



HEADTEACHER: Mr A.G. Neenan

Cross Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 6LN

Tel: 0121 357 3216 Fax: 0121 358 5523

email: headteacher@holynamesandwell.sch.uk

website: www.holynamesprimary.co.uk

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

Newsletter 4: Thursday 22nd October 2026

Dear Parents

I hope you were all able to attend our parents' evenings this week and found the consultations with your child's teacher to be valuable. It has been a very busy half term; I hope that you and your children will have a chance to get some rest next week!

Thank you also to our wonderful PTA for hosting our annual Monster Disco. I hope that everyone enjoyed it!

The **Feast of all Saints**, which is a Holyday of Obligation, is being celebrated on **Sunday 2nd November** as the 1st November falls on a Monday this year.

Friday 23rd October & Monday 2nd November – Staff Training Days:

School will be closed to all pupils on these dates –
Monday 2nd November is the first day after the half term break.

Holy Name Catholic Primary School – Open Morning:

We are delighted to be hosting an open morning in school on **Tuesday 10th November at 9.15am** for parents who have children who will be eligible for a reception place in September 2027.

Please complete this form to book your place and find out more: [OPEN MORNING FORM](#)

We are looking forward to meeting you!



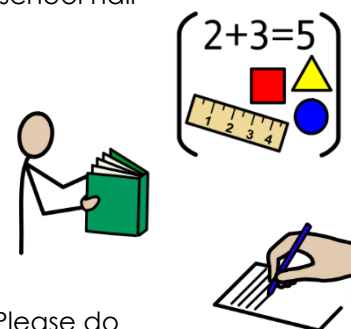
Reception Parents' Workshop - Reading and Basic skills - Thursday 5th November at 9.00am:

We would like to invite you to attend a reading and basic skills workshop in the school hall on **Thursday 5th November at 9.00am**.

The aim of the workshop is for school to share how we are teaching phonics, handwriting and early maths in school and the expectations to meet the national Early Learning Goals at the end of this academic year.

We will share strategies for you to use at home to support your child throughout their reception year.

This will be a great opportunity for us to work together in supporting your child. Please do come along we would love to see you all there!



Admission Applications for Reception and Year Seven Places for 2027:

The admissions application process for Reception and Year Seven Places for 2027 is now open.

The deadlines for applications to your Local Authority are:

Y7 - Secondary School for September 2027: 31st October 2026

Reception intake for September 2027: **15th January 2027**

School Places Available:

We have school places available in our **Y1** and **Y2** classes.

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

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

Class Information:

The school website has been updated with your child's class information document. This document explains the P.E. and homework arrangements for your child's class. It also provides links to our curriculum overviews which outline what your child will be learning this year.

Please visit our website: [Curriculum and Gallery](#) and click on the year group links on the left side of the page.

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 next prize draw will be on Friday 6th November!**

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

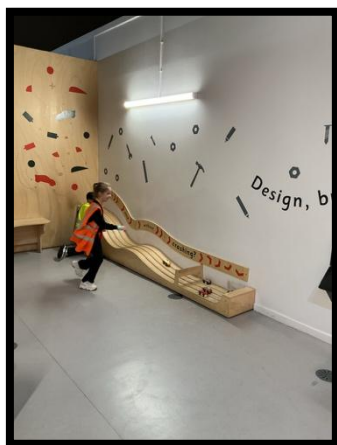
Foundation Stage: Pumpkin Soup!

This week we have been showing off our design & technology skills by preparing our own pumpkin soup! We were inspired by our class text Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper. We have had great fun, and we have really enjoyed ourselves! The soup was delicious and lots of the children have requested the recipe for home!



Y4 Educational Visit to Thinktank:

Y4 had a great trip to Thinktank on Wednesday to support their learning in science. They were extremely well behaved and made our school very proud!



Y6 Day Retreat to Alton Castle:

In readiness for their Confirmation, our Y6 attended a day retreat at Alton Castle in Staffordshire. The children reflected on how they will use the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to let the flame of faith shine.

Our children participated in challenging team building games, where they found that offering support and providing guidance in challenging circumstances was vital to enable any team to work well.

Not only that, remembering the symbol of fire alive at Pentecost, the children created their own campfire from kindling, dry cotton wool and a few sparks! Tasty marshmallows were then toasted alongside their campfire! A wonderful experience was had by all!



Music Assembly:

Mr Stachula, our violin, ukelele and guitar teacher treated our KS2 children to an acoustic session yesterday morning! It was fantastic! Lots of the children were interested in learning how to play a musical instrument. Lessons take place every Wednesday during the school day. Please contact the school office, should you wish for your (KS2) child to take part!



Free Swimming:

Swimming is free for families over the holidays in any local authority swimming baths! See the link below for a list of places you can go: <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/leisure-culture/leisure-centres>

School Masses next Half Term:

All **parents, family members and parishioners** are warmly invited to all of our school masses in **school** at **9.15am** or in **church** at **11.30am**.

Date:	Information:
Tuesday 3 rd November	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am
Tuesday 10 th November	NO MASS IN SCHOOL
Tuesday 17 th November	To be confirmed
Tuesday 24 th November	NO MASS IN SCHOOL
Tuesday 1 st December	NO MASS IN SCHOOL
Tuesday 8 th December	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am
Tuesday 15 th December	Whole School Mass in School Hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Friday 23 rd October	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – STAFF TRAINING DAY
Half Term Break:	Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October
Monday 2 nd November	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – STAFF TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 3 rd November	All pupils back in school after half term break Y1/2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 5 th November	Reception Class reading and key skills parent workshop in the school hall at 9.15am Y4 Swimming Y4,5,6 Fencing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 6 th November	Celebration Assembly ‘Gifts from God’ in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Tuesday 10 th November	Open Morning for prospective 2027 Reception parents at 9.15am Y1/2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 12 th November	Y2 Educational Visit to Botanical Gardens Y4 Swimming Y4,5,6 Fencing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 13 th November	Celebration Assembly ‘Gifts from God’ in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Sunday 15 th November	Mass of Enrolment for Y6 pupils preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Tuesday 17 th November	Y1/2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 19 th November	Y4 Swimming Y4,5,6 Fencing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 20 th November	Celebration Assembly ‘Gifts from God’ in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Wednesday 16 th December	PM: Theatre group in school - pantomime performance
Thursday 17 th December	Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 18 th December	Y3,4,5,6 Christmas Parties Last day of term



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**



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40



In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus teaches us that greatest and the first commandment is that we should love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind.

Let's think quietly for a moment about this. When we love someone we try to show this in the way that we treat them. How do you think you can show that you love God?

We can show that we love God when we pray - by giving thanks and praise to God. And by remembering all that God asks us to do. We can also show our love for God by trying to behave in a way that pleases God. This is where the second commandment comes in. Can you remember what it was?

Jesus asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves. When Jesus asks us to love our neighbour, do you think he just means the person who lives next door? Who else is our neighbour?

Our neighbours are the people sitting next to us right now, as well as all the people in the same street, at school and at church, in our town and in our world. After all, we're all part of the same big global family. And we're all loved by God.

Some neighbours live close to us and some live far away. But Jesus asks us to love them all as we love ourselves. What do you think this means?

Jesus wants us to treat other people as we would want to be treated, to make sure all people are treated fairly, and have what they need. How do you think we can do that?

Our Catholic Mission:

Think about your neighbours close by and those far away. What will you do to help your neighbours and show your love for them in the coming week?

Prayer:

God of life,
we love you,
we thank you and we praise you for all that you have done for us.
Help us to love our neighbours,
both here and around the world,
and treat all people as we would wish to be treated.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy

