



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

“Shine as to be a light to others”

Headteacher: Mrs C. Wilson



Friday 27th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week Year 6 have been delving more into their WW1 history topic. Mrs Pickup brought some of her great grandfather's belongings from the First World War to share with Year 6. She shared a letter he had written to his wife after he had arrived in France to let her know he was safe. The children went on to use this example to write their own letters home from the trenches. Year 3 have enjoyed their Maths learning this week as they have been developing their division skills. The practical equipment they used this week really helped them to understand the concepts involved. Reception have been learning about Chinese New Year and have made a dragon called Henry.

Governor News

Father Anton has been the Chair of Governors for a number of years and has decided he needs to prioritise his commitments to the Oratory. We would like to thank Father Anton for his dedication as Chair over the years and are glad we will still see him regularly as our school Chaplain. Following his resignation, Father David has been appointed Chair of Governors and we look forward to working closely together to keep driving forward our school improvements. Father David is regularly in school leading choral worship and Mass with the children.

Collective Worship

Liturgical Year and Cycle: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Cycle A

Key Scripture: Matthew 4: 12-23

In our whole school Collective Worship assembly this week, we explored the compelling call to follow Jesus.

Through examples, children understood that we choose to follow instructions from people who love us. Matthew shares that the disciples' choice to follow Jesus changed their whole lives. They learned to live like Jesus and we can do the same!

Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” And they left their nets at once and followed Him.

Matthew 4: 19-20

Year 5 celebrated Mass on Monday with Father Anton in the Chapel. On Tuesday Mrs Pickup and Mrs Hulbert led choral worship with the children and practised 'This Little Light of Mine'. The children (and staff) really enjoyed it.

Celebration Assembly

Year 4 shared their learning about Individual Liberty with us in our Celebration Assembly today. Individual liberty is the right to believe, act and express oneself freely. Year 4 had worked in groups to think about what Individual Liberty means to them in different areas of their lives. They shared with us what it would look like in their classrooms, in the playground, through our faiths and also in our communities. Their examples included listening to the opinions of others in class and knowing that you can disagree and not have to have the same view. They also shared how even though there are people of different faiths and beliefs in our school and community we all need to respect the views of others and treat everyone with respect. Thank you for such an informative session.

Financial Education

On Tuesday and Wednesday next week we will be joined by Sandra Howes from HSBC Bank who will be delivering financial education workshops with all the children. They will have a focus of Financial skills for learning and range from exploring coins and their values to understanding exchange rates, budgeting and responsible spending and not getting carried away.

Safety Week

During the week beginning the 6th February we will be having a safety focus for our week. On Monday we will look at road safety and the KS2 children will be able to put their learning into practice during our walk to Symphony Hall for the Schools concert. Tuesday of that week is Safer Internet day and we will be looking at age appropriate ways of making sure we are safe online. On Wednesday we will be teaching the children about the PANTS rule as promoted by the NSPCC. On Thursday we will be focussing on water safety with resources specifically designed by the canal and river trust about being safe around water in the winter. Finally, Friday will see us focusing on personal safety including what to do if you get lost, and ways to keep yourself safe with people who you don't know. During this week we will also share resources with parents to help you support the children's safety at home.

Support fund

We have been granted access to a small support fund for a limited amount of time to help our families in need. Please do come and speak to us in confidence as we may be able to support you in buying essential items, with travel costs or with ICT access for children's learning. There are specific conditions under which we can use this fund, but please do ask us so we can help if we are able to.

