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

Newsletter 1: Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Parents

Welcome to the start of the new academic year. I hope that you and your families have all had a good summer. It has been wonderful to see our pupils back in school this week and welcome our new Reception and Nursery pupils. They always seem to change and grow so much when we have not seen them for so long! I hope that everyone is settling in well along with their class teachers.

Please read the information below from the Holy Name St Vincent de Paul society who would really like to help any of our families who may be in need.

Friday 13th September – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on **Friday 13th September.**

Virtues and Values for this Half Term - 'Curious and Active':

This half term, the Jesuit virtues which will be reflecting on in school are: '**Curious** and **Active**'. Our reflection and study of the Jesuit virtues helps us to enable our pupils to live and learn for the greater glory of God and the common good.

All things are worthy of our attention, **curiosity** and study because in each one of them there is the possibility of finding God; and not only God but God doing something for me. **Curiosity** is needed to sustain learning. It is what keeps us going through the difficult stuff; it is what opens up new horizons and allows the possibility of 'finding God in all things.'



In the Jesuit tradition, learning is something to be **actively** engaged in by probing, seeking, asking, challenging, and questioning until the truth is plain – it is to think for oneself and to become an independent and lifelong learner.

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.

The help we can give covers all aspects of daily life. We have been providing families within the parish with foodbags every fortnight for the past three years and we can provide access to the local foodbank if that is required. We are able to help parents, and guardians, **with the purchase of school uniforms** and associated items such as **shoes and P.E. Kit**. When the weather turns cold, we can also help to provide winter coats. Families have also been helped with bedding, electrical white goods such as washing machines and energy bills.

Firstly, everything we do is confidential and is not shared with others. Secondly, we do not give anyone money, all purchases are made by ourselves on behalf of our beneficiaries. Thirdly, we cannot help everybody so it is necessary for us to be able to talk to those requiring help face to face so we can build a



relationship with them for when further help may be needed.

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 [holynam.e.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](#)

Yellow Polo Shirts:

If your child does not have a 'Holy Name' yellow polo shirt(s), emblazoned with the school badge, then please contact the school office as we have pre-loved uniform in school that we can pass onto families. A small donation for this uniform is welcome, but this is optional.

Please remember that our parish Saint Vincent De Paul Society are very keen to help families with providing school uniform.

Y4 Swimming Lessons:

Y4 will be receiving swimming lessons on Thursdays this term – starting from **Thursday 19th September**.

Y1 – Y6 Homework:

This will begin from the week starting **Monday 16th September**. We will write to parents next week to inform them of the arrangements.

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**.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

Snacks and Drinks:

The governors would like to remind all parents and pupils that the only 'snacks' that are allowed to be brought into school are **fresh fruit**. No other snacks are permitted.

Water is available in school for all pupils at all times. Any 'water' brought into school should **not be mixed with squash**. No fizzy drinks or juice should be brought into school (this includes pupils who have sandwiches for lunch).

School Dinners:

The weekly charge for dinners is **£13.00** (£2.60 per day).

Medication in School:

From time-to-time, your child may require medication. Therefore, we would like to remind you that school staff are able to administer prescribed medication to pupils when a medical form has been completed and the prescribed medication has been sent to the school in its original packaging and label attached.

As a school, we **do not** administer medication to pupils that has not been prescribed. We would ask that parents make arrangements to come to school and administer this if it is required.

Parking on Cross Lane and Surrounding Roads:

Please ensure that local residents are able to access their properties safely and easily if you drive your child to school. Parking in prohibited and / or inappropriate places creates an unnecessary hazard for our pupils and places the school in a difficult position when trying to build positive relations with our neighbours. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dismissal at Hometown / Meetings with School Staff:

If you wish to meet or have a discussion with your child's class teacher then please request an appointment through the school office. We will then arrange a mutually convenient time for you, as promptly as possible, to meet in school privately with the appropriate member of staff. At the end of the school day the priority of school staff is the supervision and safe handover of the children. School staff are not usually available to parents without having made a prior appointment. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children have looked very smart in their full school uniform this week. Please could I please remind parents of these requirements from our school uniform policy:

Please note: if you are unsure whether any item that you have purchased meets the requirements of our School Uniform Policy, then please check with the headteacher before giving an item to your child to wear to school. Our School Uniform Policy can be viewed in full on our school website.

FOOTWEAR:

Black sturdy, flat soled shoes without 'open toes' and suitable for all weathers (shoe heels should be less than 1.5 inches)

Shoes should not feature any branded logos, stripes or ticks even if they are all black.

Trainers (including black), **crocs** or other similar forms of footwear **are not permitted** or appropriate as these items of footwear are not in keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform.

CLOTHING:

All **polo shirts**, **sweatshirts** and **cardigans** should be **emblazoned** with the Holy Name **school badge**.

Children are to attend school in / with the following items, in a clean and good condition:

- Light grey trousers or shorts (with '**inner**' **pockets only** – no 'combat trouser' style outer pockets) *or*
- Skirt or pinafore dress (no 'playsuits')

* N.B. '**Playsuits**' are not allowed as these require disrobing in order to use the toilet.

JEWELLERY:

For the safety of pupils and adults working with them, **we do not allow children to wear jewellery** to school (**except for small, plain studs for pierced ears**).

Ear studs will need to be removed for PE and swimming activities. Staff are not permitted to remove or fit studs in ears, this must be done independently by the child. If this is not possible, plasters or tape, **provided from home**, can be applied.

HEADWEAR:

We do not allow headwear to be worn during class time or inside school buildings, except for religious or medical reasons. However, caps and hats are actively encouraged for sun protection and winter hats may be worn when it is appropriate to do so.

HAIR:

Hair should be kept neat and tidy with **longer hair tied back**, plaited or in a 'bun'.

Plain hair / headbands, preferably **blue** or **black** may be worn to keep hair in place.

More extreme haircuts, including irregular shaving of the head, bright colouring or patterns are not appropriate. If your child has such hairstyles, it is expected that they will be allowed to 'grow out' and not be re cut or coloured.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:

You should provide your child with a **labelled water bottle** in order for them to stay hydrated during the school day.

If your child has a cold lunch (sandwiches) at lunchtime then they should bring these to school in a **labelled lunchbox** for reasons of hygiene.

SNACKS AND DRINKS:

The only 'snacks' that are allowed to be brought into school are **fresh fruit**. No other snacks are permitted.

Water is available in school for all pupils at all times. Any 'water' brought into school should **not be mixed with squash** to promote a healthy diet.

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 9 th September	Y2 Multi-skills Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 10 th September	Y5 & Y6 Cricket club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 12 th September	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 13 th September	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – Staff Training Day
Thursday 17 th October	School photographer taking individual photographs Nasal Flu Vaccinations in school
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

Term Dates 2024-25:

We will be closed for a training day on **Friday 13th September**.

2024-25	Term starts:	Half Term Holiday:	Term Ends:
Autumn	Monday 2 nd September	Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November	Friday 20 th December
Spring	Monday 6 th January	Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February	Friday 11 th April
Summer	Monday 28 th April	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May	Friday 18 th July (for pupils)

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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus meets a man who cannot hear, and who has a problem with his speech. What does Jesus do to the man?

Jesus puts his fingers in the man's ears, touches his tongue, and prays for the man to "be opened."

The man is able to hear and to speak more clearly. How do you think he must have felt?

Jesus tells the crowd not to tell anyone, but they go around telling everyone! Why do you think they tell everyone?

The crowd are so happy and amazed at what Jesus has done that they feel everyone should know what he can do.



Sometimes we all find it difficult to listen. Can you think of a time when you didn't listen well to what someone was saying?

Perhaps you were being asked to lay the table or make your bed, and you didn't really want to do it. Perhaps you didn't think what the other person was saying was important?

What other reasons can you think of for not listening well to what people are saying?

Sometimes we all find it difficult to speak up – especially if we see that someone is doing something wrong or if we are afraid of being laughed at. It can be hard to stand up for what we know is right. It can be hard to speak out for what we believe in.

Can you think of a time when you knew you should say something but it was hard to do so?

When we look at the world we can see lots of things that are wrong. We are all part of God's family – a family that includes everyone in the world – but some of our brothers and sisters around the world live in poverty.

It is not always easy to speak out for what we believe in, but Jesus asks us to try.

Our Catholic Mission:

Will you speak out this week for what you know is right? Will you try to stand up for what you believe in even if it is difficult?

If you could say one thing to change the world we live in and make it a fairer and more just place, what would it be?

Prayer:

God of all,
give us the courage to stand up and make our voices heard,
to speak out for a world where all people have the chance to live free from poverty.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy