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

Newsletter 3: Friday 26th September 2025

Dear Parents

I hope that you are all now back in the routine of school and I also hope that everyone has settled in well and made a great start to the term: especially our new Nursery and Reception pupils and their families.

Congratulations to all of the pupils who received their attendance certificates and badges in assembly last Friday – especially the pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the whole school year last year – a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations also to the pupils who have been selected by our children to represent them on our Catholic Life Council, Spiritual Council or as House Captains for this school year. We are looking forward to the improvements and contributions they will make to our school during the next 12 months!

We had a super turnout of parents at last week's annual general meeting for our Parent Teacher Association – thank you to everyone who attended. There is an online meeting on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm. A joining link has been sent out with this newsletter.

Please remember to 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.

Reception Welcome Prayer Service:

All parents, grandparents, family members and parishioners are warmly invited to join us for a very special prayer service in the school hall at **2.30pm** on **Wednesday 1st October** to welcome you all to our school and parish community. Please come along if you are able to – you are all very welcome!



Sacramental Dates for 2025-26:

The following dates have been arranged with Father Jibu. **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 12th October.** All children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Y3) and Confirmation (Y6) **are required to attend** with their parents.

A **Y6** Parent Meeting for Sacramental Preparation will be arranged to take place later this term.

Date:	Information:
Sunday 12 th October 2025	Mass of Enrolment for Y3 and Y6 pupils preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Tuesday 4 th November 2025	Y3 Parent 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

PTA Meeting – Tuesday 30th September at 6.30pm:

All parents are invited to join this online meeting if you would like to find out more about the work of the PTA. A joining link has been emailed with this week's newsletter. The meeting will for approximately 20 – 30 minutes and will include preparation for the forthcoming annual 'Monster Ball' which is taking place in school in the evening on Thursday 23rd October.

Nasal Flu Vaccine – Friday 3rd October:

The immunisation team will be in school next week on Friday 3rd October 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.

School Photographer – Tuesday 14th October:

We will have a professional photographer in school on this date. If your child has any siblings who do not attend Holy Name, then you are welcome to bring them to school at **8.30am** to be photographed together. Individual photographs and photos of groups of siblings who attend Holy Name will take place in school during the day.

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**.

CAFOD Live Simply Award:

We are pleased to announce that we started working towards achieving the Live Simply Award.

The Live Simply Award, which is coordinated by CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is presented to schools who demonstrate they are living simply, living sustainably, and living in solidarity with the world's poorest communities.



During our Live Simply journey, we will be taking faith inspired actions that support our school & local communities and our global sisters and brothers too. We will share updates on our school website. The Catholic School Council will write to you soon with further updates!

Y6 Alton Castle Day Retreat:

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. 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!



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 at the end of October!**

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

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 holynam.bham@rcaob.org.uk

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](#)

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.

Parent Consultation Appointments:

This term's parent consultation meetings will be taking place **in the school hall** on **Monday 13th** and **Wednesday 15th October** between **3.30pm** and **5.45pm**. Our classrooms will be open for you to view your child's work.

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.**

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:
Wednesday 1 st October	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am
Wednesday 8 th October	Harvest Mass: Whole school in school hall at 9.15am
Wednesday 15 th October	NO MASS
Wednesday 22 nd October	Y3 and Y6 joining the parish for mass in church at 11.30am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Tuesday 30 th September	Y3/4 Tri-golf 3.15 – 4.15pm PTA Meeting (online) 6.30pm
Wednesday 1 st October	Reception Welcome Prayer Service (in the school hall) at 2.30pm (parents are invited)
Thursday 2 nd October	Y5/6 Netball Club 3.15 – 4.15pm

Date:	Information:
Friday 3 rd October	Nasal Flu Vaccinations in school Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Tuesday 7 th October	Y3/4 Tri-golf 3.15 – 4.15pm Reception Parents' Reading Workshop at 2.30pm in school hall
Thursday 9 th October	Y5/6 Netball Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 10 th October	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Monday 13 th October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 5.45pm in school hall
Tuesday 14 th October	School photographer in school Y3/4 Tri-golf 3.15 – 4.15pm
Wednesday 15 th October	Parents' Evening 3.35 – 5.45pm in school hall
Thursday 16 th October	Y5/6 Netball Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 17 th October	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Thursday 23 rd October	PTA MONSTER BALL 5.30 – 6.30pm: Reception, Y1, Y2 6.45 – 7.45pm: Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6
Friday 24 th October	Last day in school for pupils for this half term
Half Term Break:	Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

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.

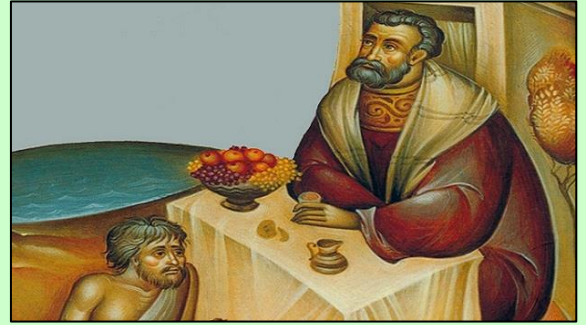
Mass at Holy Name Church:

Saturday 12.30pm

**Sunday 8.30am
and 10.30am**

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31



In this Sunday's gospel, a rich man wears fine clothes and feasts every day on the best food he can get. He has more than he needs. Lazarus sits outside the rich man's gate. He is poor and he is hungry. He wishes that he could eat the leftovers from the rich man's table.

Does the rich man do anything to help Lazarus?

How do you think Lazarus feels about being ignored while the rich man eats his tasty food?

What do you think the rich man should do? What would you do?

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

God created the world with enough food for everyone. But we are not sharing fairly. Some of us have more food than we can eat, like the rich man. Some of us go to bed hungry, like Lazarus. How does hearing this make you feel?

What do you think we can do to make sure everyone has enough to eat?

Every person in the world is special and loved by God. And every person in our big global family has the right to enough food for a healthy life. People might be hungry because they aren't able to grow food, or they don't have enough money to buy food. Sometimes farmers cannot afford the seeds they need. Sometimes storms or floods destroy their harvest.

Hunger is a big problem. And it's not easy to solve. Sometimes we ignore problems, hoping they will go away. The rich man in Jesus' story is a bit like this. He ignores the fact that Lazarus is hungry, even though Lazarus is right outside his gate.

God asks us not to ignore each other, but to help one another. Together, we can solve problems.

Our Catholic Mission:

How can we share what we have so that all our sisters and brothers have enough food?

Prayer:

Generous God,

thank you for creating this world with enough food for all to share.

Help us to play our part in making sure that all people can have their fair share of food to eat.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy