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

Newsletter 9: Friday 10th November 2023

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families all had a good half term break at home. It was wonderful to see all of our children back in school on Monday.

Well done to all of the pupils who received special goldfinch certificates in assembly this morning for living the Jesuit Virtues of '**Grateful** and **Generous**' so well last half term! We are so proud of you!

Sacramental Dates for 2023-24:

The following dates have been arranged with Father Kuriakose. Please note that there is a special mass of enrolment for our Y3 and Y6 pupils and their families in church at 10.30am on Sunday 3rd December. All parents whose children will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Y3) and Confirmation (Y6) **are required to attend**.

Date:	Information:
Sunday 3 rd December 2023	Mass of Enrolment for Y3 and Y6 pupils preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Wednesday 17 th January 2024	Y6 Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at 7.00pm
Friday 15 th March 2024	Y3 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at 2.15pm
Saturday 11 th May 2024	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 10.00am

Attentive and Discerning:

This half term, the virtues which we will be reflecting on are: '**Attentive** and **Discerning**'.

In this morning's assembly, Miss Edmunds explained that Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by encouraging them to be **attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

St Ignatius tells us that we should take time to notice the big and the small things of each day; we need to be aware of and understand the responses of other people; we need to be attentive to the stirrings in our hearts and to the preoccupations that thread their way through our lives. In this way, we become much more sure-footed in coping with the things that life and other people throw at us.

Once we develop the habit of being **attentive**, we can begin to **discern** what is good for us and what is not; and what God calls us to be, and to do (our *vocation*).

For the Christian, **discernment** is about taking the time, and making the effort, to notice when and where God calls. And God does always call. Maybe so gently that we barely notice. In the Lord's Prayer we say, 'Thy will be done' but go off without really believing that God has a will for each of us. But he does. By being **attentive** and **discerning**, we can discover God's will and unique calling for every one of us.



"God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I have a part in a great work."

Blessed John Henry Newman (1801-90)



Holy Souls, November, the Month of Remembrance:

November is the month of remembrance. We would like invite all of our school community to let us know if there someone special that you would like us to include in our prayer intentions in school.

Please follow the link below to let us know:

[HOLY SOULS PRAYER FORM](#)



Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine
upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful
departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen.

New Reception Intake for September 2024:

There will be an **open morning** in school on **Tuesday 14th November** at **9.15am** for parents who have children who will be eligible for a reception place in September 2024. Please phone or email the school office if you wish to attend.

Donation Days:

We will be asking for donations for the next four Fridays to help our parish and PTA to prepare for their Christmas Faye events.

If you are able to help then your donations will be very gratefully welcomed, **please do not worry** if you are not able to make a contribution.

Thank you again in advance for your generosity and also to the dedicated members of the PTA who work so hard to raise substantial funds for our school.

Date:	Donations	Information:
Friday 17 th November	BOTTLES	Preferably alcohol: please check that any bottles that you have donated are unopened - for PARISH CHRISTMAS FAYRE .
Friday 24 th November	GIFTS	Any unwanted items that you may have e.g. toiletry sets, games, stationery, candles etc.
Friday 1 st December	CHOCOLATES AND SWEETS	Donations of chocolates and sweets e.g. small selection boxes, chocolate santas, bars of chocolate.
Friday 8 th December	BOTTLES	Preferably alcohol: please check that any bottles that you have donated are unopened - for PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE .

PTA Christmas Raffle:

All of the children have been sent home with raffle tickets this week – the prize draw will take place at the Christmas Fayre.

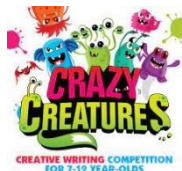
Nasal Flu Vaccine – Monday 13th November:

The immunisation team will be in school on Monday 13th November to administer vaccinations to pupils whose parents have provided consent. Please check that you have completed the online form to give or decline to provide consent. Please also read the information leaflet which has been circulated with this newsletter. Y3 pupils will receive their vaccination on Thursday 7th December (which is also a 'catch-up' session for any pupils who are not in school on Monday 13th November).

Reception Parents - Fine Motor and Reading Workshop – Wednesday 22nd November:

All of our Reception parents and carers are invited to join us in school from **9.00 – 10.00am** on **Wednesday 22nd November** to find out more about how our Reception pupils have been learning to read in school and also to find out how you can support your child with their reading at home. We will also be focusing on developing finger strength to promote a strong pencil grasp to support early writing skills.

Creative Writing Competition:



Calling all creative writers aged between **7 – 11!** You are all invited to enter the Crazy Creatures Creative Writing Competition 2023. From a cute fluffball with a nasty bite, to a giant monstrosity who just wants to make friends, the possibilities are endless and your child can have fun, whilst putting the writing skills and techniques they have learnt at school into practice. The competition is free to enter and there is a bookmark and sticker for every entrant! Should your child wish to enter, please ask Mrs Kavanagh for a free application!

Supporting your Child's Mental Health:

Place2Be is a charity led by mental health experts. They have developed some great short videos for advice for parents on how to tackle issues which may be faced by pupils regarding their wellbeing or behaviour.

To find out more, click the link below:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

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 12×12 .

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:

$$6 \times 6 = 36$$

or

$$6^2 = 36$$



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:

Y6: Ethan S

Y4: Esther A

Y2: Athena G

YR: Lyla J

Y5: Zac W

Y3: Arlo L

Y1: Jax C

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.

All children should aim to have entered at least once by then. Good luck!

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:
Wednesday 15 th November	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 22 nd November	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am
Wednesday 29 th November	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 6 th December	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am
Wednesday 13 th December	No classes attending Mass
Wednesday 20 th December	Whole school mass in school hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 13 th November	Y3 educational visit to Frank Chapman Y3 & 4 Cheerleading Club 3.15 – 4.15pm Choir Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 14 th November	Prospective Parents' Open Morning at 9.15am for September 2024 Y1 & Y2 Dance club 3.15 – 4.15pm Y1 Stories & Sounds Club 3.15 – 4.00pm
Wednesday 15 th November	Y1 educational visit to Wednesbury Museum

Date:	Information:
Thursday 16 th November	Y4 Swimming (AM) KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Saturday 18 th November	Parish Christmas Fair in the parish centre at 1.30pm
Wednesday 22 nd November	Reception Parents' Workshop 9.00-10.00am
Friday 8 th December	PTA Christmas Market 3.15pm (immediately after school)
Tuesday 12 th December	Infant Nativity in school at 2.00pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Infant Nativity in school at 9.30am
Friday 22 nd December	Last day of term

Happy birthday to:

Ruqayyah A, Blake H, Layla W (Y6), Harriet P (Y4), Charlie M, Harper N (Y3), Jax C and Ria C (Y1) who all have a special day 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:

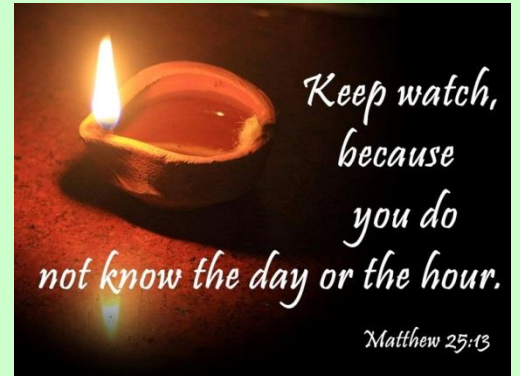
Saturday 12.30pm

Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a story about ten people who are waiting at a wedding for the bridegroom to arrive. It is dark and so they all have lamps with them to light the way. But what did five of them have that the other five didn't?



Five of them were sensible and took extra oil with them, so that if the bridegroom was late they would still be able to light his way. They were prepared. What happened next?

The bridegroom was very late. It was after midnight before the ten people were asked to go out and meet him and five of them no longer had enough oil for their lamps. They were not prepared and ended up being left outside the wedding.

How do you think they felt about being left outside?

Sometimes things happen that we don't expect. And we realise that we are not ready for them. Can you think of a time when this has happened to you? What happened? How did you feel?

Can you think of a time when you were ready for something? When you were well prepared? What happened? How did you feel?

Our Catholic Mission:

We know that God's kingdom will come. But we don't know exactly when. In today's reading Jesus is telling us we should be prepared, so we are ready and waiting when he comes again.

How do you think we can make sure we are prepared for the coming of God's kingdom?

Prayer:

God of all,
help us to share what we have,
to treat others as we would wish to be treated
and to try to make the world a fairer place,
so that we may be found ready when your kingdom comes.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy