



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

"Shine as to be a light to others"

Headteacher: Mrs C. Wilson



Friday 17th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

We began the week with our KS1 visit to CBSO Centre for their Eco Heroes Children's concert. The children were excited and joined in enthusiastically with the different actions as the orchestra took us through different habitats around the world. We were so fortunate to be able to take all of the children, thanks to the support of parents and St Paul's School for Girls who provided us with a minibus and driver to help transport some of the children. Mrs Pickup went with both classes and was very impressed with how sensible and safely the children walked there and back. She certainly got her steps in and I'm not surprised that her legs were a little achy on Tuesday!

Classes have been completing their Design Technology and Art learning for this half-term over this week. School has smelt amazing with the aromas of biscuits, vegetable flans and bolognaise sauce filling the corridors. A huge thank you to Pat in the kitchen for helping to prepare and cook the children's creations. Year 6 have been developing their painting techniques creating pictures inspired by the Battlefields and events of WW1.



Collective Worship

Liturgical Year and Cycle: Ash Wednesday | Cycle A

Key Scripture: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

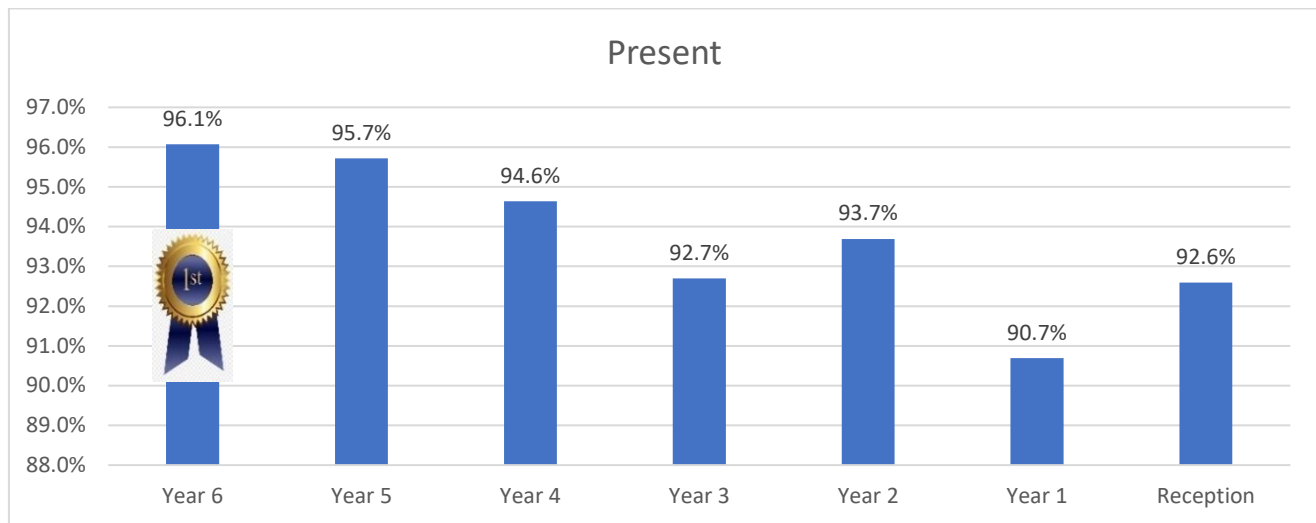
This week as we move towards the season of Lent, we looked at Jesus being at the centre of everything we do. We discussed that we look towards Jesus and invite Him to be at the centre of our lives and our Lenten journey and that now is the time for a fresh start in our relationship with God. The children were able to give examples of how we GIVE, ACT and PRAY during the season of Lent.

Celebration Assembly

A wonderful way to end the week celebrating those children who have been ready respectful and safe and shown eloquence and truthfulness over this week.

Attendance

Well done to our **Year 6** class this week who have won the attendance cup (for the 5th time in a row!) with **96.1%** 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

We spent Thursday and Friday interviewing permanent and long-term candidates for a variety of positions and are pleased to share that we have made some successful appointments! We will contact parents of relevant year groups in due course to let you know about new staff appointments.

World Book Day

On 2nd March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. On this day, children can come to school dressed as a book character. It is not necessary to buy shop-bought costumes, unless you want to – try to encourage the children to be as inventive as they can using what they already have at home!

Letters

Letters went out last week for Y3 swimming, which begins after half-term. Please make sure that the consent forms have been signed and returned to the class teacher or school office. Thank you. Year 3 will continue with their Monday PE session and then Swim on Thursday for their second PE session of the week.

Household Support Fund

Access to this fund is now finished and we would like to thank Morrisons at Fiveways for the additional donations to enable us to help those families in most need at this time.

Parking

Please make sure that if you are dropping off or collecting your children from school that you do not park or stop on the yellow zig-zag lines outside either of the school entrances. They are there to make sure that the pavements are clear for people wishing to cross the road. Parking or stopping in these zones puts the children in danger. Please help us to keep all the children safe.

Snacks and food in school

We have noticed this half-term that a number of children have been bringing unhealthy snacks into school for break time. Any snacks should be fruit or vegetable based or plain biscuits. Can I also remind you that we have a number of children with severe nut allergies in school so products containing nuts should not be bought into school, this includes chocolate spreads. We are aware that some chocolate spreads do not have nuts in them however as we cannot see the ingredients list, we cannot take the risk.

Breakfast Club

After the Easter break the booking system for breakfast club will be changing slightly. We will be asking you to book slots in advance. More details will follow later next term.

Have a lovely half-term break and thank you for your continued support.

God Bless,
Mrs Wilson & Team.

Message from the Oratory PTA

The Oratory Parents & Teachers Association (PTA) would like to extend its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all within the Oratory family past and present for their continued support throughout the years.

The PTA supports the school financially as well as non-financially in ensuring that our children receive the best care and support whilst at the Oratory. Historically, we had been focusing on raising money through school events, like the Christmas parties, fetes etc. The money we have raised has helped the school in providing children with school trips, Year 6 leaver's jumpers and class parties.

We are in the process of becoming formally structured so that we can be in a position to apply for external grants and funding to continue this important role; especially with all schools nationally facing financial challenges.

We very recently supported the school in purchasing reading books for classes and currently have just over £600 left.

If you would like to support the school or the PTA in helping your children get the best from the Oratory, please contact the school; we'll always be thankful for extra support on the Board or during events that we hold.

The current PTA officials voted in are:

1. Chair: **Ambrose S. Koryang**

2. Secretary: **Brendan Greene**

Deputy secretary: **Teresa Obor**

3. Treasurer: **Rowenna Koryang**

4. Community Liaison: **Rachel Doris**

5. Events coordinator: **Veronica P. Druzen**

Deputy Events coordinator: **Kelly Tan**

6. Risk assessment & Safety lead: **John Milligan**

7. PTA supporter(s): **Pamilerin Beckley**

8. School Liaison link: **Teacher (tbc)**

We, as the PTA and on behalf of the Oratory school would like to thank you all parents and carers for your continued support. Just by turning up and supporting events that we organise, you are still helping your Oratory family; thank you.

Ambrose S Koryang

Chair of the Oratory PTA

Awards – 17th February

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	Rose	Caleb
Reception	Kingston	Shantaya-Royal
Year 1	Amara	Levi
Year 2	Hidayah	Isaac
Year 3	Amen	Chanelle
Year 4	Layla	Grace
Year 5	Isaac	Eliab
Year 6	Momore	Melanie

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

Nursery	Hannah	Melab
Reception	Noah	Aliya
Year 1	William	Thani
Year 2	Marina	Henrik
Year 3	Betania	Ted
Year 4	Elijah	Leo
Year 5	Belle	Layvon
Year 6	Heaven	Ryan

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!

Attendance Monitoring

Letters have been posted out today to parents/carers of children with poor attendance.

If you have received an attendance letter and would like to come into school to meet with Mrs Wilson to discuss it, please make an appointment at the school office.

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 & Thursday(*Thursday = Swimming)
Year 4 - Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 5 - Monday & Tuesday
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 – Football (Y4/5/6)
- Tuesday –
 - Multisports (Y1/2/3)
 - Y6 Maths club (by invitation)
- Wednesday – Multi Sports (Y3/4/5/6)
- Thursday –
 - Netball (Y4/5/6)
 - Choir club (Y3/4/5/6)

After school clubs finish at 4:30pm

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.

Key Dates

HALF TERM 20th – 24th February

Monday 27th February	School reopens for pupils
Thursday 2 nd March	World book day
Monday 13th March	Parent's evening: Rec, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y6 NEW DATE
Tuesday 14 th March	Parents' evening: Rec, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y6
Wednesday 15th March	Parents' evening: Rec, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y6 (Possible strike day)
Tuesday 28 th March	Parents' evening: Y1, Y5 (TO BE CONFIRMED)
Wednesday 29 th March	Parents' evening: Y1, Y5 (TO BE CONFIRMED)

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

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

Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation
Tuesday 9 th May	Y6 SATs week begins

HALF TERM 29th May – 2nd June

Monday 5th June	School reopens for pupils
Sunday 11 th June	First Holy Communion (Y4)
Sunday 18 th June	Blessed Sacrament procession (Y4)
Wednesday 12 th July	Confirmation at 7pm (Y6)

**Two more INSET days TBC*

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