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

Newsletter 16: Friday 11th April 2025

Dear Parents

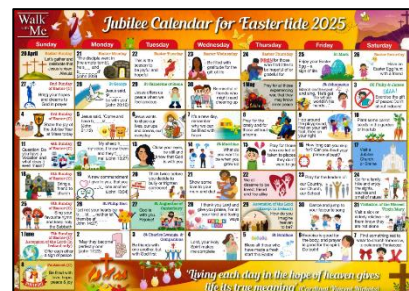
Thank you so much for all of your support during this term. I would like to wish you all a very happy and holy Easter.

Thank you to Father Jibu for celebrating mass in school on Wednesday morning and for also hearing confessions this week. Our pupils have truly prepared spiritually for Holy Week.

Thank you also to our staff, children and parents for preparing and participating in our special Holy Week assemblies and services this week.

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the Y1 Lenten prayer service last week. Thank you to Miss Rackham and Mrs Berry for preparing the children so well. The children sang a beautiful 'sorry' hymn with accompanying Makaton signs!

Please remember to continue to follow your Lenten 'Walk with Me' calendar to provide a daily focus for your family during this very special season of the church's year and also please remember to switch to the Eastertide calendar that has been sent home this week from Easter Sunday onwards.



Monday 28th April and Monday 2nd June – Staff Training Days:

School will be closed to all pupils on these dates.

Holy Name Parish – Times of Holy Week Services:

Everybody is welcome, please do come and join our Parish Community as we celebrate Holy Week.

Palm Sunday 13th April

12.30pm (Saturday)	Mass & Blessing of Palms
8.30am	Mass & Blessing of Palms
10.30am	Mass: Blessing of Palms in the car park followed by procession into Church.
2.00pm	Stations of the Cross
3.00pm	Mass & Blessing of Palms for Syro-Malankara Community

Monday 14th April

11.00am	Divine Mercy
11.30am	Holy Mass

Tuesday 15th April

9.15am	Holy Mass
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Wednesday 16th April

6.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper for Syro-Malankara Community
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Maundy Thursday 17th April

7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
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Good Friday 18th April	
7.00am – 1.00pm	Good Friday Solemn Liturgy for Syro-Malankara Community
2.00pm	Stations of the Cross
3.00pm	Good Friday Solemn Liturgy
Holy Saturday 19th April	
2.00 – 6.00pm	Easter Service and Mass for Syro-Malankara Community
8.00pm	Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday 20th April	
8.30am	Holy Mass
10.30am	Holy Mass

KS2 Easter 'Decorate the Egg' Competition – Thursday 1st May:

On **Thursday 1st May** we will be hosting our annual 'decorate the egg' competition for our junior pupils (Y3,4,5,6).

Entries (decorated boiled eggs) should be brought into school **carefully(!)** on this day for our Catholic Life Council to judge.



Easter Bonnet Parade – Friday 2nd May:

Our annual Easter Bonnet Parade for our Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two pupils will be taking place at the end of the first week of the summer term (during the season of Easter) on **Friday 2nd May at 2.40pm**.

If you would like your child to participate in this fun event, then please bring in an Easter bonnet (which they have made at home) on this day. Nursery pupils are most welcome to come back to school for the assembly in the afternoon. Our Catholic Life Council will judge the winners.



To ensure that a safe number of pupils and family members are in the hall, admission will be by ticket only and this will be restricted to one ticket per pupil. These are free and are now available from the school office.

Y3 Sacramental Dates:

The following dates have been arranged for next term:

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 7 th May	Y3 Family Prayer Service in school hall at 2.30pm (all Y3 parents are invited to join us)
Saturday 17 th May	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30am
Wednesday 21 st May	Y3 Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of the Eucharist in school at 9.15am



Goldfinch Award for Jesuit Values and Virtues:

Congratulations to the following children who have excelled at following the Jesuit Virtues of '**Attentive** and **Discerning**' this half term.

They will be receiving special certificates in assembly on **Friday 2nd May at 9.05am**. All parents are invited to join us for this assembly. **N.B.** Nursery pupils will be given their certificates in class.

Nursery	Reception	Y1	Y2
Nathaniel A Kymani M-R	Nancy D Daya S	Nathaniel M Lydia R	Alfie B Maja R
Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Jayden B Millie S	Arlo L Olivia T	Declan A Amria M	Samuel A Aoife L



PTA UPDATE:

Thanks to everyone who activated PTA donations on their Asda accounts. Asda transferred us **£290** last week. Planning has started for our Summer BBQ on **Saturday 28th June**. We need help from every year group to make this event a success. Just one hour of your time will make all the difference.

Please contact me at joe.mcnamara3@googlemail.com.

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.

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**



School Places Available:

We have a number of school places in our classes in school.

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

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



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



Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 28 th April	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 29 th April	All children back in school for the start of the summer term Y3 & 4 Tennis Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 1 st May	KS2 Decorate the Egg Competition (please bring your entries into school on this day) KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm Y5 & 6 Netball Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 2 nd May	Values & Virtues Assembly in school hall at 9.05am (all parents are invited to join us) Easter Bonnet Parade (infants only) in the school hall at 2.40pm - Nursery pupils are also invited (one adult admission per Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 pupil will be permitted)
Monday 5 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 6 th May	Y4 Educational Visit to Bishops Wood Y3 & 4 Tennis Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wednesday 7 th May	Y5 Educational Visit to Black Country Museum Y3 Family Prayer Service in school hall at 2.30pm (all Y3 parents are invited to join us)
Thursday 8 th May	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm Y5 & 6 Netball Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 9 th May	Attendance Assembly (all parents are invited to join us)
Monday 12 th May	Y6 SATS week
Tuesday 13 th May	Y3 & 4 Tennis Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 15 th May	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm Y5 & 6 Netball Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 16 th May	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Saturday 17 th May	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30pm

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**

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday- Year C)

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

This Sunday is a special day, when we hear two readings from St Luke's Gospel. The second gospel reading is called the Passion and tells the story of how Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified and buried.



In the first gospel reading we hear how Jesus sent the disciples off to borrow a donkey, and to say that, "The Master needs it", if they were asked where they were taking it.

How do you think the disciples felt when everything happened just as Jesus said it would?

Jesus then entered into Jerusalem on this donkey, while the people shouted their praises to God. How do you think Jesus must have felt to hear the people shouting his praises and welcoming him into the city?

Why do you think the disciples were so happy and joyful?

Can you think of a time when someone important or special came to visit you at home or at school? How did you welcome them? Did you sing a song, wave flags, shout and cheer?

What would you do to welcome Jesus if he arrived here today?

Jesus is in all of us, so every time we meet someone and welcome them, we are welcoming Jesus. We are asked by God to treat all people as we would like to be treated.

Our Catholic Mission:

Can you think of a time when you have not treated someone as you would like to be treated? Have you ever stopped people from joining in your game, or sharing in your toys or in your group? Is that very welcoming?

This week how do you think we can make all the people we spend time with at home, at school and elsewhere feel welcome?

Let's try to welcome all people as we would welcome Jesus – with love, kindness and respect.

Prayer:

Christ Jesus,
open our hearts so we may sing your praise.
Help us to welcome you into our lives,
and to see you in all our brothers and sisters
throughout the world.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy