



# The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

*“Shine as to be a light to others”*



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

## ***Liturgical Year and Cycle: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Cycle A***

### **Follow the Leader**

We started the new school year with an opportunity for children to reflect on their relationship with Jesus during the summer holidays and, through an imaginative reflection, consider how they want to follow Jesus during the year ahead - because Jesus is a leader we can trust to follow!

***If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.***

**Matthew 16: 24**

### **Celebration Assembly**

This week we shared our learning about St John Henry Newman. Mrs Pickup and I were really impressed with the children's presentation and with how much they had learnt and could recall. We also celebrated Our Lady's birthday by visiting the Chapel and reminded ourselves about praying the Rosary.

### **Out of School Clubs**

We are starting our school clubs up again next week. Those who have a place in sports clubs before school should have brought home a slip to confirm this. Miss da Silva is running a performing arts club on Mondays after school and will be confirm who has places. We are hoping to be able to offer more clubs over the coming weeks.

### **School Developments**

As you will have seen in the letter addressed to you from Father David, Chair of Governors, we are very excited to be welcoming Mary Lynch - Executive Headteacher - to the Oratory. Mrs Lynch will officially start with us in October, but has several planned visits throughout September to get to know our school.

During our INSET days, all staff received annual Safeguarding training. Teachers also received training with David Harris from the Diocese, on RE curriculum and assessment.

Lunchtime supervisors attended training on: key strategies for positive lunchtime behaviour.

### **Reminders**

Children should wear their school uniform, except on PE days when they can come in their PE kits (remember to wear house colours). See our website for further details.

If you will need to use Friday Club, please make sure you have completed the form and provided the relevant information to the school office in order to secure your place.

**Jewellery - only small studded earrings are allowed.** No hooped/large earrings, bracelets, rings, necklaces.

Please remind children not to bring things in from home, this includes pencil cases and fidget toys.

Bring healthy snacks for breaktime.

Remember to bring a water bottle every day. Only water can be consumed in class.

**On Wednesday, 4:30 – 5pm, there is a parent/teacher meeting – an opportunity for you to meet the teacher and get information about the upcoming term. We look forward to seeing you!**

## **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.

We are having a big focus on attendance and punctuality this year. This also applies to collecting at the end of the school day. All children should be collected at 3.30pm and by 3.40pm at the very latest. If you are going to be delayed beyond this point please do call school to advise us.

## **Physical Education**

Nursery - Friday

Reception – Thursday

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)**

<b>Monday 8.00am</b>	<b>Year 1,2 &amp;3</b>
<b>Monday 3.30pm – 4.30pm</b>	<b>Performing Arts</b>
<b>Tuesday 8.00am</b>	<b>Year 4, 5 &amp; 6</b>
<b>Wednesday 8.00am</b>	<b>Year 1, 2 &amp;3</b>
<b>Thursday 8.00am</b>	<b>Year 4, 5 &amp;6</b>

## **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.

### **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](mailto:communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk) can be used).***

**Have a lovely weekend  
God Bless  
Mrs Wilson and Team**

## Key Dates

### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Parent/Carers invited to meet the teacher - information about expectations and curriculum for this term will be shared (4:30 – 5pm in classrooms)

### **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

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