

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

**Newsletter 10: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Dear Parents

I hope that you all had a good Christmas holiday. On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! It was great to see all of the children back in school on Monday.

We had a wonderful mass in the school hall this morning. Thank you to the parents, family members and parishioners who joined us for this special celebration.

Please remember to continue to follow your 'Walk With Me' calendar at home – the season of Christmas ends on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January which is the feast of The Baptism of Our Lord.



**ADMISSION APPLICATIONS FOR RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025:**

The deadline for applications to your Local Authority is: **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

For those parents wishing to apply for a place at **Holy Name**, as soon as you have made your application to your Local Authority, please request a supplementary information form from the school office. You will need to complete and return this to school along with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate. This will enable the school to accurately rank your child as a Baptised Catholic and report this back to the Local Authority.

Sandwell residents can apply online at:

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/admissions)

If you require help or further information then please phone the Sandwell Admissions Parent Support Line: **0121 569 6765**.

**Y6 PARENTS' MEETING – TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 5.30pm:**

**All** Y6 parents are invited to join us in the school hall to share information about the Alton Castle residential, which is taking place in February, and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Y6 Sacramental Dates for 2025:**

Date:	Information:
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	<b>Y6</b> parent meeting: Alton Castle residential and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in school at <b>5.30pm</b>
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	<b>Y6</b> Family Prayer Service in school at <b>2.35pm</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at <b>7.00pm</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Confirmation in school at <b>9.15am</b>



### Y6 Family Prayer Service – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January:

We would like to invite our Y6 parents into school at **2.35pm** on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January** to join us for a special family prayer service as part of our sacramental preparation for Confirmation. This is an opportunity for our family members to join with their child's class to pray together as we approach a very special time in the lives of Y6. Please note that all attendees must be in the school hall at **2.35pm**. It will not be possible to join the prayer service after it has started.



### Values and Virtues – ‘Grateful and Generous’:

This half term the values which will be reflecting on are: ‘**Grateful** and **Generous**’. We will be helping our pupils to grow by encouraging them to know and be **grateful** for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be **generous** in the service of others.

St Ignatius asks us to consider rather what has already been gifted to us: our health and family, shelter and security, enough to eat, plentiful clean water, friends, freedom, the rights and protection of the law, our education, talents and pastimes, the love of God in Jesus Christ, and all the small daily blessings that, when noticed, bring joy to life.

As we become more practised at being **grateful**, we realize just how gifted and blessed we are, often without really deserving it. Out of this growing realization comes a powerful desire to be **generous**, “to give and not to count the cost.”



“If the only prayer you said was ‘Thank you’, that would be enough.”

Meister Eckhart OP (1260-1328)

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, “Never measure your **generosity** by what you give, but rather by what you have left.” This is what it means to be big-hearted and truly **generous**.

Thank you for your valued commitment to supporting the Catholic life of our school.

### Extreme Weather:

If the school has to be closed in the event of snow or adverse weather conditions, then parents will be informed via text message and email and a notice will be placed on the homepage of the school website. Unless a text / email is received and an announcement made, the school will remain open.

### 100% Attenders:

Congratulations to all of the pupils listed below who will be receiving their attendance certificates and badges in assembly next **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January** at **9.05am**. All of these pupils achieved 100% attendance last term – a fantastic achievement!

Y6	Y5	Y4	Y3	Y2	Y1	Reception
Samuel A Kacper C Bridget I-S Savanna M Joseph O Linh P Maisie P	Esther A Maddie A Monroe E Chrisler F Emmie G Rose H Cruz R King David R-D Haysus W	Isla F Jaxon H Logan M Charlie M David O Oscar P Natnael S Olivia T	Jayden B Olivia H Princess R-D Arthur R Fateh S	Christabel A Cara B Alexander B Ria C Leo D Henry G Litheeshan N Isaac O Valentine Q Rome R Savan S Poppy T J	Conor A Jayna B Tommy C Heavenly K Enzo M Nathanael M Kian R Prince Emmanuel R- D Maya S	Rosie G

### Goldfinch Award for Jesuit Values and Virtues:

Congratulations to the following children who have excelled at following the Jesuit Virtues of ‘**intentional** and **prophetic**’ this half term.

They will be receiving special certificates in assembly on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. All parents are invited to join us for this assembly. **N.B.** Nursery pupils will be given their certificates in class.



Nursery	Reception	Y1	Y2
Delilah K Kevin G	Rosie G Harry N	Lyla J Stella K	Isaac O Evie S-H
Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Millie S Rowan G	Umika N David O	Chrisler F Alicija J	Chelsea-May O'S Bridget I-S



**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            holyname.bham@rcaob.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](#)



**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 accessible on 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!

**The more books that you read the more chances that you have to win!**

**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 15 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y3</b> and <b>Y6</b> joining the parish for mass in <b>church</b> at <b>11.30am</b>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	<b>Infants'</b> mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y4</b> and <b>Y5</b> joining the parish for mass in <b>church</b> at <b>11.30am</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>NO CLASSES ATTENDING MASS</b>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Infants'</b> mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>



**Diary Dates:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Information:</b>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y4</b> Educational Visit to ThinkTank Meeting for <b>Y6</b> parents in school hall (Alton Castle Residential & Sacrament of Confirmation) at <b>5.30pm</b>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>KS2</b> French Club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at <b>9.05am</b> (all parents welcome)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>KS2</b> French Club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b>
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at <b>9.05am</b> (all parents welcome)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Y6</b> Family Prayer Service in school at <b>2.35pm</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at <b>7.00pm</b>

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**



## Baptism of the Lord (Year C)

### Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

In this Sunday's gospel reading, we hear about how John the Baptist was baptising people with water. Can you remember what he says?

He says that someone is coming who is more powerful than he is. Who do you think that person is?

John says he is not worthy to untie the strap of Jesus' sandals. What do you think John means by this?

John does not feel that he is important enough to help Jesus. But yet, Jesus asks to be baptised by John. What do you think this shows us about Jesus?

All of us are important in our own special way, and we are all important enough to serve Jesus. Jesus welcomes us all and sees that we all have special gifts and talents to share.

What happens after Jesus is baptised?

Jesus prays, and while he is praying the Holy Spirit descends like a dove. Then a voice comes from heaven. Whose voice do you think this is? What does God say?

Jesus is the Son of God and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. We too are filled with the Holy Spirit at our baptism.

What is the Holy Spirit? What do you think it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What difference does it make to our lives?

Just as we can tell that a tree is good because it produces good fruit, in the same way, we can tell that we are allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us by the way we behave towards other people.

For instance, we can share what we have with others who do not have enough. We can be kind to others. We can try to make our world a fairer and better place for all people to live in. Especially people who are poor.

### Our Catholic Mission:

We are all God's children, no matter where in the world we live, no matter where we come from or what we look like. We are all members of the same global family. And so we try to be loving, kind, generous and bring peace to all people, so that others may see the fruits of the Holy Spirit and our baptism in the way we behave.

How will you show the Holy Spirit working in you in this coming week?

### Prayer:

God of love, we are members of one worldwide family.  
As we gather at your table we give thanks for your love.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit and help us to show your love to others in all that we do.  
Amen.

*Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy*

