



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

"Shine as to be a light to others"



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Key dates:

Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October – HALF TERM (school closed)

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 21st October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Collective Worship

This Monday, KS2 visited the Oratory Church for Benediction with Father Anton, who was impressed with the children's singing and participation throughout. Meanwhile, KS1 shared the key Scripture from Luke 18: 1-8 and through explorations of the parable of 'The Persistent Widow' and the fable of 'The Tortoise and the Hare', children learnt that not giving up on prayer leads to a deeper relationship with God and that God invites us to talk and listen to Him, because he longs to answer our prayers.



Remember: 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

Pupils across school have continued to be enthused to learn about famous black people this week!

Over the half-term holiday, why don't you go to the local library or do some of your own research on a famous black person who has inspired you? Or perhaps you could look at some of the poetry from Birmingham's own Benjamin Zephaniah and practise performing it, or even write some of your own?

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Pickup would love to display this around school on your return after the half-term break!

Friday Assembly

Heroes in Black History

Mrs Pickup shared the work of Reverend Charles Tindley, who carried out compassionate work in Philadelphia in 1908. He believed that compassion is responding to people's needs in the same way Jesus did. This links very nicely with the Catholic Virtues we have been focusing on this half-term.

Certificates

A reminder that to further celebrate our Catholic Virtues: **Compassionate and Loving**, we are displaying certificates in school for a WHOLE WEEK, before the children take them home. This is so that every child, member of staff and visitor can see these certificates proudly on display. The children who receive them will still be named in the newsletter and will still come out in assembly to receive the round of applause they deserve.

School Developments

This week we welcomed back the EYFS lead from the Cromwell MAT to support the learning in Reception and Nursery. We are looking at making reading experiences for our children, especially our early readers, even better.

Mr Ted Hammond, from the Diocesan Education Team has been in to visit us this week to discuss the rapid improvements the Oratory has made in recent months and to hear more about our continuing journey of whole school improvement. It was a pleasure to welcome Mr Hammond back into our school.

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended the PTA meeting on Monday. It gave us the opportunity to discuss some future fundraising events for school to buy class sets of readers that we will desperately need come the Spring and Summer terms. But just as importantly, the planning of future events allows us to inject some extra fun in the school for the children! Watch this space! And do get involved if you can spare your time or talents! 😊

Also, thank you to those parents/carers who were able to make the coffee morning on Tuesday. We discussed our school developments so far this half term and welcomed opinions and feedback thus far.

Half-term Reading Challenge!

We challenge you to read in the most unusual place during next week! If you can, get a grown-up to take a photo of you and send it to your Teacher to share with everyone when we get back. The most unusual (but safe!!!) location sent in will win a prize!

Awards 21st October:

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

Living our Catholic Virtues of **Compassionate & Loving** this week are:

Nursery	Rose	Melab
Reception	Shantaya	Matthaios
Year 1	Abenezzer	Amaris
Year 2	Isaac	Ora
Year 3	Melvin	Michael
Year 4	Elijah	Theresa
Year 5	Lee-Rhiane	Milka
Year 6	Simran	Karolina

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

Nursery	Safe	Laylie
Reception	Marianne	Emmanuel
Year 1	Elliana	Brayden
Year 2	David	Evelyn
Year 3	Amanadab	Liam
Year 4	Dan	Makai
Year 5	Ninnette	Isaac
Year 6	Heaven	Zavian

Have a wonderful half-term!

We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 1st November.

God Bless,

Mrs Wilson.

Reminders

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. Please do share this information with your friends and neighbors too.

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.

Sacramental preparation

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. Remember to take Mass attendance cards with you to have them signed at the end of Mass.

Link for Mass times at the Oratory Church: <https://www.birminghamoratory.org.uk/mass-times/>

Labelling clothing

Please label all jumpers, cardigans and coats!

PE days: (PLEASE NOTE CHANGES)

Nursery - Friday

Reception – Thursday

Year 1 – Wednesday & Thursday

Year 2 - Wednesday & Thursday

Year 3 - Monday & Tuesday

Year 4 - Monday & Tuesday

Year 5 - Monday & Thursday (*Thursday = swimming)

Year 6 – Tuesday & Wednesday

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.**

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

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.