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

Newsletter 9: Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents

I hope that you all had a good Christmas holiday. On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! It was great to see all of the children back in school last week.

Thank you for your understanding when we unfortunately had to close school last Friday due to the adverse weather conditions.

Our Y6 pupils will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at mass on Wednesday evening. Please remember Y6 in your prayers at this special time.

All of our Y2- Y6 pupils are warmly invited to join our celebration of mass on Wednesday evening as part of our school choir to make this special occasion as joyful as possible!

Friday 13th February – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on this date – which is the last day of this half term.

School Choir for Mass with Confirmation:

We are inviting all of our Y2 – Y6 pupils to come along and sing in our school choir at our Mass with the Sacrament of Confirmation in church next **Wednesday 21st January at 7.00pm.**

It would be fantastic if as many pupils as possible are able to sing at this very special school and parish occasion.

Please complete this online form if you are able to bring (and collect) your child:

[Choir for Mass of Confirmation – Fill in form](#)

All parents are also very welcome to join this celebration. Thank you for your support.



Goldfinch Award for Jesuit Values and Virtues:

Congratulations to the following children who have excelled at following the Catholic Schools Pupil Profile values and virtues of '**Learned** and **Wise**' last half term.

They received their special certificates in assembly this morning.



Foundation	Y1	Y2
Purity E Jamie S	Daya S Harry N	Jack B Prince-Emmanuel R-D

Catholic Schools Pupil Profile: this half term we are growing to be '**Curious & Active**'.



Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Consuela D Ben T	Calia K Edward McN	Logan Martyna R	Farhan S Tara S

Virtues and Values for this Half Term - 'Curious and Active':

This half term, the Jesuit virtues which will be reflecting on in school are: '**Curious** and **Active**'. Our reflection and study of the Jesuit virtues helps us to enable our pupils to live and learn for the greater glory of God and the common good.

All things are worthy of our attention, **curiosity** and study because in each one of them there is the possibility of finding God; and not only God but God doing something for me. **Curiosity** is needed to sustain learning. It is what keeps us going through the difficult stuff; it is what opens up new horizons and allows the possibility of 'finding God in all things.'

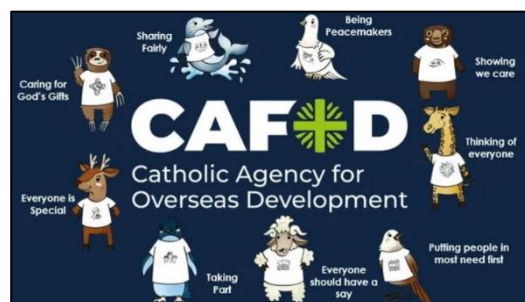


In the Jesuit tradition, learning is something to be **actively** engaged in by probing, seeking, asking, challenging, and questioning until the truth is plain – it is to think for oneself and to become an independent and lifelong learner.

Catholic Social Teaching:

In school we have been using the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) to guide us and help to put our faith into action. Each week we have been focusing on a principle in class to use in our daily lives and help to deepen our faith. Please do ask your child about these at home!

Date	Catholic Social Teaching Principles
W.C. 05.01.26	Luc The Deer - Human Dignity
W.C. 12.01.26	Sid the Sheep- Subsidiarity
W.C. 19.01.26	Sofia the Sloth- Stewardship
W.C. 26.01.26	DJ the Dolphin- Distributive Justice
W.C. 02.02.26	Daisy the Dove- Promoters of Peace
W.C. 09.02.26	Patariki the Penguin- Participation



Sacramental Dates for 2025-26:

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm
Sunday 1 st February 2026	Y6 Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Saturday 16 th May 2026	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30pm

Y6 Role Play:

In readiness for Y6's Confirmation on Wednesday 21st January, our Y6 children have been making links between the signs and symbols of Baptism and the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our Y6 children role played the baptism of their very own baby David!



100% Attenders:

Congratulations to all of the pupils listed below who will be receiving their attendance certificates and badges in assembly next **Friday 23rd January** at **9.05am**. All of these pupils achieved 100% attendance last term – a fantastic achievement!

Y6	Y5	Y4	Y3	Y2	Y1	Reception
Chimamanda A Symora N King David R D Haysus W	Duriel B Yaye D Isla F Aaliyah J Charlie M David O Martyna R Olivia T	Grace F Avni K Princess R.D Arthur R	Christabel A Cara B Henry G Isaac O Evie S.H Savan S Reggie S Poppy T.W.	Conor A Tomini A Jayna B Lily F Heavenly K Maya S	Youssef H Teddy K Javin N	Delilah K

School Places Available:

We have school places available in a number of 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!
The next prize draw will be on Friday 30th January

Infants - Celebration of Mass:

In line with the changes to the national prayer and liturgy directory (Catholic Bishops Conference) we have now made a few changes to our infants' masses. The readings of the day should be 'proclaimed clearly'; therefore, pupils in Key Stage One and EYFS will focus on listening whilst the Holy scripture is read by adults. Our pupils will continue to read the prayers of the faithful (bidding prayers) and help with the offertory procession.

School Masses:

All **parents and parishioners** are warmly invited to all of our school masses in **school** at **9.15am** or in **church** at **10.00am**.

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 21 st January	NO MASS
Wednesday 28 th January	NO MASS
Wednesday 4 th February	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am
Wednesday 11 th February	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Tuesday 20 th January	Y2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wednesday 21 st January	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm
Thursday 22 nd January	Y1 & Rec Multi-skills club 3.15 – 4.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 23 rd January	Attendance Celebration in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Tuesday 27 th January	Y2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 29 th January	Y1 & Rec Multi-skills club 3.15 – 4.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 30 th January	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Friday 13 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – STAFF TRAINING DAY
Half Term Break:	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February

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:

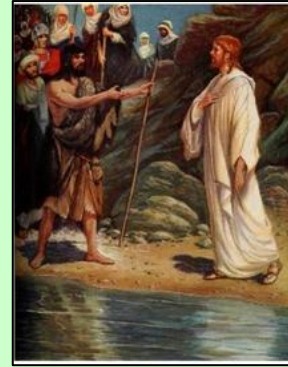
Saturday 12.30pm

**Sunday 8.30am
and 10.30am**

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: John 1:29-34

The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'A man is coming after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.' I did not know who he would be, but I came baptizing with water in order to make him known to the people of Israel."



"Behold!
The Lamb
of God
who takes
away
the sin
of the
world!"

John 1:29

And John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and stay on him. I still did not know that he was the one, but God, who sent me to baptize with water, had said to me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and stay on a man; he is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen it," said John, "and I tell you that he is the Son of God."

In this Sunday's gospel, John tells us how he saw the Holy Spirit come like a dove to rest on Jesus. Because of this John believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

A dove is one way that the Holy Spirit shows itself, but most of the time the Spirit is invisible. We cannot see it.

One way to think about the Holy Spirit is the wind. You cannot see the wind, but you can see the branches of the tree moving when the wind blows. Or you can see a windmill spinning round. Can you think of any other examples of when you can see the wind?

The wind can be very strong. The wind can also be very helpful.

Like the wind, the Holy Spirit is very strong and helps us. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptised and the Spirit stays with us all through our lives, helping us to do things that are difficult.

Jesus asks us to love other people, to care for people who are sick and to bring good news to people who are poor. This is not always easy, especially when people are in different countries to us. But when we do these things, other people can see the Holy Spirit working through us, just as we can see the wind in the trees.

Our Catholic Mission:

The Holy Spirit can help us take care of the world that God has given to us and work together with others to make the world a better place for all people.

What could you do this week so that other people can see the Holy Spirit working through you?

Prayer:

God of power,
fill us with your Spirit and inspire us to make changes to our lives
so that we can help others around the world.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy