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

Newsletter 7: Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are all well. Y6 have had a wonderful time this week on their residential / retreat at Alton Castle. The theme was 'Follow' and the children reflected on their vocation by using their gifts and talents through a range of adventurous activities including biking, trekking, low ropes and survival! Their behaviour was outstanding – we should all be so proud of them! Thank you to Mrs Kavanagh and Miss Doody for looking after our Y6 pupils (and me!) so well during our stay.

Friday 27th October – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on Friday 27th October for staff training.

Sacramental Dates for 2023-24:

The following dates have been arranged with Father Kuriakose.

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 3rd December**. All parents whose children will be receiving the sacraments of reconciliation and eucharist (Y3) and Confirmation (Y6) **are required to attend**.

Date:	Information:
Sunday 3 rd December 2023	Mass of Enrolment for Y3 and Y6 pupils preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Wednesday 17 th January 2024	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm

Rosary Challenge:

October is the month of the Rosary. This October we would like to invite your child to take part in a challenge. To take part in this challenge your child should pray a decade of the Rosary each weekday in October. Begin each decade of the Rosary by carefully listening to a scripture passage (please follow the links below). Then, pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary (ten times) and finish with the Glory Be. As you pray please try to remember the words from scripture and pay attention to how God speaks and moves in your heart.

- [The Joyful Mysteries](#)
- [The Luminous Mysteries](#)
- [The Sorrowful Mysteries](#)
- [The Glorious Mysteries](#)



To complete the challenge your child will need to complete a Rosary challenge log sheet which they can collect from Miss Edmunds. Please encourage your child to hand in any completed challenge logs to Miss Edmunds by **Friday 10th November** to receive a certificate.

Y5 Bikeability:

Congratulations to all the Y5 pupils who participated in Bikeability this week. They had a great time learning how to cycle safely on the road and managed to achieve their Level 2 award. They received their certificates and badges in assembly this morning.

Parent Consultation Appointments:

These are taking place **in the school hall** next week on **Monday 23rd** and **Wednesday 25th 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.**

PTA Monster Disco – Thursday 26th October:

The Monster Ball will be taking place on **Thursday 26th October** in the school hall. For those parents who are new to school, the monster ball is a fun disco for the children where they normally dress up in Halloween costumes and make up. It is a very enjoyable evening for parents and children.

5.30 – 6.30pm: Reception, Y1, Y2

7.00 – 8.00pm: Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6

Admission is £2 per child (including a snack and a drink). Sweets will also be on sale. Tea / Coffee and snacks are available for parents.

A **parent must remain in school** while your child is in attendance.

Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Library Events:

A message from Tracy at Great Barr Library:

'I just wanted to get in touch and let you know what we have going on at Hamstead & Great Barr Libraries. I have attached a copy our "What's On" for October which includes: Play Talk Read Storytime, Craft Clubs, Lego Club Author Talks, class visits and much more. I also have added links below with details of lots of exciting events coming up for both adults and children to enjoy as part of our Literature Festival and Black History Month.'

Black History Month <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/650ee576fc.html>

Literature Festival <https://prism.librarymanagementcloud.co.uk/sandwell/assets/-/brochure.html>

To book your tickets <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sandwell-libraries-and-archiv...>

Please do have a look and take advantage of the wonderful events in on offer!

[Hamstead Library Events](#)

[Great Barr Library Events](#)

Number Fact of the Week:

It is really important for our pupils to learn their multiplication facts as quickly as possible. By the end of Y4, it is expected that all pupils will be able to instantly recall all of these up to 12 x 12.

Every week, Mr Shanahan, our maths leader, will be setting a challenge to learn a specific number fact.

Be prepared: when he sees you around school he will be testing you!

This week's number fact is:

$$6 \times 7 = 42$$

or

$$7 \times 6 = 42$$



Reception - Y6 Reading Challenges:

Just like last year, our reading challenges are up and running! It is 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: [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!

All of these books will support your child's love of reading and further enhance their vocabulary and encourage a love of reading.

**The first raffle will take place on Friday 10th November (for October).
All children should aim to have entered at least once by then. Good luck!**

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 25 th October	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 23 rd October	Y2 Archery Club 3.15 – 4.15pm (CANCELLED due to parents evening) Parents' Evening 3.35 – 6.00pm in school hall
Tuesday 24 th October	Y3 & Y4 Archery club 3.15 – 4.15pm Y1 Stories & Sounds Club 3.15 – 4.00pm
Wednesday 25 th October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 6.00pm in school hall
Thursday 26 th October	Y4 Swimming (AM) KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm PTA Monster Disco 5.30 – 6.30pm: Reception, Y1, Y2 7.00 – 8.00pm: Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6
Friday 27 th October	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – Staff Training Day
Half Term Break:	Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November

Happy birthday to:

Fallon-Jolene R (Y6), Hasnain A, Bridget I-S, Connor R (Y5), Joshua G, Aaryan J (Y3) and Stella K (Reception) who all have a special day to celebrate next week.

Yours sincerely

A. Neenan

Mr A.G. Neenan

Headteacher

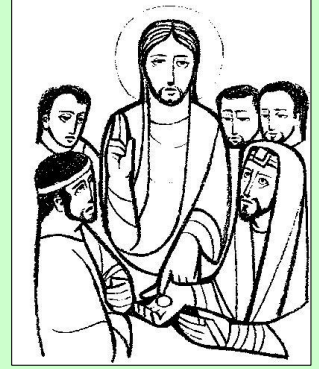
One of the precepts of being a Catholic is to attend Sunday Mass (or the vigil Mass for Sunday) every week and on all Holy Days of Obligation. This weekly commitment gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord which is why Sundays are known as the Lord's day.

Mass at Holy Name Church:

Saturday 12.30pm

Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)



Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

In this Sunday's Gospel we learn that the Pharisees didn't like Jesus and so they tried to find a way to trick him. What did they ask him?

At the time the Romans ruled the area where Jesus lived. The people did not like the Romans and they did not want to have to pay money to them. But the Pharisees knew that if Jesus said this out loud, he would get into trouble.

So the Pharisees asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor.

What answer did Jesus give the Pharisees?

Jesus told the Pharisees to "pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and God what belongs to God." What do you think he meant?

Jesus is reminding us that we have two main responsibilities. One is to love God and to try to live our lives the way God wants us to.

The other responsibility is to care for each other and to make sure that everyone gets their fair share of the good things that God has given us.

God has given us a world filled with good things. While some of us have all that we could wish for, others of us do not have even the very basics – a house to live in, enough food to eat, clean water to drink.

Do you think this is fair? Why not?

It is up to us to help each other and to make sure that all people around the world have their fair share of the things that God has given us. It is up to us to make sure that all people have somewhere safe to live and enough to eat and drink.

Our Catholic Mission:

What will you do this week to show that you love God and are trying to live your life the way God wants?

What will you do this week to show that you care for others, both here and around the world?

How can we share what we have so that everyone has their fair share of what God has given us?

Prayer:

Patience and loving God,
be with us as we try to care for one another,
help one another,
share with one another and work together
to make the world a fairer place for everyone to live.
Amen.

