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

Newsletter 1: Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents

Welcome to the start of the new academic year. I hope that you and your families have all had a good summer. It has been wonderful to see our pupils back in school this week and welcome our new Reception and Nursery pupils. They always seem to change and grow so much when we have not seen them for so long! I hope that everyone is settling in well along with their class teachers.

Please read the information below from our parish Holy Name St Vincent de Paul Society who would really like to help any of our families who may be in need.

Friday 12th September – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on **Friday 13th September.**

PTA AGM – Tuesday 16th September at 6.30pm:

Holy Name Parent & Teacher Association will be holding their Annual General Meeting **in the school hall** on **Tuesday 16th September at 6.30pm.** The meeting will review the actions of the PTA during the 2024-25 school year and plan for the coming year. All parents are invited to join us – especially any parents who are new to school!

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

holynamesandwell@rcaob.org.uk

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](#)

Yellow Polo Shirts:

If your child does not have a 'Holy Name' yellow polo shirt(s), emblazoned with the school badge, then please contact the school office as we have pre-loved uniform in school that we can pass onto families. A small donation for this uniform is welcome, but this is optional.

Please remember that our parish Saint Vincent De Paul Society are very keen to help families with providing school uniform.

Y4 Swimming Lessons:

Y4 will be receiving swimming lessons on Thursdays this term – starting from **Thursday 11th September**.

Y1 – Y6 Homework:

This will begin from the week starting **Monday 15th September**. We will write to parents next week to inform them of the arrangements.

KS2 Poetry Writing Competition:

Calling all KS2 poets! Let your child's imagination come alive by writing a poem about a dream – a hope for the future, a magical world or something they can only imagine! There is no set word limit for this competition. Paper competition entries are available now from Mrs Kavanagh. Deadline for completed entries is **Friday 26th September**.



Y6 Class Saint Portraits:

This half term, Y6's class saint is St. John Fisher. The children recognised the enormous sacrifices the English martyr made throughout his life and how he defended his Catholic faith right up until the very end. Y6 children drafted wonderful portraits of St. John Fisher for display in their classroom. Well done!



Foundation Class:

We have been extremely busy settling into our Foundation classroom this week! We have enjoyed exploring the setting and learning through play. On Wednesday morning we had a real treat as Mr Sullivan our guitar teacher came and played his guitar and sang with us! Some of us also ate our lunch in school for the first time on Thursday and we really enjoyed it!



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

Marvellous Me:

We use Marvellous Me to celebrate some of the wonderful things your children are doing in class. Please speak to the office if you have lost your login details so we can get you set up for the year!



SNACKS AND DRINKS:

The only 'snacks' that are allowed to be brought into school are **fresh fruit**. No other snacks are permitted.

Water is available in school for all pupils at all times. Any 'water' brought into school should **not be mixed with squash** to promote a healthy diet.

PACKED LUNCHES - BONES:

Please do not provide your children with any items which contain **bones** e.g. chicken wings, chicken thighs etc. as there is a risk of choking on such items.

NUT- FREE SCHOOL:

Some of the children at our school have severe nut allergies. For this reason, Holy Name is a nut-free school.

Please be careful to keep this in mind when packing lunchboxes. Nuts can be found in many items, such as some chocolate spreads and cereal bars. Your help and support is greatly appreciated.



School Dinners:

The weekly charge for dinners is **£13.50** (£2.70 per day).

Medication in School:

From time-to-time, your child may require medication. Therefore, we would like to remind you that school staff are able to administer prescribed medication to pupils when a medical form has been completed and the prescribed medication has been sent to the school in its original packaging and label attached.

As a school, we **do not** administer medication to pupils that has not been prescribed. We would ask that parents make arrangements to come to school and administer this if it is required.

Parking on Cross Lane and Surrounding Roads:

Please ensure that local residents are able to access their properties safely and easily if you drive your child to school. Parking in prohibited and / or inappropriate places creates an unnecessary hazard for our pupils and places the school in a difficult position when trying to build positive relations with our neighbours. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dismissal at Hometown / Meetings with School Staff:

If you wish to meet or have a discussion with your child's class teacher then please request an appointment through the school office. We will then arrange a mutually convenient time for you, as promptly as possible, to meet in school privately with the appropriate member of staff. At the end of the school day the priority of school staff is the supervision and safe handover of the children. School staff are not usually available to parents without having made a prior appointment. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children have looked very smart in their full school uniform this week. Please could I please remind parents of these requirements from our school uniform policy:

Please note: if you are unsure whether any item that you have purchased meets the requirements of our School Uniform Policy, then please check with the headteacher before giving an item to your child to wear to school.

Our School Uniform Policy can be viewed in full on our school website.

FOOTWEAR:

Black sturdy, flat soled shoes without 'open toes' and suitable for all weathers (shoe heels should be less than 1.5 inches)

Shoes should not feature any branded logos, stripes or ticks even if they are all black.

Trainers (including black), **crocs** or other similar forms of footwear **are not permitted** or appropriate as these items of footwear are not in keeping with the smart appearance of our school uniform.

CLOTHING:

All **polo shirts**, **sweatshirts** and **cardigans** should be **emblazoned** with the Holy Name **school badge**.

Children are to attend school in / with the following items, in a clean and good condition:

- Light grey trousers or shorts (with '**inner**' **pockets only** – no 'combat trouser' style outer pockets) or
- Skirt or pinafore dress (no 'playsuits')

* N.B. '**Playsuits**' are not allowed as these require disrobing in order to use the toilet.

JEWELLERY:

For the safety of pupils and adults working with them, **we do not allow children to wear jewellery** to school (except for small, plain studs for pierced ears).

Ear studs will need to be removed for PE and swimming activities. Staff are not permitted to remove or fit studs in ears, this must be done independently by the child. If this is not possible, plasters or tape, **provided from home**, can be applied.

HEADWEAR:

We do not allow headwear to be worn during class time or inside school buildings, except for religious or medical reasons. However, caps and hats are actively encouraged for sun protection and winter hats may be worn when it is appropriate to do so.

HAIR:

Hair should be kept neat and tidy with **longer hair tied back**, plaited or in a 'bun'.

Plain hair / headbands, preferably **blue** or **black** may be worn to keep hair in place.

More extreme haircuts, including irregular shaving of the head, bright colouring or patterns are not appropriate. If your child has such hairstyles, it is expected that they will be allowed to 'grow out' and not be re cut or coloured.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:

You should provide your child with a **labelled water bottle** in order for them to stay hydrated during the school day.

If your child has a cold lunch (sandwiches) at lunchtime then they should bring these to school in a **labelled lunchbox** for reasons of hygiene.

SNACKS AND DRINKS:

The only 'snacks' that are allowed to be brought into school are **fresh fruit**. No other snacks are permitted.

Water is available in school for all pupils at all times. Any 'water' brought into school should **not be mixed with squash** to promote a healthy diet.

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Friday 12 th September	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – Staff Training Day
Thursday 18 th September	Y6 Visit to Alton Castle
Half Term Break:	Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October

Term Dates 2025-26:

We will be closed to pupils for training days on these dates (further dates to be advised):

- Friday 12th September 2025
- Monday 20th July 2026

2025-26	Term starts:	Half Term Holiday:	Term Ends:
Autumn	Monday 1 st September Tuesday 2nd September for pupils	Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October	Friday 19 th December
Spring	Monday 5 th January	Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February	Friday 27 th March
Summer	Monday 13 th April	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May	Friday 17 th July (for pupils) Monday 20 th July (for staff)

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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus tells the crowds two short stories to explain what being a disciple means, and to show us that if we want to follow him we must give up everything.

What do you think "giving up everything" means?

We must also "carry our cross" which means accepting the things we find difficult in our lives and asking for God's help in these difficult things.

These difficult things might be people we find it hard to get on with or wanting something we can't have. It might be not having enough to eat or even living somewhere where there is violence.

Let's look at the two stories now. The first story is about a man who wants to build a tower. He must work out the cost to make sure he has enough money and resources to finish the job.

The second story is about a king who is going to war. He must first count his soldiers and resources to make sure he can win the battle.

What do you think these stories are telling us?

In both stories the message is clear: those who begin a big task or project need to be prepared to see it through to the finish, it needs to be done properly.

Can you think something you did at home or some school work that you didn't finish? When you were asked by a teacher or people at home to help and you didn't help as much as you could? How did you feel about it afterwards? How do you think the person who asked you to help felt?

Can you think of something you were asked to do, that you weren't sure about at first, but which you went on to finish? Perhaps you thought it was too hard and that you'd never manage it, but it turned out you could do it. How did you feel when you'd finished?

Jesus is telling us that following him and being a disciple is something that we have to see through to the finish. We need to follow Jesus always and this isn't always easy, because we are often distracted by other people or by thinking about what we want, rather than about what Jesus wants for us.

Throughout our lives as followers of Jesus we might have to choose to do what Jesus wants even if it means not always being popular. It is hard but God is with us all the way to help and guide us.

Our Catholic Mission:

How will you follow Jesus this week at home or in school?

See if you can try to do one thing to show that you follow him, and finish it, even if it is difficult. What will that be?

Prayer:

Guiding Lord,
give us courage to know you,
to love you,
to follow you always,
however hard it is.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy

