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

Newsletter 1: Friday 4th September 2026

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. The children 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 11th September – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on **Friday 11th September.**

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

holyname.bham@rcaob.org.uk



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

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:



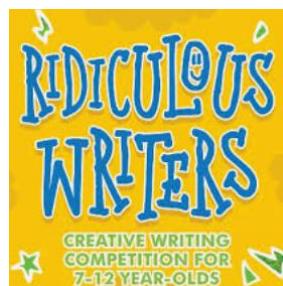
Yellow Polo Shirts:

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.

KS2 Ridiculous Writers Competition:

Calling all creative Y3,4,5,6 writers! Please create a wacky character (like a dancing penguin or sporty pineapple) and write a mini saga of up to 100 words about their adventures. The goal is to have fun, be silly and original. Entry forms available from Mrs Kavanagh. Deadline for completed entries is **Friday 9th October!**



Y4 Swimming Lessons:

Y4 will be receiving swimming lessons on Thursdays this term – starting from **Thursday 10th September**.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

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.

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.

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.

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School 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**.

Date:	Information:
Tuesday 8 th September	NO MASS IN SCHOOL
Tuesday 15 th September	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am
Tuesday 22 nd September	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Tuesday 29 th September	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am
Tuesday 6 th October	NO MASS IN SCHOOL
Tuesday 13 th October	Harvest Mass: Whole school in school hall at 9.15am
Tuesday 20 th October	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Thursday 10 th September	Y4 swimming begins
Friday 11 th September	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – Staff Training Day
Half Term Break:	Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October

Term Dates 2026-27:

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

- Friday 11th September 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Monday 2nd November 2026
- Monday 4th January 2027

2026-27	Term starts:	Half Term Holiday:	Term Ends:
Autumn	Tuesday 1 st September Wednesday 2nd September for pupils	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th November	Friday 18 th December



2026-27	Term starts:	Half Term Holiday:	Term Ends:
Spring	Monday 4 th January Tuesday 5th January for pupils	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February	Thursday 25 th March
Summer	Monday 12 th April	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June	Wednesday 21 st July

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 A)

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

In this Sunday's gospel Jesus says that God listens to and answers our prayers.

What does Jesus say about when two or three people meet together in his name?

Jesus says that he is there with them. What do you think it means to meet together in Jesus' name?

It has been hard to meet together in person this year. But fortunately many of us have still been able to meet together through our computer screens.

However we meet people, in person or virtually, whether it's to pray, to learn, to sing, or to talk, or to do something else together, if we invite Jesus in, then he will be with us, listening to us and guiding us.

Can you think of a time when you meet together with others in Jesus' name? Can you tell me a bit about it?

We can meet together in Jesus' name at church, at home and at school. Can you think of any other places where this happens?

If Jesus is with us, when we gather together, how can we make sure we listen to him and do what he asks of us?

Our Catholic Mission:

In the coming week, when you join together in Jesus' name with other people to pray or to sing, remember that all around the world other children are also joining together in Jesus' name. Say a prayer for them: that all children around the world may live happy and healthy lives, in peace and free from poverty.

Prayer:

Christ Jesus, we thank you for being with us.
Watch over us and all our sisters and brothers around the world.
Help us to work together in peace and unity,
so all people may live free from poverty.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy

