

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

## Newsletter 13: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents

I hope that you and all of your families had a good half term break. It was great to see all of the children back in school on Monday.

Every child has been given a Lenten 'Walk with Me' calendar to take home today as Lent begins next Wednesday. Please remember to follow this special calendar to provide a daily focus for your family during this very special season of the church's year.

Please remember that the PTA are hosting their **Bingo Night** this evening in the school hall. Doors are open from **6.30pm** for a **7.00pm** start.



### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on this date – which is the first day of the summer term.

#### Attentive and Discerning:

This half term, the virtues which we will be reflecting on are: '**Attentive** and **Discerning**'.

In this morning's assembly, Miss Edmunds explained that Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by encouraging them to be **attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

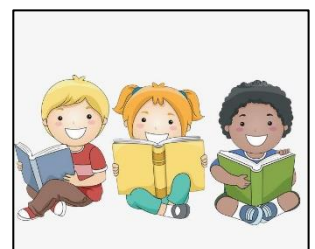
St Ignatius tells us that we should take time to notice the big and the small things of each day; we need to be aware of and understand the responses of other people; we need to be attentive to the stirrings in our hearts and to the preoccupations that thread their way through our lives. In this way, we become much more sure-footed in coping with the things that life and other people throw at us.

Once we develop the habit of being **attentive**, we can begin to **discern** what is good for us and what is not; and what God calls us to be, and to do (our *vocation*).

For the Christian, **discernment** is about taking the time, and making the effort, to notice when and where God calls. And God does always call. Maybe so gently that we barely notice. In the Lord's Prayer we say, 'Thy will be done' but go off without really believing that God has a will for each of us. But he does. By being **attentive** and **discerning**, we can discover God's will and unique calling for every one of us.

#### Y1 Phonics Screening Meeting for Parents - Tuesday 4th March at 9.00am in School:

Thank you to all of our Y1 parents who have confirmed that they will be attending this meeting to share information regarding this statutory assessment. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.



"God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I have a part in a great work."

Blessed John Henry Newman (1801-90)



**Y6 Parent Meeting for KS2 SATS Preparation – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm:**

All Y6 parents are invited to a SATS information session which is taking place in the school hall at **5.00pm** on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**. This session will explain the expectations and arrangements for these important assessments and explain how you can work in partnership with school to help us to work together to prepare our children as well as we possibly can.



**Y3 Parent Meeting for Sacramental Preparation – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm:**

All Y3 parents who have a child who is being prepared for the Sacrament of the Eucharist are **required** to attend our meeting in school on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**. This meeting will cover the preparation and arrangements for the children's First Holy Communion.



**Parent Consultation Appointments:**

This term's parent consultation meetings will be taking place **in the school hall** next week on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** 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 with further details, including appointment times, shortly. 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.**

**School Comms App:**

Please make sure that you have turned on notifications for this app on your phone so that you are alerted to any text messages which are sent to parents from school. Thank you.

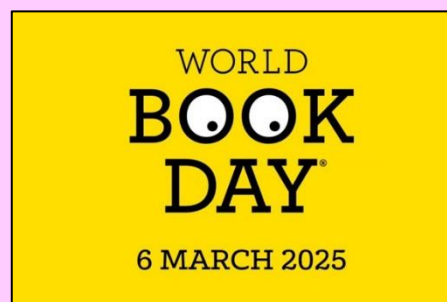
**World Book Day - Vocabulary Themed Fancy Dress – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March:**

Every year we always dress up for World Book Day. Just like last year we would like you to participate in a '**Vocabulary Parade**'.

We would like you to dress up as a word which we don't always hear every day. Here are some tips to help you plan your costume:

1. Research ideas: search for 'Miss Alaineus, A Vocabulary Disaster' or 'Vocabulary Parade' on Google / Pinterest etc.
2. Choose a word.
3. Make a costume – the more creative the better!
4. Make a label with your word and definition on.
5. Strut into school!

Please add the date to your calendar and start planning your outfits!



**Book Fair – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March:**

Please come along to our book fair after school on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March!** The children will have the opportunity during the school day to have look at the books on offer. They will create a wish list. If you are able to, you can come along and order them a book. For every book sold, we will get some money to contribute towards new books in the library!

Children will also come home with a Sponsored Read. This will take place from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Find out more information here: <https://www.holynameprimary.co.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=137>



## SCIENCE 'DRESSING UP' DAY- FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March we will be celebrating British Science Week in school. All of our children are invited to come to school dressed as a scientist. Please encourage your child to dress as someone who uses science in their day-to-day job. It does not necessarily need to be a specific person. Some ideas could be:

- A Nurse / Doctor
- An Optician
- A Forensic Science Technician
- An Archaeologist



During this week our children will be participating in science investigations in class. In assembly on Friday, some children from each class will be sharing their learning and showcasing their work.

We will also be announcing a scientist of the week during assembly, so all parents/carers are welcome to come and celebrate the work we have been doing during this assembly.

***If you or a family member use science in their everyday job and are willing to come and speak to the children during our assembly, then please contact me through the school office for more information.***

Thank you for your continued support, it does not go unnoticed!

Miss Doody

## Magic Map – KS2 Writing Competition:

Calling all budding writers! Is your child inspired to delve into their imaginations to write a story 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 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025**.



## **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](mailto: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!**

**School Masses:**

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 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole School Mass – Ash Wednesday in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Infants'</b> mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Y3</b> and <b>Y6</b> joining the parish for mass in <b>church</b> at <b>11.30am</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Y4</b> and <b>Y5</b> joining the parish for mass in <b>church</b> at <b>11.30am</b>
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Infants'</b> mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Whole School Mass – End of Term

**Diary Dates:**

Date:	Information:
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	PTA Bingo Night in School Hall - doors at <b>6.30pm</b> . Everyone is welcome!
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents' Evening <b>3.35 – 6.00pm</b> in school hall
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Y1</b> Parents' Meeting for Phonics Screening Check at <b>9.05am</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening <b>3.35 – 6.00pm</b> in school hall
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>WORLD BOOK DAY</b> <b>KS2</b> French Club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	NO ASSEMBLY
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Y6</b> Parents' Meeting for KS2 SATS at <b>5.00pm</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>KS2</b> French Club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b>
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Science 'Dressing Up' Day





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**

## **Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

### **Gospel: Luke 6:39-45**

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus talks to the disciples about seeing a tiny speck of dust in someone else's eye, but not seeing the great wooden log in our own. Can anyone guess what Jesus means here?

*Why do you observe  
the splinter in your  
brother's eye and  
never notice the  
plank in your own?*



Jesus is saying it is much easier to notice the mistakes that others make, than it is to realise when we have made a mistake or done something wrong ourselves.

Jesus tells the disciples that they must take the log out of their own eye before they can take the speck out of someone else's. He is saying we must change the way we act before we can expect anyone else to change.

If we cannot be good and do what is right, how can we ask other people to do the same?

Think quietly for a moment about something you might have done wrong. How could you change that? Could you share more? Be kinder or more helpful to others? Could you stop teasing a brother, sister or friend? Could you keep your room tidy? Or switch off lights when they're not needed?

It's not always easy to change the way we act but perhaps we can all try this week.

### **Our Catholic Mission:**

This year is a special Jubilee Year and we are called to be "Pilgrims of Hope". There are all kinds of problems in our world, like poverty and hunger and climate change, but through our actions and the way we speak to others we can share hope as we all work together for a better world.

How will you use the store of goodness in your heart? How will you speak out and make changes to be the best person you can be and make the world a better place for others?

### **Prayer:**

Generous God, lead us to be the people you know we can be.

Fill us with hope, courage and goodness.

Help us to make a change so that the world may be a better place for all people.

Amen.

*Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy*