



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

"Shine as to be a light to others"

Headteacher: Mrs C. Wilson



Key Dates

Future Dates:

Thursday 2 nd February	Whole school Mass at Oratory Church (<i>Parents / Carers welcome, 9:30am</i>)
Monday 6 th February	KS2 visit to Symphony Hall
Monday 13 th February	KS1 visit to CBSO Centre

HALF TERM 20th – 24th February

Monday 27th February **School reopens for pupils**

Thursday 2nd March World book day

Friday 31st March **END OF TERM – School closes for Easter**

Monday 17th April **School reopens for pupils**

Monday 1st May Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation

Tuesday 9th May Y6 SATs week begins

HALF TERM 29th May – 2nd June

Monday 5th June **School reopens for pupils**

Sunday 11th June First Holy Communion (Y4)

Sunday 18th June Blessed Sacrament procession (Y4)

Wednesday 12th July Confirmation at 7pm (Y6)

**Two more INSET days TBC*

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Friday 20th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had another busy week in school. Year 6 celebrated Mass on Monday with Father David in the Chapel. On Tuesday Mrs Pickup and Mrs Hulbert led Choral worship with the children and taught them a new song, 'Our God is a Great Big God', and reminded them of an old favourite 'This Little Light of Mine'. The children participated with great enthusiasm and joy it was a wonderful act of worship. Year 6 have been writing World War One narrative poems and using their learning from history to add even more details and information. Year 5 have written Non-Chronological reports about the mythical beasts they have been reading about in their class novel Beowulf.

Celebration Assembly

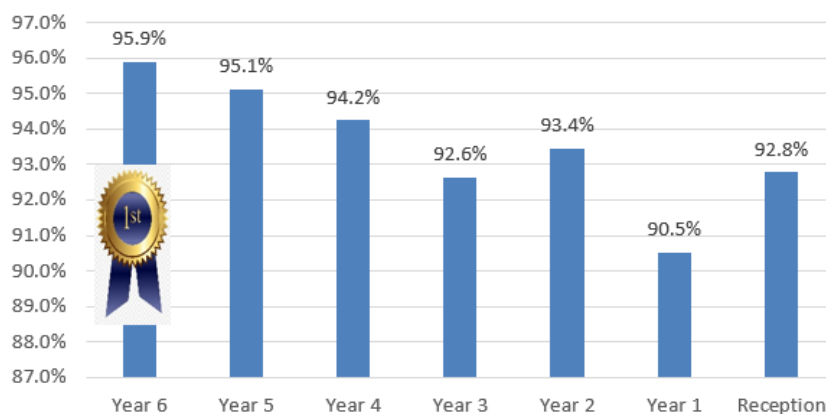


We heard a little about Chinese New Year today in our celebration Assembly. Millions of people around the world will be celebrating on the 22nd as The Year of The Rabbit begins. If you are around the city centre this weekend you might see some of the celebrations. Festivities will begin on Saturday 21st January with a full day of free performances and activities in partnership with Bullring & Grand Central. The much-loved lion procession will kick start the celebrations at midday. There will be traditional singing, dancing and music, high energy drum performances, and more between 12pm – 5pm. The celebrations are also in Hippodrome

Square where visitors are invited to learn how to write a piece of Chinese calligraphy and draw a traditional painting by taking part in cultural workshops throughout the day. There will also be the chance to capture the celebrations by taking a photo with Pom Pom, the ten-foot Panda. Xīn nián hǎo and san nin hou to all those celebrating this weekend.

Attendance

Well done to our **Year 6** class this week who have won the attendance cup with **95.9%** attendance!



School Developments and Enrichment

This week we have been exploring ways to bring more aspiration, culture and enrichment (ACE) experiences into the curriculum for the children. We have booked tickets for KS2 to attend Symphony Hall for a school's concert in February and you should all have received a letter this week with information of how to pay and also the consent form to return. We have also just managed to secure tickets for KS1 to attend the CBSO Centre for a special Super-Hero performance. Further details will follow on Monday for Years 1 and 2. A big thank you to the education team at the CBSO for their help.

PE

Please ensure children come to school in the correct PE kit. It is important that they are wearing suitable clothing and footwear for physical activity and that the kit is in line with school expectations. Speak with your child's class teacher if there are any problems with this. Reminders will be sent out to parents of children who do not have the correct kit.

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 - 20th 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	Quoc Anh	Lanaiya
Reception	Ethan	Fatima
Year 1	Eden	Florian
Year 2	Rhian	Evelyn
Year 3	Kymmi	Tafari
Year 4	Markus	Theresia
Year 5	Preciosa	Isaac
Year 6	Momoreoluwa	Shamma

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

Nursery	Minan	Diyako
Reception	Kendal	Elias
Year 1	Joshua	Isabella
Year 2	Larissa	Maranatha
Year 3	Emmanuel	Ekka
Year 4	Elijah	Rubeigh
Year 5	Richie	Milka
Year 6	Janet	Tommy

Well done to all of these children!

Reminders

Attendance and punctuality

We want to make sure that all the information we have regarding absence on Arbor is correct as we have a large number of children with unauthorised or no reasons for absence. Please can you log into Arbor for your child and check their attendance information. On the first screen you will see their current attendance percentage. If you click on this graph you will be able to see the overall number of sessions, lates, authorised and unauthorised absences. If you click on the by date option on the left-hand side of the menu screen under attendance you will be able to see the exact dates for any absences or late marks. Please let the office know if you cannot access this and need a paper copy.

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!

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 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.

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.**