



# The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

*"Shine as to be a light to others"*

Head Teacher: Mrs C. Wilson



## Key Dates

### Next Week:

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Height/weight screening for Reception and Y6
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception physical development workshop (2pm – 3:30pm)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Nursery workshop (10:30-11:30)

### Future Dates:

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Whole school Mass at Oratory Church ( <i>Parents / Carers welcome, 9:30am</i> )
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### **HALF TERM 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**      **School reopens for pupils**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March      World book day

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**      **END OF TERM – School closes for Easter**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April**      **School reopens for pupils**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May      Bank Holiday

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May      Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May      Y6 SATs week begins

### **HALF TERM 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June**      **School reopens for pupils**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June      First Holy Communion (Y4)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June      Blessed Sacrament procession (Y4)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July      Confirmation at 7pm (Y6)

*\*Two more INSET days TBC*

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## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas. It has been wonderful to welcome all of the children back and hear all about their holidays!

### Pope Benedict XVI

On 5<sup>th</sup> January, Pope Benedict XVI was laid to rest. We pray for the repose of his soul and give thanks for his life as a true and faithful servant of God.

#### Prayer for Benedict XVI

O God, faithful rewarder of souls,  
grant that your departed servant Pope Benedict,  
whom you made successor of Peter  
and shepherd of your Church,  
may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven  
the mysteries of your grace and compassion,  
which he faithfully ministered on earth.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace.  
Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God rest in peace.  
Amen.

#### Prayer for Pope Francis at this time

O God, who chose your servant Francis,  
in succession to the Apostle Peter  
as shepherd of the whole flock,  
look favourably on the supplications of your people  
and grant that, as Vicar of Christ on earth,  
he may confirm his brethren  
and that the whole Church may be in communion with  
him in the bond of unity, love and peace,  
so that in you, the shepherd of souls,  
all may know the truth and attain life eternal.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.



### Collective Worship

At the start of the new year, our focus is on Mary, the Mother of God. We discussed how we can follow her great example of discipleship and display some of her brilliant qualities such as being: trusting, prayerful, faithful, thoughtful. Children learnt that Mary is the special connector who leads us to Jesus and brings us closer to God through her prayers.

### Mass

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January, we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany at the Oratory Church. Thank you to Father Anton, who led a beautiful Mass. Also, well done to our Reception children who once again walked so sensibly to Church with their Y6 buddies and sat and listened attentively throughout. All children sang beautifully and remained reverent. Each class enjoyed a turn at looking at the beautiful Nativity scene set up in Church by the Fathers.



### Celebration Assembly

In our celebration assembly this week, we announced that we will be relaunching our school house teams red, yellow, blue or green and that the winning house each week will receive the House Cup which will be proudly displayed for all to see! All staff will be involved in giving out house points to children so they can be received for good work in

class, good behaviour around school, being helpful around school, displaying acts of kindness towards others – there will be many opportunities to receive house points! All the dojo points the children earn in class will contribute to their house points for that week too. At the end of the term, the winning team will also receive a treat. Our new house teams will need a name, so Mrs Pickup and I have challenged the children to come up with names for the houses which may be to do with the Oratory school, Oratory Church or to do with Ladywood or Birmingham. We are excited to see what names the children come up with! They have been asked to come up with names for all four houses and then to pop them in a box outside my office. Once the School Council, Mrs Pickup and I have chosen our three favourite ideas, we will take them back to the children so that a democratic vote can take place. It's all very exciting!

We are also going to be introducing an Attendance Cup. The winning class each week will receive the cup, and a certificate, and will be able to keep the cup in their classroom all week! The competition is on! Attendance figures will also be shared in our weekly newsletter.

### **Attendance and punctuality**

In recent weeks attendance in some classes has unfortunately been abysmal. This also brings down our overall school average. We understand that there have been illnesses going around recently - as is to be expected in the winter months - but please do send your children in if they are well enough to attend.

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!**

Did you know?

Absence disrupts the education of the individual pupil and the whole class. Are you aware those children who do not attend regularly:

- do not achieve well in exams
- find it difficult to maintain friendships
- are more likely to become involved in crime
- miss out on opportunities in further education and the world of work?

Every minute counts!

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

- 5 minutes late every day means around 3 ½ days of education are missed
- a score of 90% in a test would be a good result but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed around 100 lessons over a school year

**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).

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.

**Well done to the following children for 100% attendance last term.  
They have been wearing their special '100% Attendance' badges with pride on their school uniform!**

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ejiro	Abigail Doxa Ezra Malachi Marta Rigi William	Amanuel Marina Melissa Michaele Ora Ruslana	Kymmi Liam Madison Simon Tafari Temia Tiwatope	Anayath Chenti Dan Dextra Eyob Makai Maribel Markus Nikolay Shenaya	Dexter Heaven Isabella Milka Preciosa Rafaella Richie	Amari Karolina Shamma Simran Zavian

### **School Developments**

We began our new curriculum this week and on Tuesday our teachers received training on the high expectations we have for the children. Our curriculum offers new and exciting activities to further engage our children enabling them to know more and remember more. Some classes may be revisiting areas they have already covered this year to make sure they have remembered all the key pieces of knowledge they need to relating to that topic. You can help the children to remember the key information they need to know by asking them what they have learnt in school each day. Or what new things do they know now that they didn't know this morning.

All EYFS, Y1 and Y2 Teachers and TAs, as well as TAs across school, have received more training on our new phonics scheme: Read Write Inc. Miss Phelps, our EYFS and Phonics Lead, has assessed children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 and has carefully streamlined them into phonics groups which match their ability so they can make more rapid progress with phonics sessions specifically set for them. A number of children in KS2 have also been assessed to see whether they have gaps in their phonetic knowledge and those identified with gaps will be receiving daily interventions to help them to close any gaps. All children will be assessed again after six weeks and regrouped if necessary.

### **Enrichment**

I am so pleased to inform you that Y6 will be taking part in a residential at Alton Castle in June 2023! More details will follow soon, as will details of a payment plan for parents/carers.

Mrs Pickup has been busy in the background organising day visits for other year groups too, so watch this space!

### **Breakfast club**

The children have enjoyed their first week back at breakfast club with Mr Milligan who has arranged for a variety of activities for the children to participate in in the morning. If you would like a space at breakfast club, please speak to Mrs Yaman in the school office. We are hoping to increase our numbers so that we can continue to keep breakfast club running throughout the year.

### **Sacramental preparation**

It is so 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.

Sunday Mass times at the Oratory Church:

7.30am Mass (Latin)

8.30am Mass (English)

10.30am High Mass (Latin)

12.15pm Mass (English)

4.30pm Sung Vespers & Benediction (Latin)

5.30pm Mass (English)

God Bless,  
Mrs Wilson.

### Awards - 6<sup>th</sup> January

#### Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues: **Eloquent and Truthful**

Pupils at the Oratory are growing to be *eloquent and truthful* in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world. Schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham help their pupils grow by developing an *eloquent* language which pupils can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be *truthful* in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.



Living our Catholic Virtues of **Eloquent and Truthful** this week are:

Nursery	Laylie	Osman
Reception	Moksh	Kendall
Year 1	Thani	Brayden
Year 2	Nehemiah	Maranatha
Year 3	Amanadab	Betania
Year 4	Christabel	Markus
Year 5	Lee-Rhian	Eliab
Year 6	Viha	Ryan

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

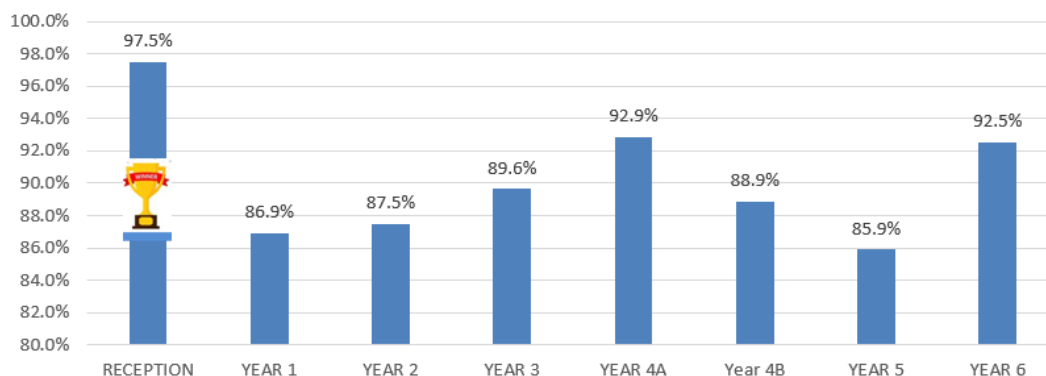
Nursery	Anahi	Evan
Reception	Marnie	Omari-Royce
Year 1	Malachi	A'mara
Year 2	Esther	Cattleya
Year 3	Emmanuel	Evie
Year 4	Anayath	Chenti
Year 5	Ninnette	Aryan
Year 6	Adina	Thomas

**Well done to all of these children!**

## Attendance

Well done to our Reception class this week with **97.5%** attendance!

Attendance W/E 6th January



## Reminders

### PE days:

Nursery - Friday

Reception – Thursday

Year 1 – Wednesday & Thursday

Year 2 - Wednesday & Thursday

Year 3 - Monday & Tuesday

Year 4 - Tuesday & Wednesday

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

Year 6 – Monday & Tuesday

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.**