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

Newsletter 4: Friday 10th October 2025

Dear Parents

I hope that all of our families have had a good week.

This Sunday, we have a special Mass of Enrolment at 10.30am for our Year Three and Year Six pupils who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Please remember our Year Three and Year Six children in your prayers.

Monday 3rd November – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on this date – which is the first day after the half term break.

Parent Consultation Appointments:

This term's parent consultation meetings are taking place **in the school hall** on **Monday 13th** and **Wednesday 15th October** between **3.30pm** and **5.45pm**. Our classrooms will be open for you to view your child's work. Please remember that these meetings are for **parents and teachers only**; there is no provision for children to be supervised at school. **We therefore ask you NOT to bring children back into school on these evenings.**

Harvest Donations:

A huge **thank you** to all our children, families, and staff for your incredible generosity during our **Harvest celebrations**. The response to our food collection has been truly heartwarming. We will be donating these items to **The Great Barr Foodbank**, who help families in need within our community.

Your donations are a beautiful example of living out our *Live Simply* mission — sharing what we have with others and showing gratitude for the many blessings in our lives.

A big thank you to Fr Royston and Fr Peter from the Redemptorists who led our whole school Harvest Mass on Wednesday, whilst also leading our parish mission this week.



Sacramental Dates for 2025-26:

The following dates have been arranged with Father Jibu. **Please note that there is a special mass of enrolment for our Y3 and Y6 pupils and their families in church at 10.30am on Sunday 12th October.** All children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Y3) and Confirmation (Y6) **are required to attend** with their parents.

Date:	Information:
Sunday 12 th October 2025	Mass of Enrolment for Y3 and Y6 pupils preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Tuesday 4 th November 2025	Y3 Parents' Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at 5.30pm

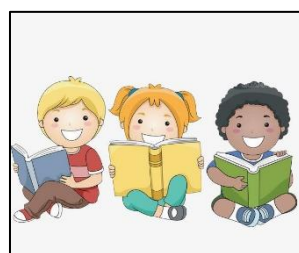
Date:	Information:
Tuesday 9 th December	Y6 Parents' Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at 5.30pm
Friday 12 th December 2025	Y3 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at 2.15pm
Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm
Saturday 16 th May 2026	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30pm

School Photographer – Tuesday 14th October:

We will have a professional photographer in school on this date. If your child has any siblings who do not attend Holy Name, then you are welcome to bring them to school at **8.30am** to be photographed together. Individual photographs and photos of groups of siblings who attend Holy Name will take place in school during the day.

Y1 Reading Workshop for Parents - Tuesday 21st October at 9.00am in School:

Thank you to all of our Y1 parents who have confirmed that they will be attending this meeting to share information regarding this statutory assessment. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.



MONSTER BALL THURSDAY 24th OCTOBER:

5.30 – 6.30pm: Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3

6.45 – 7.45pm: Y4, Y5, Y6

Admission is £2.50. A **parent must remain in school** while your child is in attendance. Sweets will also be on sale. Please see the flyer which has been circulated with this newsletter.



Celebrating Our New Journey with St Gabriel the Archangel Multi-Academy Trust

On Monday 29th September, we were honoured to be invited to **St Austin's Church in Stafford** to celebrate joining the newly formed **St Gabriel the Archangel Multi-Academy Trust**.

During the celebration, we were delighted to receive a beautiful **lantern**, symbolising the light of our shared community. As we embark on this new chapter, we look forward to being **messengers of God — pilgrims of hope** with *kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge, and a hunger for justice*.

Foundation Welcome Prayer Service:

Last Wednesday our Foundation (Reception) pupils and their families were joined by Year Six to officially welcome them to our school community. We are extremely proud of how well our new pupils have settled into school. A special thank you to the two seminarians from Oscott College, Jithin Tito and Ron Casillo, for leading our service and making our celebration so special.

COMPETITION REMINDERS FROM OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL:

🌍 God's Eco Warriors – Competition Time! 🌿

Don't forget to enter our **God's Eco Warriors competition!**

We're looking for passionate pupils who want to help care for God's creation and make a real difference in our school and community.

🧐 To enter, **create a poster** showing **why you would make a great Eco Warrior** and how you could help protect our planet.

Please **send in your posters by Monday 13th October** — we can't wait to see your creative ideas and thoughtful messages!

Let's work together to look after God's wonderful world.

🌍 World Day of the Poor – Sunday 16th November

As we continue our *Live Simply* journey, we are preparing to mark **World Day of the Poor** on **Sunday 16th November**.

This special day invites us all to pause, reflect, and reach out in love and solidarity to those who are struggling in our communities.

Following our wonderful Harvest celebrations, we will continue to **collect donations of tinned and pre-packed food** throughout November for **The Great Barr Foodbank**, who work tirelessly to support local families in need.

Each Friday, the **Catholic School Council** will be at the school entrance to receive your contributions. We are aiming for **15 items per class each week** — and classes that meet this target will enjoy **extra playtime** as a small thank-you for their big hearts!

Thank you for your continued generosity and support. 💛

Winners of KS2 Poetry Writing Competition:



After an impressive number of entries and some very difficult decision making, Emily (Y6) Princess (Y4) and Reggie (Y3) were awarded winners of this half term's KS2 poetry writing competition. Well done to you all! Watch this space for the next writing competition next half term, specially designed for KS1.

Year One Science Taste Testing:

This term Year One have been exploring their five senses. They have already tested their sense of touch, smell and hearing with fun games! This week it was the turn of taste and the children loved getting to taste test different food to try and distinguish between sweet, sour, salty and bitter! The children then voted on their favourite and bitter dark chocolate took the top spot!



Making Music in Foundation Stage:

This year Foundation stage are taking part in a music project. We have been busy learning to play claves to the beat and singing at a high and low pitch. Our music sessions are lots of fun! We have also been very lucky to explore lots of different instruments showcased by Mr Sullivan and Mr Statchula.



Admission Applications for Reception and Year Seven Places for 2026:

The admissions application process for Reception and Year Seven Places for 2026 is now open.

The deadlines for applications to your Local Authority are:

Y7 - Secondary School for September 2026: **31st October 2025**

Reception intake for September 2026: **15th January 2026**

Primary School Reception Class:

For those parents wishing to apply for a place at Holy Name, as soon as you have made your application to your Local Authority, if your child is a baptised Catholic then please request a supplementary information form from the school office and complete and return this to school along with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate.

When applying for a Catholic Secondary school place, evidence of Baptism is also usually required to rank your child correctly so it would be advisable to check this to ensure that you have provided all of the necessary information for your child.

Sandwell residents can apply online at:

www.sandwell.gov.uk/admissions

If you require help or further information, then please phone the Sandwell Admissions Parent Support Line: **0121 569 6765**.

School Places Available:

We have school places available in our new Reception class and a number of other classes in school.

Please contact the school office or apply for a place via Sandwell LA:

[Apply for a school place | Sandwell Council](#)

Class Information:

The school website has been updated with your child's class information document. This document explains the P.E. and homework arrangements for your child's class. It also provides links to our curriculum overviews which outline what your child will be learning this year.

Please visit our website: [Curriculum and Gallery](#) and click on the year group links on the left side of the page.

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 next prize draw will be at the end of October!**

The more books that you read the more chances that you have to win!

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.

The help we can give covers all aspects of daily life. We have been providing families within the parish with foodbags every fortnight for the past three years and we can provide access to the local foodbank if that is required. We are able to help parents, and guardians, **with the purchase of school uniforms** and associated items such as **shoes and P.E. Kit**. When the weather turns cold, we can also help to provide winter coats. Families have also been helped with bedding, electrical white goods such as washing machines and energy bills.

Firstly, everything we do is confidential and is not shared with others. Secondly, we do not give anyone money, all purchases are made by ourselves on behalf of our beneficiaries. Thirdly, we cannot help everybody so it is necessary for us to be able to talk to those requiring help face to face so we can build a relationship with them for when further help may be needed.

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

holynam.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Nut-Free School:

Some of our pupils have nut allergies. For this reason, we would like to make Holy Name a safe, nut-free school. Please be careful to keep this in mind when preparing lunchboxes. Nuts can be found in many items, such as chocolate spreads (e.g. Nutella) and cereal bars. We have noticed some of these items in school recently. Thank you for your cooperation.



School Masses this Half Term:

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 15 th October	NO MASS
Wednesday 22 nd October	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 13 th October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 5.45pm in school hall
Tuesday 14 th October	School photographer in school Y3/4 Tri-golf 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wednesday 15 th October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 5.45pm in school hall
Thursday 16 th October	Y5/6 Netball Club 3.15 – 4.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 17 th October	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Tuesday 21 st October	Y1 Reading Workshop for Parents in the school hall at 9.00am Y3/4 Tri-golf 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 23 rd October	Y5/6 Netball Club 3.15 – 4.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm PTA MONSTER BALL 5.30 – 6.30pm: Reception, Y1, Y2 6.45 – 7.45pm: Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6
Friday 24 th October	NO ASSEMBLY Last day in school for pupils for this half term
Half Term Break:	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October
Monday 3 rd November	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – STAFF TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 4 th November	All pupils back in school after half term break

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:

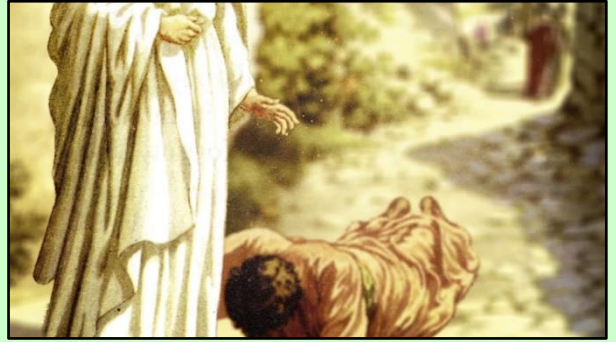
Saturday 12.30pm

**Sunday 8.30am
and 10.30am**

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

In this Sunday's gospel we hear how Jesus gave the amazing gift of good health to ten men who all had an illness called leprosy. But what happened afterwards? Did all the men say thank you for the gift they had been given?



While all ten men were happy to receive the gift, only one of them gave thanks to Jesus and praised God.

Many people with this illness lose all of their fingers and toes because of the disease. It is very painful. People with leprosy couldn't get too close to others for fear of spreading the illness. They couldn't even hug their families or friends anymore.

Imagine if you weren't able to hug or be near to the people you love, how would you feel?

How do you think the men felt when they realised that they were well again? What do you think the nine men who didn't return to Jesus did instead?

Perhaps they ran home to their families and friends. After all, they'd been living away from them for ages. Can you imagine how excited they were and how happy their families must have been to see them and hug them again? Though the nine other men were really happy to be healed, they didn't return to Jesus to give thanks for what he had done.

Only one man went back to show how grateful he was for what had been done for him - for the gift of health and a new life with his family.

Our Catholic Mission:

Like the man who returned to Jesus, we should try to praise and thank God at all times for the amazing things that we have been given.

How will you show God your thanks this week? Will you use words, pictures, actions?

Prayer:

Loving Lord,
help us to remember all the good things we have which come from you.
Fill our hearts with thanks and praise. Amen.