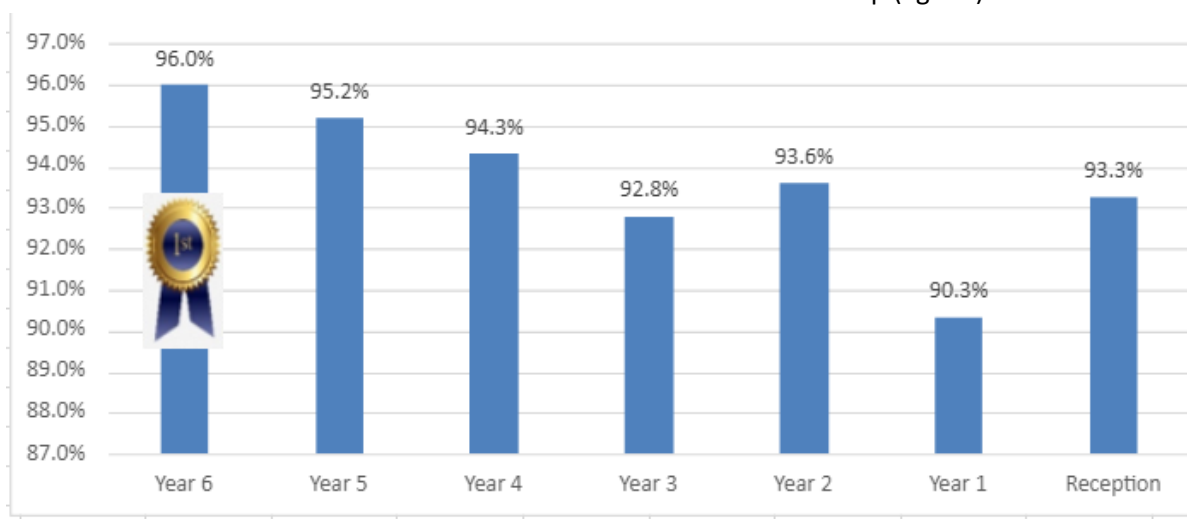
Please email: communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk in confidence.

Operation Encompass

The Oratory is an Operation Encompass School, working closely with West Midlands Police to identify and support victims of Domestic Abuse. We remain vigilant and urge anyone suffering domestic abuse to contact the school or Police for help.

Attendance

Well done to our **Year 6** class this week who have won the attendance cup (again!) with **96%** attendance!



Please bring your children to school every day! It is so important that they don't miss out on their learning. If they are under the weather slightly, you can still send them in and we will monitor them closely as long as they have not vomited/had diarrhoea or a temperature.

School Developments and Enrichment

This week, our EYFS, Y2 and Y6 Teachers worked in school with the Assistant Headteachers from the CLCMAT. The focus in EYFS was on the implementation and impact of our new phonics scheme: Read Write Inc. We are already seeing great progression in reading and spelling using this scheme, with some children already progressing to the next target group in Reception and Y1. Children in KS2 who are receiving additional phonics interventions are also making good progress and are enjoying their success. Y2 and Y6 Teachers focused on SATs preparation for the upcoming SATs in May.

Ted Hammond and Justine Lomas from BDES were in this week too to meet with Mrs Wilson and Mrs Pickup. They have been supporting us with some of the key areas of rapid improvement that we have been working on.

Teaching staff

We continue in our search for permanent members of staff who are as committed to the education and development of your children as we are. We will keep you updated.

God Bless,
Mrs Wilson.

Awards - 27th 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	Noel	Hannah
Reception	Ejro	Marnie
Year 1	Malachi	Elliana
Year 2	David	Emilia
Year 3	Lily	Rosalya
Year 4	Chentwini	Dextra
Year 5	Tishany	Isabella
Year 6	Peter	Karolina

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

Nursery	Soren	Laylie
Reception	Oliwia	Hewar
Year 1	Amaris	Muhmad
Year 2	Catt	Nehemiah
Year 3	Ted	Erin
Year 4	Tyler	Makai
Year 5	Brielle	Irfan
Year 6	Amelia	Tommy

Well done to all of these children!

Reminders

Absence reporting procedures

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!

ARBOR – please check your child's attendance

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'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.

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).

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)

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

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

Next half-term will be Y3's turn to swim.

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.

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.

Current Clubs:

- Breakfast club (every morning) £2.50, 8am – 8:40am
- Monday – Multisports (Y4/5/6)
- Tuesday –
 - Multisports (Y1/2/3)
 - Y6 Maths club (by invitation)
- Wednesday – Football (Y3/4/5/6)
- Thursday –
 - Netball (Y4/5/6)
 - Choir club (Y3/4/5/6)

After school clubs finish at 4:30pm

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
6 th – 10 th February	Safety Week
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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