



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

“Shine as to be a light to others”

Headteacher: Mrs C. Wilson



Friday 3rd February

Dear Parents and Carers,

We really enjoyed welcoming Sandra from HSBC bank into school this week to deliver financial skills for learning workshops with the children. The Nursery and Reception children looked at the different coins and explored the value of money and talked about why we save money. Year 1 and two explored choices we have to make about money. Year 1 looked at the cost of buying different toys and Year 2 planned a birthday party with a budget. Year 3 also explored budgeting for a healthy diet and having to make choices about wants and needs. Year 4 took a tour around Europe exploring their international understanding of money and learnt about exchange rates. Year 5 and 6 explored their understanding of value and how financial decisions can be influenced by advertising. Year 5 were ‘Savvy Shoppers’ learning about the buying cycle and offers on the Highstreet and online. Year 6 took a sporting chance and explored how easy it is to get carried away spending money if you don’t consider the added extras when planning a day out. A huge thank you to Sandra and HSBC for providing these important lessons for our children. We look forward to welcoming her back later in the year to explore financial skills for life.

Mrs Pickup and I met with school council this week to try to choose the top contenders for our house names. It was an interesting discussion and the children had to use their learning about being a representative of the class and thinking of other people’s views rather than just picking their own favourite. We decided on some themes that we liked and we’re going to meet again next week to finalise the options.

Collective Worship

Liturgical Year and Cycle: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Cycle A

Key Scripture: Matthew 5: 1-12a

In our Gospel assembly this week, we read about rules for a happy life (the Beatitudes). The children learnt that Jesus wants us to trust that His way will lead us to a blessed life of everlasting joy and fulfilment.

On Thursday, Reception to Year 6 attended Mass at the Oratory Church to celebrate the feast of Candlemas. Two children from Year 4 dressed up as Mary and Joseph and led a procession of two children from each class with a candle to be blessed by Father Anton. Well done and thank you to our children from Year 4 who were readers. Candlemas happens every year on February 2nd and commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World. The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed.

Celebration Assembly

This week in our celebration assembly we thought about Wisdom in relation to money and considered Jesus’ warning to his listeners about the dangers of accumulating more money and possessions than they are ever likely to need and how greed makes us neglect God and makes us blind to other people’s needs. We then celebrated all those who have shown they are eloquent and truthful and ready, respectful and safe this week.

KS2 CBSO Concert

We are really looking forward to our visit to Symphony Hall on Monday for the CBSO 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.** As we will be back late into lunch time we have moved the week’s menus around for KS2 and will be offering a limited option of pizza on Monday for KS2. Any allergies associated with this menu choice have been taken account of and a suitable alternative will be provided.

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.

Safety week

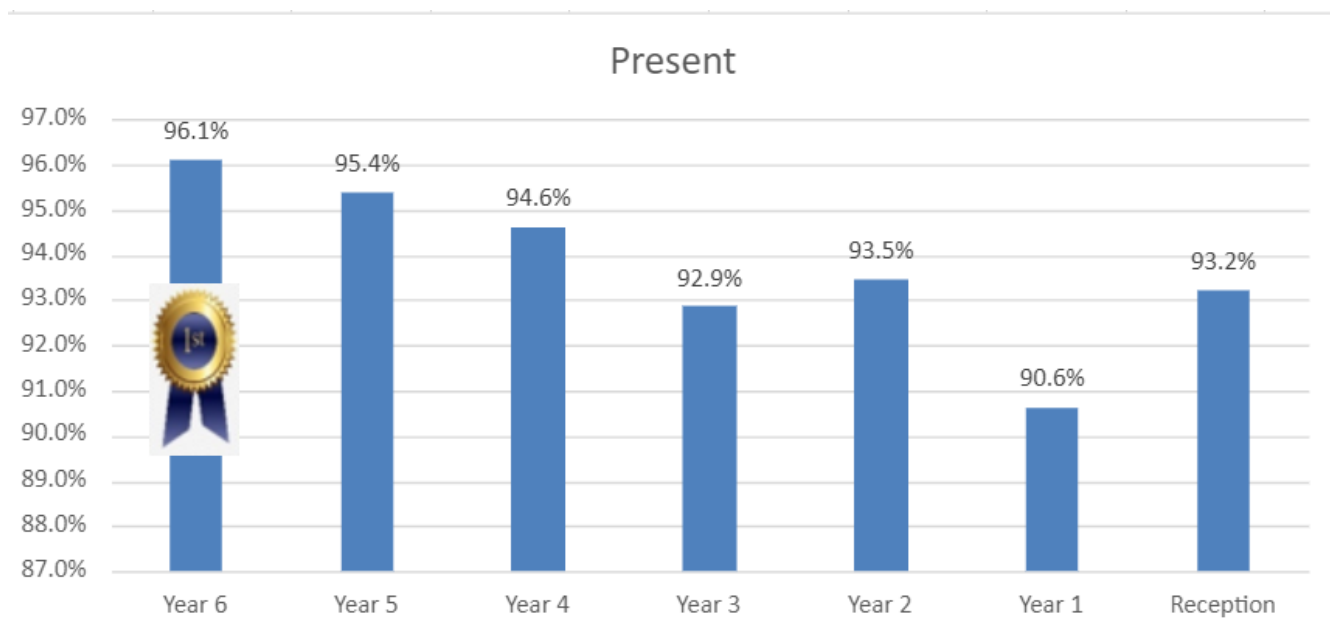
Next Tuesday is Safer Internet Day. We have decided to turn the week into 'Safety week' so that we can also focus on road safety, water safety and personal safety. We look forward to sharing pictures of the different activities undertaken by each class with you on our Twitter page!

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.

Attendance

Well done to our **Year 6** class this week who have won the attendance cup (for the third 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, David Harris from the Birmingham Diocese Education Service visited to support us with our delivery of RE and to look at our RE action plan for this year.

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.

Have a lovely weekend.

God Bless,

Mrs Wilson.

Awards – 3rd 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	Myles	Mia
Reception	Marianne	Moksh
Year 1	Marta	Ezra
Year 2	Henrik	Sandara
Year 3	Giovanni	Madison
Year 4	Dan	Rubeigh
Year 5	Hannah	Rafaella
Year 6	Daniella	Kamil

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

Nursery	Lanaiya	Caleb
Reception	Isaac	Shantaya-Royal
Year 1	Levi	Doxa
Year 2	David	Cattleya
Year 3	Melvin	Erin
Year 4	Eden	Leo
Year 5	Lawien	Ahmad
Year 6	Damien	Janet

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

