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

Newsletter 1: Friday 8th September 2023

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 the Holy Name St Vincent de Paul society who would really like to help any of our families who may be in need.

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



Education Sunday:

This Sunday, 10th September, is Education Sunday. The focus for this year is the promise given by Jesus in St Matthew's Gospel: 'Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them' (Matthew 18:20). Bishop Marcus Stock, (the Bishop of Leeds and the Chair of the Catholic Education Service) has written an inspiring message for Catholic schools to mark this occasion. In his message Bishop Marcus also gives thanks for those who work in Catholic schools, colleges and universities. Please find a copy of the message attached with this week's newsletter.



Values and Virtues – ‘Grateful and Generous’:

This half term the values which will be reflecting on are: ‘**Grateful** and **Generous**’. In this morning’s assembly, Mrs Chapman explained that Jesuit schools help their pupils grow by encouraging them to know and be **grateful** for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be **generous** in the service of others.

St Ignatius asks us to consider rather what has already been gifted to us: our health and family, shelter and security, enough to eat, plentiful clean water, friends, freedom, the rights and protection of the law, our education, talents and pastimes, the love of God in Jesus Christ, and all the small daily blessings that, when noticed, bring joy to life.

As we become more practised at being **grateful**, we realize just how gifted and blessed we are, often without really deserving it. Out of this growing realization comes a powerful desire to be **generous**, “to give and not to count the cost.”

Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, “Never measure your **generosity** by what you give, but rather by what you have left.” This is what it means to be big-hearted and truly **generous**.

Thank you for your valued commitment to supporting the Catholic life of our school.

Service of Commitment – Friday 15th September:

Next Friday 15th September at 9.15am, Fr Jibou is leading a special service of commitment for this academic year. It is a special opportunity for all members of our school community to come together to make a promise before God to help, support and guide each other this academic year. We would like to warmly invite all parents, governors, staff and parishioners and family members to join us for this special service.

Parent Consultation Appointments:

This term’s parent consultation meetings will be taking place **in the school hall** on **Monday 23rd** and **Wednesday 25th October** between 3.35pm and 5.45pm. Our classrooms will be open for you to view your child’s work. We will write to all parents with further details, including appointment times, at the end of September. Please remember that these meetings are for **parents and teachers only**: there is no provision for children to be supervised at school. **We therefore ask you NOT to bring children back into school on these evenings.**

Y4 Swimming Lessons:

Y4 will be receiving swimming lessons on Thursdays this term – starting from **Thursday 14th September**. Mrs Chapman has sent a letter home to all Y4 parents this week.

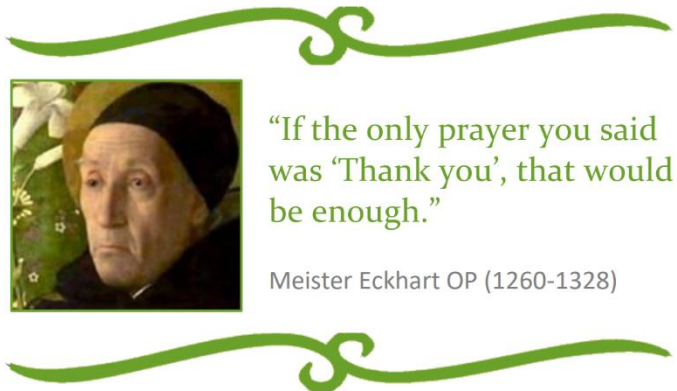
Y1 – Y6 Homework:

This will begin from the week starting **Monday 18th September**. We will write to parents next week to inform them of the arrangements.

Y3 – 6 Reading Bookmarks:

Last year, the school council asked pupils if they wanted to continue to receive stickers on their bookmarks for reading each week. The children have voted to no longer receive reading bookmarks in Key Stage Two; therefore, Key Stage Two pupils will not receive stickers going forwards.

Pupils’ in Reception – Y2 will still be using bookmarks and stickers so that they can work towards a prize book when they have completed their first bookmark.



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

Snacks and Drinks:

The governors would like to remind all parents and pupils that 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**. No fizzy drinks or juice should be brought into school (this includes pupils who have sandwiches for lunch).

School Dinners:

The weekly charge for dinners is **£13.00** (£2.60 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 Hometime / 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 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.

Monday 18th September – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on **Monday 18th September**.

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 11 th September	Y2 Archery Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 12 th September	Y3 & Y4 Archery club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 14 th September	KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 15 th September	Service of Commitment in school hall at 9.15am (all parents are invited)
Monday 18 th September	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – Staff Training Day
Monday 2 nd October	School photographer taking individual photographs
Wednesday 18 th – Friday 20 th October	Y6 Residential at Alton Castle
Monday 23 rd October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 5.45pm in school hall
Wednesday 25 th October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 5.45pm in school hall
Half Term Break:	Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November

Term Dates 2023-24:

We will be closed for a training day on **Monday 18th September**.

2023-24	Term starts:	Half Term Holiday:	Term Ends:
Autumn	Monday 4 th September Tuesday 5th September for pupils	Monday 30 th October to Friday 3 rd November	Friday 22 nd December
Spring	Monday 8 th January	Monday 12 th February to Friday 16 th February	Friday 22 nd March
Summer	Monday 8 th April	Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May	Friday 19 th July

Happy birthday to:

Archie B, Peter H (Y6), Evie T (Y2), Litheeshan N (Y1), Conor A (Reception) and Everleigh W (Nursery) 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

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

