

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

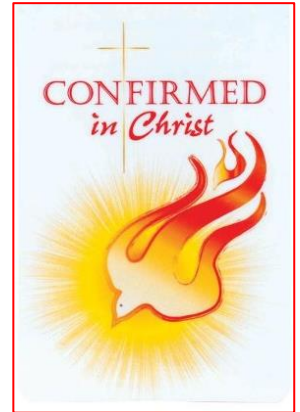
## Newsletter 17: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well and keeping warm!

On Wednesday, we had a wonderful celebration of Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in our parish church. It was a very moving occasion and one of the most special moments in our pupils' lives. Thank you to Bishop David, Father Kuriakose and all who helped to make this celebration such a success. In school, we would like to especially thank Mrs Kavanagh for all of her hard work 'behind the scenes' to organise the Mass and prepare the children. We will be celebrating a special whole school mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Confirmation for Y6 on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January in the school hall** at 9.15am.

This morning Miss Edmunds presented 60 pupils with their 100% attendance certificates for the autumn term. Well done to everyone who was rewarded! This is a fantastic achievement!

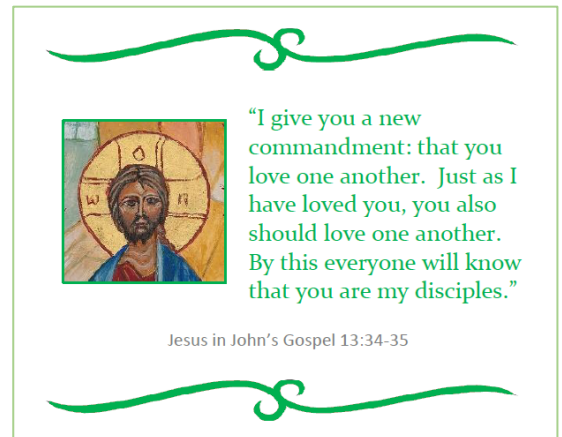


### Values and Virtues- Compassionate and Loving:

This half term the values which will be reflecting on are: 'Compassionate and Loving'.

Miss Edmunds explained in assembly this morning how pupils in a Jesuit school are growing to be compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.

The word **compassion** comes from two Latin words: *cum* meaning *with* and *passio* meaning *to change*, especially in the sense of *suffering* adverse change. To be compassionate is to experience suffering or change alongside someone else – to listen to their cares and concerns and to share their joys and sorrows, to see the world through their eyes, to step into their shoes, to empathize. Being able to empathize is a virtue very necessary for being a good human being.



Jesus' great commandment is "Love one another." (John 13:34) The more we love others, the more we are truly human and most truly ourselves.

Love is something that is learned not by being taught but by having first experienced it for ourselves. Parents are the first and best teachers by what they say and do (Rite of Baptism). The most important lesson parents teach their children is love. It is by being loved that we learn to love.

Thank you for your valued commitment to supporting the Catholic life of our school.

### Y3 Parent Meeting for Sacramental Preparation – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 5.30pm:

All Y3 parents who have a child who is being prepared for the sacraments are expected to attend our meeting in school on Tuesday 6th February. This meeting will cover the preparation and arrangements for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**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 food bags 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 provided a family 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 consequently it is necessary for us to be able to talk face to face to those requiring help so that 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            [holyname.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:holyname.bham@rcaob.org.uk)**



**SchoolComms App:**

Please download the free SchoolComms App to your phone (the details / links are in the circulation email for this week's newsletter) if you have not already done this. By doing this school will not have to pay for text messages to parents when they are used and this will save us quite a lot of money! Thank you for your support.

**Message from Vaccination UK for parents regarding the MMR Vaccination Outbreak Response:**

Vaccination UK have been instructed by NHSE to administer the MMR vaccination to all school aged children who are outstanding one or both doses. The MMR would have been given at the age of 1 year and the second dose at 3 years and 4 months. There has been an outbreak of Measles in the West Midlands which have been on the rise within the last few weeks. If your child is outstanding one or both doses of the MMR, please contact their office on 0121 592 1110 to make an appointment. This will be at an alternative venue and NOT at the school.

**Extreme Weather:**

If the school has to be closed in the event of snow or adverse weather conditions, then parents will be informed via text message and email and a notice will be placed on the homepage of the school website. Unless a text / email is received and an announcement made, the school will remain open.

**Year One Reading Workshop for Parents – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January:**

Miss Rackham is hosting a phonics and reading workshop for all Y1 parents at **5.00pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January in the school hall**. Please register for this meeting by completing the form below:

**[Y1 READING WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM](#)**

### 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!)

Congratulations to the following pupils who won a brand-new book of their choice for entering the reading competition:

<b>Y6:</b> Gabriella C	<b>Y4:</b> Haysus W	<b>Y2:</b> Destiny I	<b>YR:</b> Marcel K
<b>Y5:</b> Isla F	<b>Y3:</b> Aaryan J	<b>Y1:</b> Javaughn N	

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!

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

**The next prize draw will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February.**

### 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  $12 \times 12$ .

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:

$$11 \times 7 = 77$$

or

$$7 \times 11 = 77$$



### 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**.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Information:</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y4 and Y5</b> joining the parish for mass in <b>church</b> at <b>11.30am</b>
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Y6</b> Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation in school at <b>9.15am</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Infants'</b> mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>

### Diary Dates:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Information:</b>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6</b> Cheerleading Club <b>3.15pm - 4.15pm</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>Y1 &amp; Y2</b> Dance Club <b>3.15pm - 4.15pm</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Y1</b> Parent Workshop (phonics and reading) in school at <b>9.15am</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>KS2</b> French Club <b>3.15 - 4.15pm</b>
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Celebration Assembly in school hall at <b>9.05am</b> – all parents are welcome to join us
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Y6</b> Thanksgiving Mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation at <b>9.15am</b>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Y3</b> Parent Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at <b>5.30pm</b>
<b>Half Term Break:</b>	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>

**Happy birthday to:**

Isla D (Y6), Evie G (Y6), Maisie P (Y5), Evie S-H (Y1) and Lydia R (Reception) who all have a birthday 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**

**Third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

**Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**

In this Sunday's gospel, Simon and his brother Andrew are fishing by a lake when Jesus asks them to follow him.



At once, they leave their fishing nets behind and go with Jesus.

James and John do the same when they are asked. They leave their father behind as well as their boat and their fishing nets. They follow Jesus and become his disciples.

Do you think it was an easy decision for them to make to follow Jesus in this way?

How do you think the people that they left behind, like their families and friends, felt when they left so quickly? How would you feel if you had to leave your family, friends and all your things behind?

Jesus asks us all to follow him. But unlike Simon, Andrew, James and John in this reading, we cannot see Jesus and go with him as he travels round the country.

So what do you think Jesus wants us to do?

How can we follow Jesus?

**Our Catholic Mission:**

We can follow Jesus by living our lives as he would want us to. By being kind to others, sharing all that we have, and caring for all people, especially those who are poor or sick, so that the world becomes a fairer place for everyone to live in.

How will you follow Jesus this week?

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus,  
help us to join together with other people across the world in helping others,  
especially those who are poor,  
so that all people may know that we are your followers.  
Amen.

*Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy*