



HEADTEACHER: Mr A.G. Neenan

Cross Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 6LN
Tel: 0121 357 3216 Fax: 0121 358 5523

email: headteacher@holyname.sandwell.sch.uk
website: www.holynameprimary.co.uk

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

Newsletter 9: Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents

I would like to begin this week's newsletter by thanking all of you for the tremendous support you provide for our school. We have reached the end of a very long term!

I hope that you and your families have a very happy and holy Christmas. I will look forward to seeing all of our children safely back in school on **Monday 6th January**.

On behalf of our staff I would like to say thank you for the many gifts which have been given to our staff from our pupils and families. There is absolutely no expectation from school for this – your support in itself is greatly valued and appreciated by all of our staff.

I hope that you all enjoyed our Infant Nativity performances and the PTA Christmas Fayre.

Thank you to all of our Y5 parents who joined us for a special family advent prayer service this week. It was lovely to have you in school to join us in prayer at this special time of year.

Thank you so much to our Christmas Choir, led by Miss Doody and Mrs Berry, who have sung so well on a number of occasions during the past few weeks and represented our school so well. We are so proud of you!

I hope that all of the children enjoyed our annual 'Christmas Crafts' day on Tuesday. Thank you very much to all of our staff for preparing the activities and Miss Edmunds for arranging the day.

All of our pupils in Y4, Y5 and Y6 have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the past week as part of their Advent preparation.

Please remember to continue to follow your 'Walk With Me' calendar at home – the season of Christmas begins on Christmas day and continues until the feast of The Baptism of Our Lord on **Monday 8th January**.

Start of Term Mass of Epiphany - Friday 10th January:

We are looking forward to celebrating mass our first school mass of 2025, with Father Jibu, in the school hall at **9.15am** on **Friday 10th January**. All parents, family members and parishioners are warmly invited to join us.

Y6 PARENTS' MEETING – TUESDAY 14TH 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.

PTA UPDATE:

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Event. We raised over £1,100 for our school and brought everyone together to start the Christmas Season in style.

Look out for a bingo event in the New Year and mark the calendar - our summer BBQ will be taking place on Saturday 28th June 2025.



Y4 Swimming:

The next lesson will be taking place on **Thursday 9th January**.

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 17th January 2025**. 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!



Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 6 th January	First day of spring term for all pupils
Thursday 9 th January	Y4 swimming lessons recommence KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 10 th January	Whole school mass in school hall at 9.15am
Tuesday 14 th January	Y4 Educational Visit to ThinkTank Meeting for Y6 parents in school hall (Alton Castle Residential & Sacrament of Confirmation) at 5.30pm
Thursday 16 th January	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

In this Sunday's gospel, While Mary is pregnant with Jesus, she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also expecting a baby. As soon as Elizabeth sees Mary she is filled with joy. Why do you think this is?



Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and recognises that Mary's baby will be the Son of God. How do you think Mary feels when Elizabeth says this to her?

Do you have a baby brother or sister? Do you remember when your mum or dad told you that there would be a new baby in the family? How did it make you feel? How did you feel when they were born?

Babies are special. They need a lot of looking after. Can you think of some things that babies need?

Are there some things that you can do for yourself that a baby can't?

No matter where in the world that they are born, all babies need the same things. They need someone to love and care for them. They need someone to feed them and to keep them warm and clean.

Sometimes it is difficult for families to provide all of these things because of where they live or what is going on around them.

Our Catholic Mission:

God loves us all, even the tiniest baby.

As we remember how Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy as they waited for their very special babies to arrive, let's think about all the other babies around the world and how special they are too.

Prayer:

God of all,
fill us with joy at the coming of your Son,
as Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy.
Help us to spread this joy and your love
by caring for all our brothers and sisters around the world.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy