prayer to Saint John Henry Newman.

Celebration Assembly

Along with celebrating those children who have been demonstrating our virtues: **Grateful and Generous** and our school rules: **Ready, Respectful, Safe**, we also said well done to the children who have been recognised for trying really hard with their presentation this week. Their work is in pride of place in the entrance hall for all to enjoy. If your child has work on display please come and take a look.

Homework – optional, for all

We as we head into October and the month of Black History Month, we would love to remember important people and events in our local history or of people special to you. You might like to write a prayer or a poem, draw a picture of your favourite singer or write about how someone in your life inspires you.

School Developments

This week we welcomed The English and Phonics Leads from SS Mary and John's, who came to see what our next steps are in English and Phonics and how they can support us to make further improvements.

Teachers received training from David Harris from the Diocese on how to teach prayer and engage the children more purposefully in their conversations with God.

Our class prayer bags will begin coming home next week so please do make time to pray with the children using the resources in the bag and share your prayers in the book enclosed.

Spanish Day

The children had great fun on Spanish day learning all about different Spanish speaking cities and different Spanish artists and art traditions from Spanish speaking countries. The children were able to recount lots of facts and information during our whole school celebration assembly. Children from each class were recognised for their Spanish dancing skills, their interpretations of the art work and their creative use of red and yellow in their clothing. Thank you to Miss DaSilva for organising the day!

Awards

Well done to these children!

Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues: **Grateful and Generous**

Pupils are growing to be **grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others.



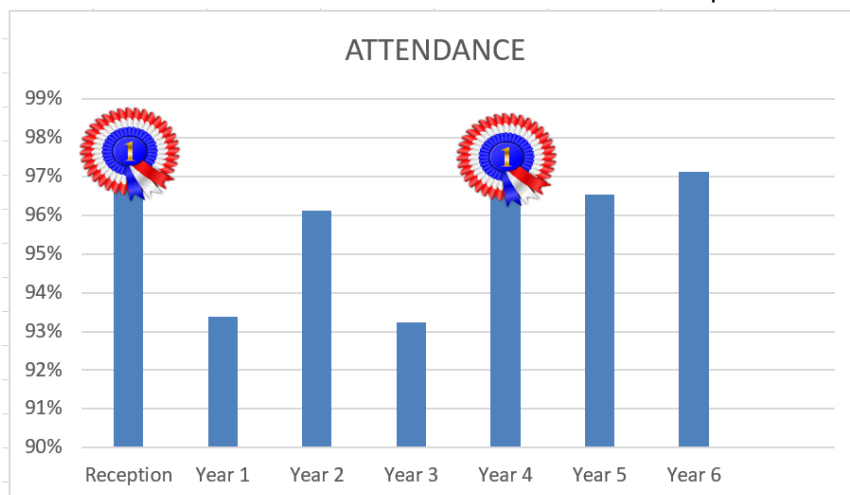
Living our Catholic Virtues of being **grateful and generous** this week are:

Nursery	King	Angelica
Reception	Soren	Melissa
Year 1	Brooke	Elias
Year 2	Sofia	Eden
Year 3	Mayley	Tommy-Lee
Year 4	Tafari	Betania
Year 5	Christabel	Violette
Year 6	Hannah	Layvon

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 **Reception and Year 4** this week who have won the attendance cup with **98%** attendance!



Physical Education

Nursery - Friday

Reception – Friday

Year 1 – Monday & Wednesday

Year 2 - Monday & Wednesday

Year 3 - Monday & Wednesday

Year 4 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 5 – Tuesday & Thursday

Year 6 – Tuesday (*Thursday Swimming)

On PE days, children should come to school wearing:

- House coloured 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)

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: (See letters for details of start and end dates)

Monday 8.00am	Year 1,2 &3
Monday 3.30pm – 4.30pm	Performing Arts KS2
Tuesday 8.00am	Year 4, 5 & 6
Wednesday 8.00am	Year 1, 2 & 3
Thursday 8.00am	Year 4, 5 & 6

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.

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.

Play Equipment

Please don't let your children play on the trim trail or go onto the grass in the mornings or after school please. This is to keep everyone safe before and after school.

Scooters and Bikes

Please make sure that all children walk their bikes or scooters in the school grounds. They can ride and scoot as soon as they have left the school gates.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe on our site.

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).

Have a lovely weekend
The Oratory Team

Key Dates

Wednesday 18 th October	Parents Evening for Reception – Yr6 (Not Y5)	3:45 – 6:30pm
Thursday 19 th October	Parents Evening for Reception – Yr6 (Not Y5)	3:45 – 6:30pm

(slots can now be booked on Arbor. Y5 will be arranged in due course)

Autumn Term

Term Starts: Monday 4th September 2023

Half Term: Monday 30th October 2023 to Friday 3rd November 2023

Term Ends: Friday 22nd December 2023

Spring Term

Term Starts Monday 8th January 2024

Half Term Monday 12th February 2024 to Friday 16th February 2024

Term Ends Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term

Term Starts: Monday 15th April 2024

Half Term Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024

Term Ends Monday 22nd July 2024

INSET DAYS

Monday 4th September 2023

Tuesday 5th September 2023

*More dates to be confirmed.

***Please be reminded that term-time holidays will not be authorised.**

Address: Oliver Rd; Ladywood; Birmingham; B16 9ER

Telephone: 0121 454 0600

Email: communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk

Website: www.oratory.bham.sch.uk