



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

"Shine as to be a light to others"



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Key dates:

Tuesday 11th October - School photos (individual and siblings at school)

**If your child has PE on this day, please send them in their uniform for photos. Thank you.*

Tuesday 18th October – Parent/Carer coffee morning (9:00-9:45)

Friday 21st October - Break up for half-term

Monday 31st October – INSET day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 1st November – school reopens for pupils

Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th November – Parents' evening (3:45 – 6:30pm)

Friday 16th December – school closes for pupils at 1:20pm (3:15pm for those who stay)

Future dates for your diary:

Sunday 11th June – First Holy Communion (Year 4)

Sunday 18th June – Blessed Sacrament procession (Year 4)

Wednesday 12th July – Confirmation at 7pm (Year 6)

Friday 7th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Collective Worship

The Key Scripture this week was from Mark 10: 17-27.

We discussed how putting God first is not always easy and for some it feels impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.

We also learnt about St Bernadette and how she shows us the importance of faithfulness and trusting in God. The children discovered that just like St Bernadette, pilgrims today can visit the grotto in Lourdes which is a site of special devotion to Our Lady as it is where Our Lady appeared to St Bernadette.



October is the month of the Holy Rosary

The Rosary is a meditative prayer that reflects upon the life, ministry, and death of Jesus and also on His Blessed Mother. As we repeat the familiar prayers, we allow our minds to think about the lives of Jesus and Mary here on earth – a mystery.

The Mysteries

There are four parts to the rosary, known as 'mysteries':

The Luminous Mysteries, The Sorrowful Mysteries, The Glorious Mysteries, The Joyful Mysteries.

For each set of mysteries, we are introduced to five different elements or 'snapshots' of the lives of Jesus and Mary. Each snapshot taken from Scripture is an opportunity to reflect and pray. To respond, we pray a set of prayers, which together with the reflection is called a 'decade'. The prayers we say as part of this set begin with one Our Father, followed by ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be to finish. We use the beads of the Rosary to keep track of our prayers!



Black History Month

Today in our assembly, we started to explore Black History Month. The children learnt that:

- Black History Month is a time set aside each year to celebrate the achievements of Black people in the past and today.
- In 1926, in America, a man called Carter G. Woodson introduced a week-long event to recognise and celebrate the history and achievements of Black people. This later turned into Black History Month.
- In 1987, the first Black History Month took place in the UK. We also explored some famous black people from the past and present, including Benjamin Zephaniah – the British poet and human and animal rights activist who was born in Birmingham!



Sacramental preparation

Those of you with children in Y4 and Y6 will have noticed that dates have been set for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2023. It is very 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. This week, Mass attendance cards have been given out to Y4 and Y6 children which can be signed at the end of Mass. Please see the link below for Mass times at the Oratory Church: <https://www.birminghamoratory.org.uk/mass-times/>



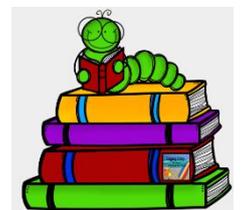
Music in school

Years 1 – 6 have been enjoying hymn practice with Father David every Tuesday. I have to say that their singing is improving week upon week and I can't wait to hear their beautiful singing voices in our next whole school Mass!

Year 4 and electives from Year 5 and 6 have been enjoying their violin and cello lessons in school on a Thursday afternoon. Their new music teachers have been very impressed with them so far!

Reading

We are fortunate to have some 6th form students from St Paul's School for Girls joining us every other Monday afternoon to do some additional reading with our children. We want our children to read for fluency and understanding, but also for pleasure – so please do continue to encourage your children at home by sharing stories with them and discussing with them what they have read. Why not visit Central Library over the weekend?



Cold Weather

The weather has really started to turn this week – with lots of wind and rain! Please make sure that children come to school with their jumpers/cardigans on and have a coat to wear – all clearly labelled, please!

School Developments

Today your child should have brought home a letter outlining English and Maths targets for them to work on at home. The partnership between home and school in supporting the children's learning is so important. We really appreciate your continued support in developing the children into ambitious, engaged learners. If your child joined us very recently they will bring a target sheet home soon. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Awards 7th October:

Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues: **Compassionate & Loving**

Living our Catholic Virtues of **compassionate & loving** this week are:

Nursery	Soren	Laylie
Reception	Marianne	Tioluwalade
Year 1	Massi	Anaise
Year 2	Marina	Michaele
Year 3	Emmanuel	Victoria
Year 4	Dextra	Oba
Year 5	Belle	Dexter
Year 6	Adina	Ryan

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

Nursery	Quoc Anh	Lanaiya
Reception	Elisha	Yadiel
Year 1	Joshua	Tanna
Year 2	Mayley	Henrik
Year 3	Rosalya	Madison
Year 4	Makai	Leyla
Year 5	Essay	Tamarah
Year 6	Melanie	Diego

Have a wonderful weekend!

God Bless,

Mrs Wilson.

Reminders

We are a nut-free school.

Please do not send children to school with food items containing nuts or traces of nuts as we have children with severe allergies.

Nursery places

We currently have a few places left in our Nursery. Hours are 8:40 – 12pm, Monday to Friday. Please contact the school office if you are interested in a Nursery place for your child.

Breakfast club

A reminder that we operate a breakfast club every morning from 8am (£2.50 per session). It is run by two of our own staff. Please let Mrs Yaman in the office know if you would like a place.

Labelling clothing

Please label all jumpers, cardigans and coats!

PE days:

Nursery - Friday

Reception – Wednesday

Year 1 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 2 - Tuesday & Thursday

Year 3 - Monday & Wednesday

Year 4 - Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 5 - Monday & Thursday

Year 6 - Monday & Thursday (*Thursday = swimming)

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.

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

If you've not yet sent your Home School Agreement back to school, please do so.

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

Next week we will be on **Week 1** of the school dinner menu. If your child is in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 they are entitled to Universal Free School Meals.

PLEASE park safely, considerately and responsibly when dropping off and picking up your children. Do not pull up or wait in the middle of the road or on the zigzag lines.

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

Please be prompt in collecting your children.