

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

Newsletter 15: Friday 28th March 2025

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well.

Thank you to all of our Y3 parents who attended the sacramental preparation meeting in school last Tuesday and also thank you to our Y2 parents who joined us in school this afternoon for a special Lenten family prayer service.

Please remember to follow your Lenten 'Walk with Me' calendar to provide a daily focus for your family during this very special season of the church's year.



Monday 28th April and Monday 2nd June – Staff Training Days:
School will be closed to all pupils on these dates.

British Values Assembly – Rule of Law:

A big thank you to our Community Policing Team who came in to school to lead assembly this morning on our British Values Day.

The Rule of Law is a fundamental British Value, and it is important that we understand as British Citizens the importance of following laws to protect society.

We really enjoyed learning about the different roles that there are within the police force and how West Midlands Police uphold the rule of law in our local area!



Lenten Family Prayer Services for Y1 Parents:

We would like to invite our Y1 parents into school to join us for a special Lenten family prayer service.

This is an opportunity for our family members to join with their child's class to pray together at this special time of year. Please do your best to join us for these special services and note that all attendees must be in the school hall at 2.30pm. It will not be possible to join the prayer service after it has started.

Thursday 3rd April at 2.30pm in school for Y1.



Lenten Almsgiving DANCE-A-THON:

To raise as much money as we can for Father Hudson's Caritas, our Catholic Life Council have decided to hold a Dance-a-Thon in school on **Friday 4th April**. Father Hudson's Caritas is a charity that supports vulnerable people, offering services such as care for children, older adults, and those with disabilities. The aim is that as a school community we manage to keep the beat all day in a dance extravaganza! Each class will take part on a rota system and our Catholic Life councillors will lead a lunchtime session on the playground. Sponsor forms will be sent home with pupils on **Monday 31st March**.

Easter Bonnet Parade – Friday 2nd May

Our annual Easter Bonnet Parade for our Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two pupils will be taking place at the end of the first week of the summer term (during the season of Easter) on **Friday 2nd May at 2.40pm**.

If you would like your child to participate in this fun event, then please bring in an Easter bonnet (which they have made at home) on this day. Nursery pupils are most welcome to come back to school for the assembly in the afternoon. Our Catholic Life Council will judge the winners.



To ensure that a safe number of pupils and family members are in the hall, admission will be by ticket only and this will be restricted to one ticket per pupil. These are free and will be available from the school office from **Tuesday 8th April**.

KS2 Easter 'Decorate the Egg' Competition – Thursday 1st May:

On **Thursday 1st May** we will be hosting a 'decorate the egg' competition for our junior pupils (Y3,4,5,6).

Entries (decorated boiled eggs) should be brought into school **carefully(!)** on this day for our Catholic Life Council to judge.



Toys in School:

Some children have been bringing toys into school recently. We do not allow toys in school other than on special days which are notified to parents through the school newsletter. Please try and check that your child is not bringing these items into school as there has been some upsets caused by this such as children swapping toys etc. Thank you for your cooperation.



Y4 Parents' Meeting Online - Statutory Multiplication Tables Check – Tuesday 8th April at 5.00pm:

All Y4 parents are invited to join an online meeting, presented by Miss Simmons, to explain the expectations and content of the Y4 Multiplication Tables Check (which is an annual statutory assessment required by the government). We will 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 for this test in June. A link will be emailed to all Y4 parents on Tuesday 8th April.

Y3 Sacramental Dates:

The following dates have been arranged for next term:

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 7 th May	Y3 Family Prayer Service in school hall at 2.30pm (all Y3 parents are invited to join us)
Saturday 17 th May	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30am
Wednesday 21 st May	Y3 Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of the Eucharist in school at 9.15am



**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:



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

Parish Office: 0121 357 1351 holyname.bham@rcaob.org.uk

School Places Available:

We have a number school places in our 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 2 nd April	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 9 th April	Whole School Mass – End of Term

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Thursday 3 rd April	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 4 th April	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents are invited to join us)
Tuesday 8 th April	Y4 Holy Week assembly (Palm Sunday) at 9.05am (all parents are welcome) Y4 Online Parents' Meeting – Multiplication Tables Check – at 5.00pm
Wednesday 9 th April	Whole School Mass in school at 9.15am
Thursday 10 th April	Y3 Holy Week assembly (The Last Supper) at 9.05am (all parents are welcome) KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm



Date:	Information:
Friday 11 th April	Y5 Holy Week assembly (Stations of the Cross) at 9.05am (all parents are welcome) LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

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 Lent (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

In this Sunday's gospel reading, Jesus tells us a story.

A man had two sons. What did the younger son do? He took his half of his father's money and went off and spent it all.

What job did the son do to try to earn some money after he had spent it all?



The son started to look after someone else's pigs. He was so hungry that he would have liked to eat the pigs' food, but no one would let him have it. How do you think he must have felt to know that no one was willing to share with him?

So the son set off home to see his father – to say sorry and to say that he would work as a servant in his house. How do you think the son was feeling?

How do you feel when you know you have done something wrong? Is it always easy to say sorry?

When he was a long way off, the father saw his son and rushed out to meet him, giving him a big hug. How do you think the father felt to see his son again after all this time?

How did the son expect his father to feel? But what did the father do after the son said sorry?

The father threw a big party! He was so happy that his son had returned to him, safe and sound. The father forgave his son for all that he had done and invited everyone to a big meal to celebrate.

The elder brother was not so pleased. Have you ever been cross with your brother or sister or a good friend? Why do you think the elder brother was angry that his father was throwing a party? But what did the father say?

God loves us all and forgives us for all the things that we have done wrong, just like the father in this story forgives his son.

God welcomes everyone to the feast. It doesn't matter who we are, where we come from or what we've done, we all have the right to share in the food that God has given for all people.

And we have to do our best to make sure that all people can get their fair share as well.

Our Catholic Mission:

Perhaps this week, we can do our best to say sorry for the times when we haven't done the right thing, especially when we haven't shared very well with others?

Let's also make a change, let's try to share more with others and work together so that all people are able to join in the feast of good food that God gives for us all.

Prayer:

God of life, you want all people to have enough to eat and to share with each other.

Work through us so that this hope may become a reality.

Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy