



HEADTEACHER: Mr A.G. Neenan

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"With Jesus as our guide; we love, live and learn together."

Newsletter 3: Friday 27th September 2024

Dear Parents

Congratulations to all of the pupils who received their attendance certificates and badges in assembly this morning especially the pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the whole school year last year – a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations also to the pupils who have been selected by our children to represent them on our Catholic Life Council, Spiritual Council or as House Captains for this school year. We are looking forward to the improvements and contributions they will make to our school during the next 12 months!

This Sunday, we have a special Mass of Enrolment at 10.30am for our Year Three and Year Six pupils who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Please remember our Year Three and Year Six children in your prayers.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – HOLY NAME PARISH – HELP FOR FAMILIES:

The St Vincent de Paul society in the parish of Holy Name have asked for this information to be shared with our families:

The aim of our society is to seek and find those in need and provide them with practical support and friendship in a spirit of justice, while tackling the causes of poverty. The help we give **is not limited to Catholic families** - poverty, loneliness and the need to share problems are as urgent and relevant to all communities in Great Barr just as they are in the rest of the country.

To access this help, please contact the Parish Office, and leave your name and contact telephone number and ask for the SVP to contact you. The SVP will then take it from there:

Parish Office: 0121 357 1351 holynamesandwell@rcab.org.uk



School Places Available:

We have school places available in our new Reception class and also in other classes in school.

Please contact the school office or apply for a place via Sandwell LA:

[Apply for a school place | Sandwell Council](#)



SchoolComms App:

Please download the free SchoolComms App to your phone (the details / links are in the circulation email for this week's newsletter) if you have not already done this. By doing this school **will not have to pay for text messages** to parents when they are used and **this will save us quite a lot of money!** Thank you for your support.

Reception Welcome Prayer Service:

All parents, grandparents, family members and parishioners are warmly invited to join us for a very special prayer service in the school hall at **2.30pm** on **Tuesday 1st October** to welcome you all to our school and parish community. Please come along if you are able to – you are all very welcome!

Harvest Mass – Friday 11th October:

We will be collecting donations of pre-packed and tinned food to present to the Great Barr Food Bank as part of our harvest almsgiving. Please send in any suitable produce in preparation for our **Harvest Mass** at **9.15am** on **Friday 11th October**.

Please remember that **all parents and family members are invited to join us** for this special celebration. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Parent Consultation Appointments:

This term's parent consultation meetings will be taking place **in the school hall** on **Monday 21st** and **Wednesday 23rd October** between **3.30pm** and **5.45pm**. Our classrooms will be open for you to view your child's work. We will write to all parents next week with further details. Please remember that these meetings are for **parents and teachers only**: there is no provision for children to be supervised at school. **We therefore ask you NOT to bring children back into school on these evenings.**

Supervision of Children After School:

Please do not allow your children to use the equipment in nursery playground or climb the trees or fences at the school gate after the end of the school day. This has been noticed by school staff and we are very worried about the risk of injury. When pupils have been handed over at the end of the day their supervision becomes parental responsibility. School will not be held responsible for any accidents or injuries caused by pupils engaging in such activities.

Homework & Useful Information:

This week we updated the school website with information regarding your child's homework arrangements, P.E. days and curriculum information. Please take a look by clicking '[Curriculum and Gallery](#)' on the school website then clicking your child's year group.

Please remember that homework has now started which means that our children should be completing their daily reading and online homework:

- Reading books (Reception – Y3)
- Reading books or Reading Plus (online for Y4, 5 & 6)
- Spelling Shed homework (online)
- Number facts homework (online)

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you are missing any login information.

Pupils are welcome to use the library at breaktime or lunchtime if they have missed any homework.

Food Voucher Scheme – Advance Notice

Sandwell Local Authority have notified school that going forward, free school meal vouchers issued to families during the school holidays will no longer continue into the new 2024-25 academic year and beyond.

The authority will, however, continue to offer 'Holiday Activities and Food' during the school holidays, where eligible children can enjoy fun activities and a meal, free of charge. Please visit <https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk> for more information.

Any families needing extra financial support during the school holidays can access help from the 'Supporting Sandwell Information Hub', which includes financial advice. Please visit <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/supportingsandwell> for more information.

Wonderverse – KS2 Poetry Writing Competition:

Calling all budding KS2 poets!

Is your child inspired to delve into their imaginations to write a poem about any topic? Anything is possible when imagination and creativity come alive! Using any style or technique, they can write about incredible worlds or fantasy creatures, express their inner thoughts or emotions, describe their favourite people, places or hobbies, or write about a class topic.



For an entry form, please speak to Mrs Kavanagh. Deadline for entries is **Friday 4th October 2024**.

Holy Name PTA - Parentkind:

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their ‘Cashpot for Schools’ initiative.

All you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between **2nd September** and **30th November 2024**.

Asda will donate **0.5%** of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional **£1** to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving **£50** to every school to get them started.



Please support our school whilst doing your shopping at Asda.

Reception - Y6 Reading Challenges:

Our Reading Challenges are a great way to ensure your child is reading a range of texts which are age-related (with some challenging texts too!)

To make it super easy to participate, we have uploaded a direct form link which is accessible through your Marvellous Me accounts. The form is called ‘YR RC’ / ‘Y1 RC’ etc and they are also available on the school website – just click:

‘Curriculum and Gallery > Reading’ and scroll down to ‘Reading Challenge’.

Or click on the links here: [Y6](#) [Y5](#) [Y4](#) [Y3](#) [Y2](#) [Y1](#) [Reception](#)

Every time your child reads a book from the specially selected list, they just need to complete an entry on the form and they will automatically be entered into a prize draw!

All of these books will support your child’s love of reading and further enhance their vocabulary and encourage a love of reading. Good luck!



The next prize draw will be on Friday 4th October.

Sacramental Dates for 2024-25:

The following dates have been arranged with Father Kuriakose. **Please note that there is a special mass of enrolment for our Y3 and Y6 pupils and their families in church at 10.30am on Sunday 29th September.** All children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Y3) and Confirmation (Y6) **are required to attend** with their parents.

Date:	Information:
Sunday 29 th September 2024	Mass of Enrolment for Y3 and Y6 pupils preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Tuesday 5 th November 2024	Y3 Parent Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at 5.30pm
Thursday 12 th December 2024	Y3 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at 2.15pm
Wednesday 5 th February 2025	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm
Saturday 17 th May 2025	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30pm



Masses this Half Term:

All **parents and parishioners** are warmly invited to all of our school masses in **school** at **9.15am** or in **church** at **11.30am**.

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 2 nd October	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am
Friday 11th October	Harvest Mass: Whole school in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 16 th October	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 23 rd October	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Sunday 29 th September	Mass of Enrolment for Y3 and Y6 pupils preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Monday 30 th September	Y2 Multi-skills Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 1 st October	Reception Welcome Prayer Service (in the school hall) at 2.30pm (parents are invited) Y5 & Y6 Cricket club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 3 rd October	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 4 th October	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Monday 7 th October	Y2 Multi-skills Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 8 th October	Y5 & Y6 Cricket club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 10 th October	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 11 th October	Harvest Mass: Whole school in school hall at 9.15am (all parents are invited)
Thursday 17 th October	School photographer taking individual photographs Nasal Flu Vaccinations in school
Friday 18 th October	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Monday 21 st October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 5.45pm in school hall
Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 5.45pm in school hall
Half Term Break:	Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November
Tuesday 5 th November	Y3 Parent Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at 5.30pm
Thursday 12 th December	Y3 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at 2.15pm

Yours sincerely

A. Neenan

Mr A.G. Neenan

Headteacher

One of the precepts of being a Catholic is to attend Sunday Mass (or the vigil Mass for Sunday) every week and on all Holy Days of Obligation. This weekly commitment gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord which is why Sundays are known as the Lord's day.

Mass at Holy Name Church:

Saturday 12.30pm

Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus says that anyone who gives them a cup of water to drink, because they are his disciples, will be rewarded in heaven. Why do you think that Jesus says this?



Jesus was sending out the disciples to spread his word. They had to leave their homes and their families behind and they had to rely on other people to welcome them and to share with them, so that they could live. How do you think that must have felt?

It must have been difficult for the disciples. They couldn't just turn on a tap when they were thirsty and get water to drink and they didn't have money to buy food when they were hungry.

Our Catholic Mission:

This week we can try to do our best to share what we have, so that all people around the world can have their fair share of the basic things like water that we need to live.

Prayer:

Generous God,
you created the world with enough for all people to share.
May we work together with others,
so that everyone throughout the world
has their fair share of food and water
and may live life to the full.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy