



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

“Shine as to be a light to others”

Headteacher: Mrs C. Wilson



Friday 10th February

Dear Parents and Carers,

We began the week with our KS2 visit to Symphony Hall for the CBSO Children’s concert. The children were initially ‘wowed’ by the size of the hall and were excited to see the orchestra in their colourful polo shirts. The concert was amazing with a number of pieces played, both old and new. The Compare explained the meaning of each piece and a little about the composers. The staff spent most of the concert watching the children’s joy and wonder literally sitting on the edge of their seats. Some of them were even joining in conducting, playing the air drums or violins. A wonderful opportunity to experience some of the rich cultural heritage right on our doorstep. Symphony Hall and The Town Hall often have free concerts at lunchtimes, a wonderful family outing in the holidays.

Safety Week

This week we have explored different areas of safety. On Monday we learnt more about road safety and making sure that we can be seen at night and that when we cross the road we stand in a clear visible place so drivers can see us. KS2 put this learning into action on their walk to Symphony Hall making sure that they were focused and concentrating as they were crossing the road. Tuesday was Safer Internet Day and all classes considered this year’s theme of having conversations about life online. Year 5 were keen to take their activity home to talk about with their families. Well done Year 5! On Wednesday we considered water safety and how it’s vital to know what to do to stay safe around bodies of water in winter. The school was full of singing on Thursday as we reminded ourselves of the ‘PANTS’ rule. Pantosaurus was heard echoing down the corridors and the children have designed some really snazzy pants! Hopefully you should have received your parent’s guide to the PANTS rule on Thursday afternoon. We have spare copies in school if you copy hasn’t made it home. On Friday we have thought about our personal safety and who are trusted strangers for example police officers, lollypop people, people who work in shops, and what we should do if we get lost.

PARKING - DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP: In light of all the safety activities the children have participated in this week, can I politely remind parents/carers to ensure that you park in a safe space to drop off and pick up your children. This week, I have seen a number of cars park or pull up quite dangerously outside school. There should be no parking or waiting at all on the zig-zag lines outside either entrance of the school. Please do not put your children at risk. Thank you.

Collective Worship

Liturgical Year and Cycle: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Cycle A

Key Scripture: Matthew 5: 13-16

In our Gospel assembly this week we heard our final message from Matthew, explaining Jesus’ call to shine our light. Through an analogy of the moon reflecting the light of the sun and the real-life story of Eric Liddell, children considered how they can use their gifts to do good and reflect God’s light in the world.

“Your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Years 3, 4 and 6 enjoyed a lovely warm spring walk to the Oratory Church on Tuesday for Benediction. Father Anton led the blessing service and the children joined in well with the hymns and responses. Our visits to the Oratory Church are such an important part of our life as a Catholic school. A wonderful time to be still, reflect and thank God for all that we have.

Celebration Assembly

Father Anton joined us for our celebration assembly today and brought The Monstrance to show the children. He also explained the differences that they would see in Church on Friday when we visit for the 40 hours devotion, which is

a special exposition of the Blessed Sacrament over a period of three days, during which prayers continue uninterrupted for an approximate total of 40 hours. We then celebrated all those who have shown they are eloquent and truthful and ready, respectful and safe this week.

KS1 CBSO Concert

We are really looking forward to our visit to The CBSO Centre on Monday for the CBSO KS1 children's concert. **Please make sure you have returned consent for your child to attend the concert as we really don't want anyone to miss out.** Year 1 will be attending the concert in the morning and Year 2 in the afternoon.

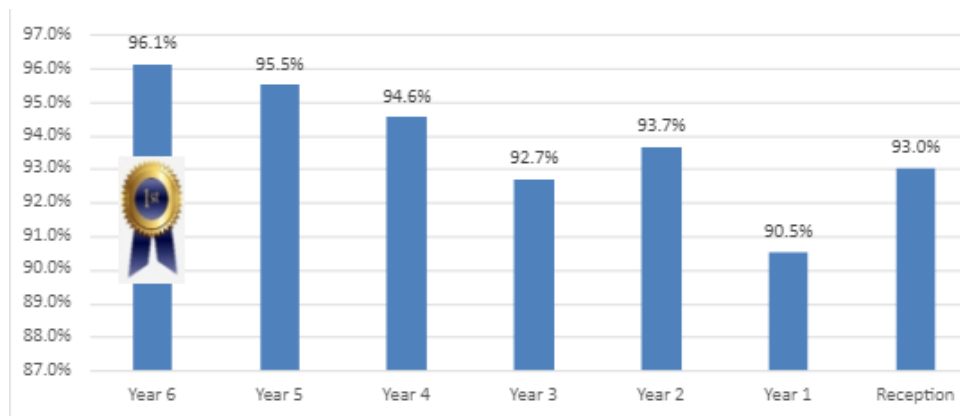
Support fund

We have been granted access to a small support fund for a limited amount of time to help our families in need. Please do come and speak to us in confidence as we may be able to support you in buying essential items. There are specific conditions under which we can use this fund, but please do ask us so we can help if we are able to.

Please email: communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk in confidence.

Attendance

Well done to our **Year 6** class this week who have won the attendance cup (for the 4th time in a row!) with **96.1%** 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.

School Developments

This week, our support partners from the CLCMAT have been in to have a look at some of the Science, PSHE and History the children have been learning about this half-term. In addition to this, teaching staff had some more training on the PSHE curriculum with links to Catholic Life and Catholic Social Teaching, led by Mrs Kelly-Hulbert.

World Book day

On 2nd March, we will be celebrating World Book Day. On this day, children can come to school dressed as a book character. It is not necessary to buy shop-bought costumes, unless you want to – try to encourage the children to be as inventive as they can using what they already have at home!

Letters

Letters have gone out today for Y3 swimming, which begins after half-term. Please sign and return consent forms to the class teacher or school office. Thank you.

Vacancies

We continue in our search for permanent members of staff who are as committed to the education and development of your children as we are. We will keep you updated on any significant developments.

Have a lovely weekend.
God Bless, Mrs Wilson.

Awards – 10th February

Catholic Pupil Profile Virtues: **Eloquent and Truthful**

Pupils at the Oratory are growing to be *eloquent and truthful* in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world. Schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham help their pupils grow by developing an *eloquent* language which pupils can use to understand and articulate their emotions, beliefs, and questions, encouraged by the example of their teachers to be *truthful* in the way they represent themselves and speak about the world.



Living our Catholic Virtues of **Eloquent and Truthful** this week are:

Nursery	Anahi	Diyako
Reception	Leo	Tioluwalade
Year 1	Abigail	William
Year 2	Michaele	Fatima
Year 3	Evie	Amanadab
Year 4	Tomas	Fatima
Year 5	Ava	Dexter
Year 6	Shamma	Zavian

Following our school rules: **Ready-Respectful-Safe** this week are:

Nursery	Eliyada	Aron
Reception	Natan	Mia
Year 1	Brayden	Eden
Year 2	Nathan	Larissa
Year 3	Liam	Ellie-Maye
Year 4	Finnlee	Eyob
Year 5	Mayet	Caedan
Year 6	Melanie	Eli

Well done to all of these children!

Reminders

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!

ARBOR – please check your child's attendance

On the first screen you will see their current attendance percentage. If you click on this graph you will be able to see the overall number of sessions, lates, authorised and unauthorised absences. If you click on the by date option on the left-hand side of the menu screen under attendance you will be able to see the exact dates for any absences or late marks. Please let the office know if you cannot access this and need a paper copy.

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.

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).

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)

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.

PLEASE park safely, considerately and responsibly when dropping off and picking up your children. Do not pull up or wait in the middle of the road or on the zigzag lines.

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

Please be prompt in collecting your children

PE days:

Nursery - Friday
Reception – Thursday
Year 1 – Wednesday & Thursday
Year 2 - Wednesday & Thursday
Year 3 - Monday & Tuesday
Year 4 - Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 5 - Monday & Thursday (*Thursday = swimming)
Year 6 – Monday & Tuesday

Next half-term will be Y3's turn to swim.

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 – Multisports (Y4/5/6)
- Tuesday –
 - Multisports (Y1/2/3)
 - Y6 Maths club (by invitation)
- Wednesday – Football (Y3/4/5/6)
- Thursday –
 - Netball (Y4/5/6)
 - Choir club (Y3/4/5/6)

After school clubs finish at 4:30pm

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.

Key Dates

Monday 13th February KS1 visit to CBSO Centre
Friday 17th February Whole school visit to the Oratory Church

HALF TERM 20th – 24th February

Monday 27th February **School reopens for pupils**

Thursday 2nd March World book day
Tuesday 14th March Parents' evening: Rec, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y6
Wednesday 15th March Parents' evening: Rec, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y6

Tuesday 28th March Parents' evening: Y1, Y5 (TO BE CONFIRMED)
Wednesday 29th March Parents' evening: Y1, Y5 (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Friday 31st March **END OF TERM – School closes for Easter**

Monday 17th April **School reopens for pupils**

Monday 1st May Bank Holiday
Monday 8th May Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation
Tuesday 9th May Y6 SATs week begins

HALF TERM 29th May – 2nd June

Monday 5th 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)

**Two more INSET days TBC*

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