



Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School Newsletter 13th December 2019



“Shine as to be a light to others”

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**Family Mass at the
Oratory of St Philip Neri**
Sunday 12 noon
Everyone welcome!



“I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to our name, O Most High.”

Psalm 9:1-2



Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues: Attentive and Discerning

Throughout this half term, our children will be reflecting upon being **attentive** to their everyday experiences and their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices on themselves and others.

Catholic Life of the Oratory

This week, we focused on the Second Sunday of Advent where the second purple candle was lit to represent 'Love'. The Advent Wreath is our symbol of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ. The use of the evergreen leaves and the circle shape of the wreath symbolise God's everlasting love. Please ensure that your child attends Mass at the weekend, whereby the third (pink) candle will be lit.



CHRISTMAS DINNER



We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Brady, Mrs O'Connor and Ms Boakyewaa for the most delicious Christmas dinner.

All pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed it and we would like to say a big thank you for keeping everyone fed healthily all year through. Thank you and God bless you!!

Reverse Advent Calendar – the calendar that gives something back!



Thank you to all families who have already donated to our Reverse Advent Calendar.

Reverse Advent Calendar – the calendar that gives something back!

Now that Advent has begun, lots of you will have already opened the first few doors on your Advent calendar. Advent is a time of preparing and getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Unfortunately, throughout this year we have seen an increase in those who are homeless in Birmingham. Christmas can be a time of great happiness for many people however it can be a time of great sadness and loneliness for others, especially those with no homes.

We have decided to create an Oratory School Reverse Advent Calendar to support CRISIS – a national charity for homeless people and we need your help!

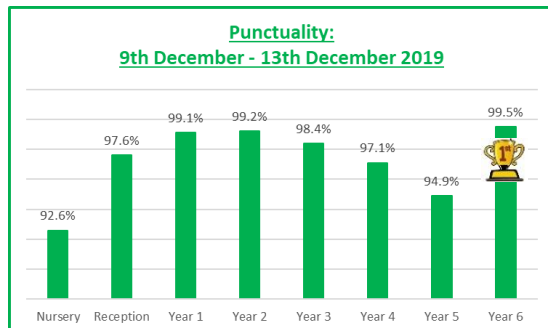
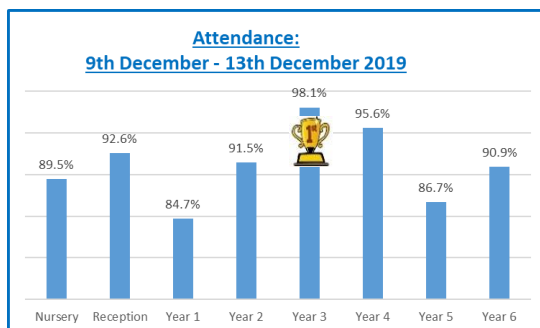
We ask that our children bring in an item listed below (can be pre-loved) on the date allocated to their year group:

Date	Year Groups	Item
Monday 9 th December	Year 6	Hats - adult size
Tuesday 10 th December	Year 5	Gloves - adult size
Wednesday 11 th December	Year 4	Scarves - adult size
Thursday 12 th December	Year 3	Socks – adult size
Friday 13 th December	Year 2	Shower gel
Monday 16 th December	Year 1	Roll on deodorant
Tuesday 17 th December	Reception	Foot cream
Wednesday 18 th December	Nursery	Toothpaste
Thursday 19 th December	Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2	Biscuits
Friday 20 th December	Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6	Chocolate

Your thoughtfulness and kindness will go towards helping the homeless of Birmingham have a Christmas to remember! Further information can be found at <https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/donate-gifts-in-kind/christmas-wishlist-birmingham/>

Attendance and Punctuality Matters!

Whole school attendance : 9th December to 13th December 2019:



Going on holiday during term time is frowned upon by the government and Birmingham Local Authority. Mrs Dickinson is unable to authorise your child's absence if you take time off for holidays during term time.

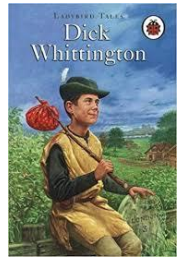
If your child's attendance is below 95%, it is a cause for concern and you will be contacted by the school to see if there is something we can do to support you and your family.

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



THANK YOU FOTOS!

We had Dick Whittington's pantomime in school this week and the children have loved it!! We would like to take this opportunity to say a **big thank you to FOTOS for paying for this.** The children had a great time and they got really involved in the performance. The actors said how much they had enjoyed performing in our school and praised the behaviour and engagement of all children across the school. You did us all proud!



YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO ALTON CASTLE



Our Year 6 children have enjoyed a few days at Alton Castle and what an amazing time they have had!! They have taken part in Mountain Biking, Trekking, Climbing, Archery and Forest Survival Skills. They have been working together in teams and have learnt how to trust one another during these activities. They have also had time to reflect on their lives and God's life and how they can show discipleship towards one another in everything they do in their everyday life.

Thank you to all the children for an amazing few days and thank you to Miss Corns, Mrs Westley and Kieran for their support, ensuring that the children have had a wonderful experience that they will never forget. Check our Twitter feed for more pictures of this amazing trip! Everyone is looking forward to a lovely home cooked lasagne for tea!



REMINDER:

We are going paperless with our Newsletters!

Thank you to the 91 families who have already given us a contact email address.

As you know, from January 2020 we will be going paperless with our Newsletter. The deadline to provide us with your email addresses is today, however, if you have not done so and want to make sure you receive the Newsletter by email from January onwards, please come to the main school office with your email address so we can put it on file.

What happens if you do not have an email address?

Do not worry! There will be paper copies available in the school office if you need one but no paper copies will be given to children from January 2020.



CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER CHRISTMAS

Children are back to school on **Tuesday 7th January 2020** and not on Wednesday 8th. Apologies about the confusion.



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES COMING UP

We have got quite a few activities for the children next week.

Tuesday 17th December

- 9:30am: Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity production. Parents/Carers of children in these classes are welcome to attend.
- 10:45am: Year 5 will be performing 'Midsummer's Night Dream' for pupils in school. Parents/Carers of Year 5 children who did not get a chance to attend the theatre performance are welcome to attend.
- We have a treat in store for our children in the afternoon. We will be showing the film Elf to all children in KS1 and KS2. Children in Reception will be doing Christmas activities and watching a Christmas film (title to be confirmed). Children may bring their pillow or their favourite blanket for the afternoon.

Wednesday 18th December

- 10:30am: The EYFS children are performing a Nativity. This is taking place in the Foundation Unit. Parents/Carers of children in these classes are welcome to attend.
- FOTOS CHRISTMAS DISCO! Venue: The H Suite (100 Icknield Port Rd, Birmingham, B16 0AA). Time: 5-8pm. Tickets prices: Adult £2.50, Child £2.00, available to purchase at the School Office. Dress code is 'Festive Best'. Make sure you get yours and get ready to party!!

Thursday 19th December

- Christmas class parties. We suggested a £2 contribution towards party food. Thank you to those who have already given this contribution. If you have not done so, you can do this at the school office. Many thanks for your support.

Friday 20th December

- Today is the last day for the Reverse Advent Calendar.
- We will be holding a whole School Mass with carols and mince pies from 9.15am. Father Anton will bless our children's homemade Bambinellis! Each child will have a blessed image of Christ in their homes during the Christmas season. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.
- School finishes at 1:30pm. All children to be collected from their usual dismissal place.

Should you require any further information, please come to the main school office.

Dates for your diary

- Sun 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent. Collect for Reverse Advent Box.
- Wed 18th December: Year 5 Fabulous Finish – Parents and carers are very welcome to come and see the fabulous work Year 5 have been doing this term at 2:30pm.
- Wed 18th December: Learning and Improvement Update Meeting. Parents/carers welcome to attend. these will take place at 2.30pm and 5.30pm.
- Thu 19th December: Year 3 Fabulous Finish – Parents and carers are very welcome to come and see the fabulous work Year 3 have been doing this term at 9:30am.
- Thurs 19th December: Father Anton blessing Baby Jesus made by children.
- Fri 20th December: End of Term - **School closes for Christmas at 1.30pm.**
- Tues 7th January: **School re-opens for children.**



Keep in your thoughts and prayers

Of your charity please pray for those who are ill, undergoing an operation or personal difficulty at this time. We especially remember in our prayers Syzmon (Y1) and Nina's grandmother in Nairobi (Y6) who have both undergone operations in the last week. We pray for a speedy recovery for them both.

Our Lady
Pray for us

St Philip Neri
Pray for us

St John Henry Newman
Pray for us



A word from Pope Francis:

“In life we all make many mistakes. Don't be afraid to ask God for forgiveness. God is pure mercy.”



Remember you can follow us on Twitter [@Oratory_rc](https://twitter.com/Oratory_rc)