



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

“Shine as to be a light to others”

Headteacher: Mrs C. Wilson



Friday 31st March

Dear Parents and Carers,

Collective Worship

Liturgical Year and Cycle: 5th Sunday of Lent | Cycle A

Key Scripture: John 11: 1, 6-9,13-17, 20-27, 33-45

In our final assembly of Lent, we shared the dramatic account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Through this, and discussions about reasons, children learnt that Jesus wants to be the reason that we live: He knows that putting Him at the centre is how we can truly live life to the full!

Jesus said: “I am the Resurrection and the life...whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”
John 11: 25-26

Stations of the Cross

This week, Y3 visited the Oratory Church to participate in Stations of the Cross. Father David shared that he was impressed with their interest and reverence.

Mass

Today the whole school attended Mass at the Oratory Church, led by Father Anton. He talked to the children about Passiontide, which is the name for the last two weeks in Lent and commemorates the suffering of Christ. The children listened very attentively and enthusiastically answered questions. Members of the parish commented on how reverent and well-behaved our children were during the Mass, which made us all very proud!

Celebration Assembly

Along with celebrating those children who have been demonstrating our virtues: **Learned and Wise** and our school rules: **Ready, Respectful, Safe,** We also celebrated the winners of the Easter hat, garden and egg decorating competitions. Thank you to FOTOS and a generous friend for donating the Easter egg prizes!

School Developments

This week we welcomed the AHTs from Cromwell to help us monitor and review our Curriculum. We also welcomed Dr B. Varley to monitor our progress since Ofsted. She was pleased with the progress thus far and identified the next areas for us to focus on. In the Summer term we will be putting a very big focus on basic skills and learning behaviours. All children need to be able to form their letters and numbers correctly. We will be dedicating time within the school day to ensure the children are being taught the correct formation. Homework over next half term will be focusing on these skills and all children need to take pride and care in all of their written work.

HSBC

Sandra from HSBC has been in to school this week carrying out workshops across the school. The children have been learning about what money looks like, the value of money and how to manage money in everyday life. The children asked some excellent questions to find out even more information.

Sharing Shelf

We have started a sharing shelf in the main reception lobby. This is for families to take from when they need and donate to when they can. Everyone is welcome to use the shelf if they need to and donate to the shelf if and when they can. We would just ask for everyone to be respectful and use the shelf in the spirit it is intended.

School Easter Events.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter events. A special mention to the PTA who gave up their own time to organise and run an after-school Easter event earlier this week 😊

Early Years and KS1 worked hard at home to make some amazing Easter bonnets/hats and thoroughly enjoyed parading around the school so that everyone else could see their designs. We were lucky enough to be able to award chocolate eggs for the winning creations.

In KS2 we saw some talented artists create fabulous Easter gardens These were displayed around school for everyone to see. Again, the winning designs were awarded with chocolate eggs.


It was lovely to see a range of characters and scenes made from eggs, with children thinking ‘outside the box’ to develop their ideas. What an egg-cellent egg-shibition!

Next week is Holy Week. It would be lovely to see many of our families at Mass during this important time during Lent. Please see the Mass schedule below:

<https://www.birminghamoratory.org.uk/holy-week-schedule/>

HOLY WEEK 2023

THE ORATORY OF ST PHILIP NERI, BIRMINGHAM

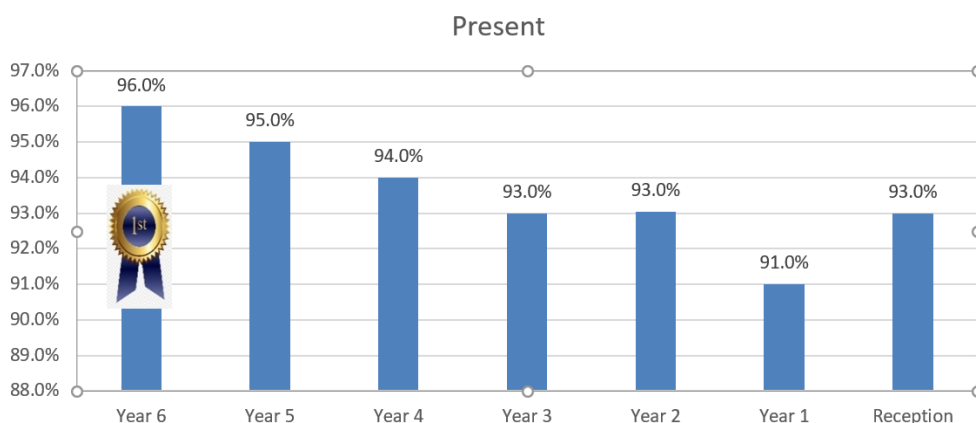


PALM SUNDAY 2ND APRIL	SPY WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL	MAUNDY THURSDAY 6TH APRIL	GOOD FRIDAY 7TH APRIL	HOLY SATURDAY 8TH APRIL	EASTER SUNDAY 9TH APRIL
<p>7.30am Mass (Latin)</p> <p>8.30am Mass (English)</p> <p>10am High Mass (Latin) with blessing of palms and procession</p> <p>12.15pm Mass (English)</p> <p>4.30pm Sung Vespers and Benediction (Latin)</p> <p>5.30pm Mass (English)</p>	<p>7.30am Mass (English)</p> <p>12.30pm Mass (English)</p> <p>5.45pm Mass (Latin)</p> <p>8pm Tenebrae (sung Matins and Lauds of Maundy Thursday)</p>	<p>12.30pm Mass (English)</p> <p>5.45pm High Mass (Latin)</p> <p>Altar of Repose until midnight</p> <p>8pm Tenebrae</p>	<p>12 noon Stations of the Cross and veneration of relic of the True Cross</p> <p>3pm Liturgy of the Passion (Latin)</p> <p>6pm Stations of the Cross and veneration of relic</p> <p>8pm Tenebrae</p>	<p>Confessions available throughout the day.</p> <p>7.30pm Easter Vigil and Solemn Mass (Latin)</p>	<p>7.30am Mass (Latin)</p> <p>8.30am Mass (English)</p> <p>10.30am High Mass (Latin)</p> <p>12.15pm Mass (English)</p> <p>4.30pm Solemn Vespers and Benediction (Latin)</p> <p>5.30pm Mass (English)</p>

Attendance

Please bring your children to school every day! It is so important that they don't miss out on their learning. If they are under the weather slightly, you can still send them in and we will monitor them closely as long as they have not vomited/had diarrhoea or a temperature.

Well done to our **Y6** classes this week who have won the attendance cup with **96%** attendance!



Sacramental preparation

It is so important that children are prepared for these significant events in their life. The teaching that goes on in school is only part of what the children need in preparation for making their First Holy Communion and Confirmation – there is an expectation that parents/carers take children to Mass every week to further prepare them. Remember to take Mass attendance cards with you to have them signed at the end of Mass.

Sunday Mass times at the Oratory Church:

7.30am Mass (Latin)

8.30am Mass (English)

10.30am High Mass (Latin)

12.15pm Mass (English)

4.30pm Sung Vespers & Benediction (Latin)

5.30pm Mass (English)

Safety

Parking

Please make sure that if you are dropping off or collecting your children from school that you do not park or stop on the yellow zig-zag lines outside either of the school entrances. They are there to make sure that the pavements are clear for people wishing to cross the road. Parking or stopping in these zones puts the children in danger. Please help us to keep all the children safe.

Play Equipment

Please don't let your children play on the trim trail or go onto the grass in the mornings or after school please. This is to keep everyone safe before and after school.

Scooters and Bikes

Please make sure that all children walk their bikes or scooters in the school grounds. They can ride and scoot as soon as they have left the school gates.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe on our site.

Absence reporting procedures

If your child is going to be absent please call school **on each day of your child's absence by 9am.**

Please call 0121 454 0600 and leave a message on the absence line. Include your child's full name, class and reason for absence. Please tell us where possible the nature of the illness as 'sick' or 'unwell' does not outline the reason for the absence. This will ensure that we have an accurate attendance record for your child.

If no reason is given it will be an unauthorised absence.

Please ensure that your children are on time for school. School doors open at 8.40am (8:30 Y6) when the children come into school for a prompt start to their learning which begins at 8.50am. At 8.50am we expect all children to be seated in class ready to commence their learning as this is when lessons will start promptly. Some children are consistently arriving after the school gates are shut and this is impacting on their well-being and leading to lost learning time.

A big thank you to the majority of parents and carers who make sure their children attend school regularly!

Attendance Monitoring

If your child's attendance has fallen below 95%, or they have a number of unauthorised absences we will be in contact with you, and depending on the reason for their absence we may ask you to come to school for a meeting.

If you have received an attendance letter and would like to come into school to meet with Mrs Wilson to discuss it, please make an appointment at the school office.

PLEASE NOTE: Family holidays in term time are not allowed in law and are unlikely to be authorised. Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Notifying the school of leave due to a family emergency does not mean it will be authorised. Any notifications must be made in writing and addressed to the Headteacher (communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk can be used).

Physical Education

Nursery - Friday

Reception – Thursday

Year 1 – Wednesday & Thursday

Year 2 - Wednesday & Thursday

Year 3 - Monday & Wednesday

Year 4 - Tuesday (*Thursday = Swimming)

Year 5 - Monday & Tuesday

Year 6 – Monday & Tuesday

On PE days, children should come to school wearing:

- Plain white t-shirt (no football tops or t-shirts with logos)
- Black shorts
- Black pumps
- Tracksuit - black or dark blue for colder weather (no logos)
- Trainers (to be worn for outdoor PE only)

Children in Y5/6 may also bring a small towel and roll-on deodorant on their PE day.

Please ensure children come to school in the correct PE kit. It is important that they are wearing suitable clothing and footwear for physical activity and that the kit is in line with school expectations. Speak with your child's class teacher if there are any problems with this. Reminders will be sent out to parents of children who do not have the correct kit.

Current Clubs:

- Breakfast club (every morning) £2.50, 8am – 8:40am

Monday –

- Football (Y4/5/6)
- Dance (Rec/Y1) **4:15pm finish**

Tuesday –

- Multi sports (Y1/2/3)
- Y6 Maths club (by invitation)

Wednesday

- Multi Sports (Y4/5/6)

Thursday –

- Football (Y1/2/3)
- Choir club (Y3/4/5/6)

After school clubs finish at 4:30pm

Send your children to school with their own water bottle, a coat and their reading book and reading record every day.

Encourage healthy eating through the snacks / lunches you send to school.

On Friday, school finishes at 1:20pm. For those who stay on a Friday, they need collecting at 3:15pm.

Please be prompt in collecting your children

Operation Encompass

The Oratory is an Operation Encompass School, working closely with West Midlands Police to identify and support victims of Domestic Abuse. We remain vigilant and urge anyone suffering domestic abuse to contact the school or Police for help.

Have a wonderful Easter break!

God Bless,

Mrs Wilson & Team

Key Dates

Friday 31st March

END OF TERM – School closes for Easter

Monday 17th April

School reopens for pupils

Year 1 parents' evening will take place after the Easter holiday – date TBC

Monday 1st May

Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May

Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation

Tuesday 9th May

Y6 SATs week begins

Wednesday 17th May

King and Queens Day!

Dress up as a King or Queen or in royal attire to celebrate King Charles III's Coronation! We will celebrate in school by having a special themed lunch at lunchtime

Thursday 18th May

Special lunch menu: all day breakfast

HALF TERM 29th May – 2nd June

Monday 5th June

INSET DAY

Tuesday 6th June

School reopens for pupils

Sunday 11th June

First Holy Communion (Y4)

Sunday 18th June

Blessed Sacrament procession (Y4)

Wednesday 12th July

Confirmation at 7pm (Y6)

**One more INSET day TBC*

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