

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

Newsletter 5: Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents

I hope you were all able to attend our parents' evenings last 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 to our Y1 parents who attended the Reading Workshop presented by Miss Rackham on Tuesday morning.

Thank you also to our wonderful PTA for hosting our annual Monster Disco last night. 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 Saturday this year.

Monday 3rd November – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on this date – which is the first day after the half term break.

House Prayer Services:

This morning our Y6 house captains led thought provoking prayer services based on the 'Live Simply' message of living sustainably. Adopting the words of the late Pope Francis, our house captains helped to encourage our school community to take care of God's wonderful world and how each of us have a responsibility to look after it for generations to come.



Y5 Educational Visit to the National Space Centre:

Year Five really enjoyed their trip to the Space Centre in Leicester earlier this week. They learnt about the historic space race between Russia and America, future explorations expected on Mars, as well as immersing themselves in lots of interactive displays, including designing and launching their own rockets! They also saw a real piece of the moon which was on display in the museum!



New Reception Intake for September 2026:

There will be an open morning in school on **Tuesday 11th November** at **9.15am** for parents who have children who will be eligible for a reception place in September 2026. Please phone or email the school office if you wish to attend.

Sacramental Dates for 2025-26:

Y3 parents please note: the parent meeting for Sacramental Preparation is taking place on the **first Tuesday back after half term**.

Date:	Information:
Tuesday 4 th November 2025	Y3 Parents' Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at 5.30pm
Tuesday 9 th December	Y6 Parents' Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at 5.30pm
Friday 12 th December 2025	Y3 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at 2.15pm
Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm
Saturday 16 th May 2026	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30pm

Admission Applications for Reception and Year Seven Places for 2026:

The admissions application process for Reception and Year Seven Places for 2026 is now open.

The deadlines for applications to your Local Authority are:

Y7 - Secondary School for September 2026: **31st October 2025**

Reception intake for September 2026: **15th January 2026**

Primary School Reception Class:

For those parents wishing to apply for a place at Holy Name, as soon as you have made your application to your Local Authority, if your child is a baptised Catholic then please request a supplementary information form from the school office and complete and return this to school along with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate.

When applying for a Catholic Secondary school place, evidence of Baptism is also usually required to rank your child correctly so it would be advisable to check this to ensure that you have provided all of the necessary information for your child.

Sandwell residents can apply online at:

www.sandwell.gov.uk/admissions

If you require help or further information, then please phone the Sandwell Admissions Parent Support Line: **0121 569 6765**.

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](#)





Spiritual Councillors Update:

Firstly, we want to say 'WOW' to Emily for creating this amazing poster for the launch of our God's Eco Warriors Competition!

Secondly, our Y6 Spiritual Councillors (Rose & Emily) would like to update you on the competition below:

We had some amazing entries so thank you to all who entered!

We are proud to announce the winners of **God's Eco-Warriors Competition.**

Y6: Emily, Andreea & Symora

Y5: Lena & Martyna

Y4: Evie

Y3: Mark & Maja

Y2: Seven & Lydia

We are going to be ordering some lovely badges and certificates for you. We can't wait to work with you this year to become an environmentally friendly school!

The Catholic Councillors Update:

Thank you so much for the Harvest produce received to support World Day of the Poor. We will be in touch with Great Barr Foodbank to share what has been received.

The Little Way Competition:

Thank you all for entering. We found it really hard to choose the winners from The Little Way Competition because they were all so inspiring. So much so, we have decided to make a display out of them!

We are happy to announce that the winners of The Little Way Competition are:

Y6: Symora

Y5: David

Y4: Millie

Y3: Alexander

Y2: Mia

Y1: Daya

Reception: Jamie

Nursery: Kymani

Have a look at the wonderful [entries](#) here!

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 28th November.

FREE bus travel for parents this October half-term:



From 27 October to 2 November 2025, Transport for West Midlands are offering parents, guardians or carers a whole week of unlimited free bus travel across the West Midlands.

This initiative is part of a wider campaign, to encourage families to choose bus travel, especially during the school holidays.

Apply for 1-week free bus travel here:

<https://www.tfwm.org.uk/plan-your-journey/ways-to-travel/buses-in-the-west-midlands/free-bus-travel-for-parents-this-october-half-term/>

School Masses next 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:
Wednesday 5 th November	NO MASS
Wednesday 12 th November	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 19 th November	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am
Wednesday 26 th November	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 3 rd December	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am
Wednesday 10 th December	NO MASS
Wednesday 17 th December	Whole school Mass (End of Term / Advent) in school hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Half Term Break:	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October
Monday 3rd November	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – STAFF TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 4 th November	All pupils back in school after half term break Y1 & 2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm Y3 Parents' Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at 5.30pm
Thursday 6 th November	Y4, 5 & 6 Fencing Club 3.15 – 4.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 7 th November	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Tuesday 11 th November	Opening Morning for prospective 2026 Reception parents at 9.15am
Thursday 12 th November	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 13 th November	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Tuesday 9 th December	Infant Nativity in school at 2.00pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Infant Nativity in school at 9.30am NO CLASSES ATTENDING MASS Y6 Parents' Meeting for Sacramental Preparation at 5.30pm
Monday 15 th December	PM: Theatre group in school - pantomime performance
Thursday 18 th December	Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y2 Christmas Parties KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 19 th December	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome) 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 C)

Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14

In this Sunday's Gospel, a Pharisee goes to the Temple to pray. He thinks he is brilliant, that he's done everything right and that God must love him very much.

Then a tax collector comes to pray. The tax collector is humble and ashamed. He knows he has done wrong and he asks God for forgiveness.



Jesus wanted the Pharisees (religious leaders) and us, to understand that the things we say when we pray are not as important as what is in our hearts, what we're thinking and feeling deep down.

The Pharisees thought that the way to enter God's kingdom was by keeping a lot of rules and making new rules. The Pharisees thought that all the people who didn't keep their rules were bad and unacceptable to God.

There is nothing wrong with rules. Every family, school, church and organisation has them. We need rules. Rules are here to guide us and help us not to hurt or upset others. Rules should help us think about what other people need. We should always be concerned about other people.

Yet there is something wrong with thinking that we are better than other people just because we keep certain rules. We all do things wrong sometimes. We need to own up, say sorry and accept that although others are different to us they are still loved by God.

The two men behaved very differently in the temple that day, didn't they? The Pharisee was proud and thought he was better than other people.

The tax collector knew that he was no better than anyone else and that only God could give him the forgiveness and mercy he needed.

The Pharisee judged the tax collector. He thought that the tax collector wasn't as good as he was. But we are all equal in the eyes of God, who loves us all.

No matter who we are, where we come from, the colour of our skin, whether we are rich or poor, tall or short, we are special in God's eyes. God loves us all very much.

Our Catholic Mission:

This week try not to judge others just because they are different to you. Try to treat all people you meet with kindness and respect.

This week think about how you can show love and kindness to someone you meet,

Also, this week try to think about the things that you could do better, say sorry to God for the times you get things wrong and ask God to help you to get them right next time.

Prayer:

All-powerful God,
help us to know when we are being proud
or when we have forgotten to be forgiving towards others.
Help us to do what is pleasing to you. Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy