



Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School Newsletter 17th July 2020



“Shine as to be a light to others”

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**Family Mass at the
Oratory of St Philip Neri
Sunday 12:15 noon
Everyone welcome!**



We made it to the end of the academic year!

And what a year it has been!! None of us could have imagined what 2020 had in store for us but thanks to our resilience and Faith we have made it to the end of the year with big smiles on our faces, joy in our hearts, and most importantly safe and healthy.

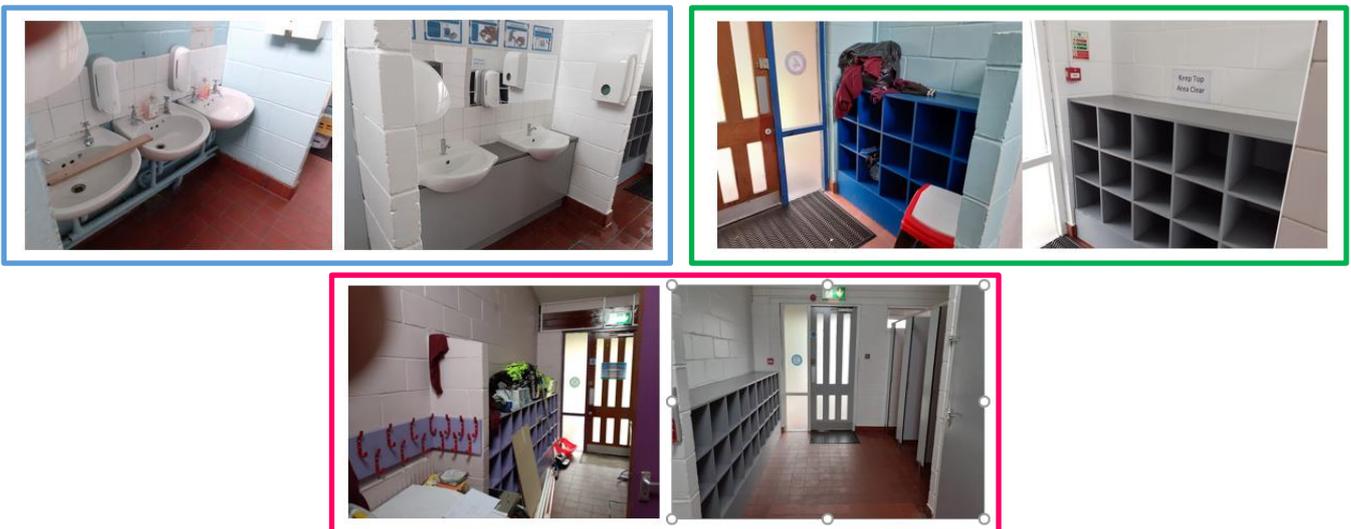
We would like to express our gratitude to everybody in our Oratory family. Thank you to our parents and carers for supporting and working in partnership with the school during lockdown.

Thank you to our staff who always put our families first. They are a wonderful team of caring and thoughtful professionals. Thank you to Father Anton (Chair of Governors) for his support and for his continued spiritual guidance.

Thank you to Ms C Parkinson (Vice-chair of Governors), and our Full Governing Board who have worked in the background alongside the Senior Leadership of our school to ensure the efficient and effective running of the Oratory during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Finally, and most importantly, we thank our children for being their wonderful selves. We have missed them so much and look forward to their return in September!

While the world stopped, life in school continued and the children will see many changes when they return. Mr Milligan has been working tirelessly to improve our facilities including the cloakrooms and washing facilities and he has done a magnificent job. Thank you so much Mr Milligan!!



September arrangements

Please note, all information is subject to change and it is dependent on Government directives as they are updated.

Whilst we welcome the Government's plan and expectation for all children to return in September, there will be many changes to the general organisation of school, including the start and end of the school day timings to ensure the safety and health of all our school family.

We want our children to come back in September, full time. Excellent systems within our school environment are already in place that visually remind children about social distancing, an increased level of cleaning, regular hand washing and an abundance of sanitisation points around the school. We will, however, **not be taking children's temperatures on arrival** to school. We will only take their temperature if they display any Covid-19 symptoms. We will be following DfE recommendations in how we manage the return to school of all our children. The most recent guidelines state: *'Schools must minimise the number of contacts that a pupil has during the school day as part of implementing the system of controls to reduce the risk of transmission.'* DfE 2nd July 2020.

These are the recommended ways in which schools will be able to manage the return of all pupils:

1. Grouping children in class/phase bubbles.
2. Avoiding contact between classes/phases by revising our timetable.
3. Arranging classrooms with forward-facing desks.
4. Staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible.

Class / Phase bubbles

We will be operating class/phase bubbles. All classes will be taught in their own groups of 30, and will not be mixing with other children during lesson times. Consequently, this means that we will not be able to organise any large gatherings beyond this number and this will subsequently affect our ability to hold assemblies, workshops, Learning Together days and whole school Masses, at least for the first term.

Our children will be encouraged to socially distance within their class/phase bubble.

Please be aware that if a child receives a confirmed positive test for Covid-19 then the whole class or phase, including staff, will be asked to isolate at home for a specific period of time in accordance with government guidance.

Breakfast, Morning and After school clubs

For the first half-term (Thursday 3rd September - Friday 23rd October) we are unable to offer Breakfast, Morning or After school clubs. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause. We are having to make this decision to ensure the health and safety of all our children, their families and staff.

Hopefully these clubs will resume after half term but this is very much dependent on a number of factors and government guidance.

Parents

- Parents will need to email or call the school if they require to see a member of staff. Parents will not be allowed onto the school site, unless a previous appointment has been made with staff. In order to make an appointment please call school on 0121 454 0600 or email us on communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk
- It is expected that **ONLY one parent/carer or family member drops off and collects their child.**
- Social distancing still needs to be observed amongst all adults on the school premises and outside of the school boundaries.
- It is important that your child start attending school each day from September in order to catch up on learning. If your child cannot attend school, please call school before 8:00am.
- We appreciate that your child returning to school in September will impact on your daily schedule for morning drop off and afternoon collection.
- Please remember that every decision we make is based on trying to keep all our children, families and the staff who work with them, as safe as possible. If you have any questions or queries please contact the school by emailing us on communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Start and end of the day

In order for our new timings to run smoothly, it is essential that your child is dropped off and collected promptly. Your anticipated cooperation is greatly appreciated.

<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Start of the day</u>	<u>Finish time</u>	<u>End of the day</u>
8:30	6	Entrance from gate on Monument Road straight into their classroom.	2:30	Exit from gate on Monument Road.
8:45	5	Entrance from gate on Monument Road through toilets.	2:45	Exit from gate on Monument Road.
8:45	Reception	Through Main car park gate on Oliver Road though the EYFS unit.	2:45	Exit from main car park gate on Oliver.
9:00	1	Entrance through Main school gate on Oliver Road.	3:00	Exit through main school gate on Oliver Road.
9:00	4	Entrance from gate on Monument Road through toilets.	3:00	Exit from gate on Monument Road.
9:15	2	Entrance through Main school gate on Oliver Road.	3:15	Exit through main school gate on Oliver Road.
9:15	3	Entrance from gate on Monument Road through toilets.	3:15	Exit from gate on Monument Road.

Year 6: Good bye and Good luck!

On behalf of the staff, governors and the children of the Oratory, I would like to say good bye to our Year 6 and wish them all the very best in their new schools.

We hope that you will all enjoy the next stage of your spiritual and academic journey. Remember you can achieve anything when you set your mind to it! Always remember the words of Saint John Henry Newman: ***“God has created me to do him some definite service; he has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission I am a link in a chain, a bond of connectons between persons. He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good. I shall do his work.”***

Go forth, Year 6 and set the world alight with your goodness, faith and brilliance!

WE HOPE YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AS MUCH AS WE BELIEVE IN YOU!!



Price increase for September School meals



This is a reminder that there will be an increase in payment of school meals from September 2020. The amount has changed from £2.30 per day (£11.50 per week) to £2.40 per day to (£12.00 per week).

All children who are not eligible for Free School Meals who are in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 need to pay when they have a school meal.

Real Junk Food Project Birmingham

We are going to be working, once more, with The Real Junk Food Project Birmingham otherwise known as TRJFPBRUM during the summer holidays. The aim of TRJFPBRUM (a community interest company) is to make sure that surplus food gets eaten, especially after all the work that has gone into producing and distributing it. The project is for anyone and everyone. The aim is to 'Feed bellies, not bins!'



On the following dates and times, we will be opening an **Oratory Real Junk Food Project Stall**. Bring your shopping bag, come along and get some food. Pay as you feel. The stall is open to everyone!

Location: Use the front entrance on Oliver Road. Walk to the front office.

The store is located along one side of the main entrance. (Please note social distancing will be maintained)

Opening times:

Thursday 30th July: 10am – 12 noon

Thursday 6th August: 10am – 12 noon

Tuesday 25th August: 10am – 12 noon

Further information about The Real Junk Food Project, Birmingham can be found at

<https://trjfpbrum.com/> and <https://twitter.com/TRJFPBrum/>.

The project is always looking for volunteers so if you are able to donate your time or a skill that would be a bonus.

We are going cashless from September

We are setting up a new system to pay for school dinners, trips and clubs.

Under the current climate we would like to limit the amount of cash which comes into school as this will decrease chances of virus transmission.

We are at the early stages of setting this up but we are hoping to be up and running by the end of September. This will be done using the same system we use for our emails, reports, etc. A parent portal will be set up for each child and parents / carers will be able to make payments using a debit/credit card. More information will be sent as soon as this is finalised but we wanted to give you a heads up about it!



Dates for the diary

- **Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September** – Teacher Training days
- **Thursday 3rd September** – Children back to school (more information to follow as we know)
- **Tuesday 20th October** - Current Year 6 Confirmation at The Oratory Church at 7pm
- **Monday 26th October – Sunday 1st November** – Half term holidays
- **Monday 21st December – Sunday 3rd January** – Christmas holidays
- **Monday 15th February – Sunday 21st February** – Half term holidays
- **Friday 2nd April – Sunday 18th April** – Easter holidays
- **Monday 31st May – Sunday 6th June** – Half term holidays
- **Thursday 22nd July** – Summer holidays



Remember you can follow us on Twitter @Oratory_rc