

October 2026

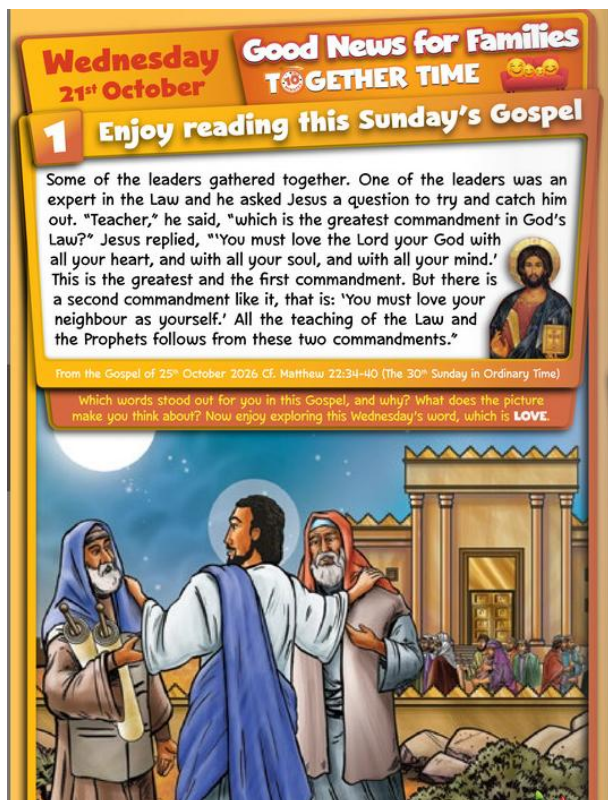
ST PATRICK AND ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

SHINE TOGETHER IN CHRIST



NEWSLETTER

Head of School Mrs Lauren Breslin – Catholic Life and Mission



This week's Wednesday Word focuses on Jesus' example of **showing love** through kindness, patience, forgiveness and respect for others. It reminds us that love is more than words and should be demonstrated through our **everyday actions**.

You can read this week's Wednesday Word here:

[Messenger - Magazine - Page 2](#)

Parent Survey Feedback

Thank you to all parents who completed the survey. **If you noted you would like to help with reading**, please contact the school. The survey was anonymous and we forgot to ask you for your contact details! Sorry about that.

You said:

- You would like regular reminders about what is happening in school
- More notice for events such as a change of clothes day
- More information about the attendance process
- Longer with the teacher
- You liked tasting the food our Chef Arthur cooks for your children

We have:

- Started sending out a weekly home school flyer about the week ahead.

We plan to:

- Provide a half termly flyer with all key dates for the half term so you can put in on your fridge.
- Add a few more minutes to the next consultation afternoon for your appointments.

Our SHINE Assembly

Today, we held our **SHINE Assembly**, celebrating the achievements and successes of our children and recognising their hard work, positive attitudes and personal growth. Pupils received awards, including certificates, in recognition of how they demonstrated our school's SHINE values: **Success, Honesty, Innovation, Nurture and Excellence**. It was wonderful to welcome parents and families who joined us to celebrate their children's accomplishments!



Attendance

Lateness to School

Do You Know? Persistent Lateness Can Lead to the Same Legal Consequences as Persistent Absence

Our school statistics for lateness:

- 26 families are close to threshold
- 9 families are on Notice to Improve
- 106 children have been late this term
 - 400 total lates this term

What happens if my child is regularly late?

- Each morning you are late we will ask why you are late and if you need any help getting to school on time. We will always work with families first and offer support, including our **FREE Breakfast Club**.
- We will message you with the number of lates your child had so you know when you are close to 10.
- If a child receives **10 unauthorised late marks after the register has closed**, the school must begin the formal attendance process.
- This may include a **6-week Notice to Improve**, attendance monitoring and support meetings. If attendance or punctuality does not improve, **Birmingham City Council may issue a Penalty Notice**.





Penalty Notice Summary - Per Parent, Per Child

● First Penalty Notice

- £80 if paid within 21 days
- £160 if paid within 28 days

● Second Penalty Notice (within 3 years)

- £160 (must be paid within 28 days)

● Further Offences (within 3 years)

- May result in prosecution through the Magistrates' Court.
- Fine of £1000 per child, per parent, plus legal fees and expenses of our EWO.

Support first. Legal action last.

If you are struggling to get your child to school on time, please speak to us as soon as possible. Together, we can find solutions and ensure every child is in school, on time and ready to learn.

Every day counts. Every minute counts. ☀️



Late Collection

School Finishing Times

- Rosebery Street site: 3:15pm
- Dudley Road site: 3:25pm

Please ensure your child is collected promptly at the end of the school day.

If a child has not been **collected within 15 minutes** of the end of the school day and we have been unable to contact a parent or emergency contact, the school may make a referral to Children's Services in line with our safeguarding procedures.

A £5 fine will be added to your account. This must be paid before your child can access clubs, trips and visits.

Repeated late collections (three or more occasions) will be recorded on your child's safeguarding file.

Being collected late can be upsetting and distressing for children, who may become worried when the adult collecting them does not arrive on time. We therefore ask all families to ensure that children are collected promptly at the end of each school day.



GOOD ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



Every school day counts



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

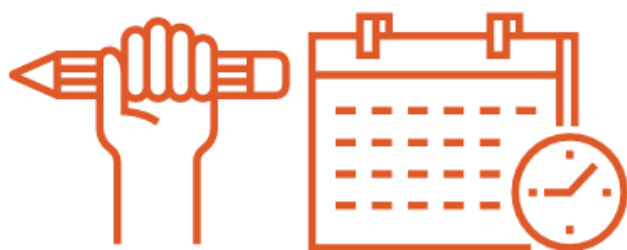
Why is regular school attendance and good punctuality so important for my child?

Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life. School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships.

The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear. The more a child is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Good punctuality is important. For example, if a child arrives 15 minutes late at school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education over the year. Good punctuality also helps your child get into good habits for when they enter the world of work.

Lateness can cause your child embarrassment and, in some circumstances, can count as unauthorised absence.



How can I help my child enjoy school and attend regularly?

Be organised, have a plan, be consistent and involve your child!

You should:

- ensure they have an appropriate bedtime routine
- create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually and are properly equipped;
- avoid absence from school wherever possible – try to make doctors and dental appointments out of school hours
- make time to encourage and show interest in school work, friendships etc.
- attend school open evenings and functions
- Create a calm space for them to do homework, check they understand the homework and that it has been completed.
- share any education concerns your child or you may have with the school staff as soon as possible
- set realistic boundaries

Holidays/Leave in term time

Holidays in term time are not allowed. Parents/carers must apply for the authorisation of any leave prior to travel or their children could be reported to the council as missing in education.

Leave for other circumstances such as bereavement or family illness abroad may also not be authorised. Informing the school does not mean the leave is agreed. In the event of a genuine family emergency, parents should avoid requesting more than 5 school days absence. Leave due to weddings is unlikely to be authorised.

Two weeks unauthorised holiday/leave means at least 50 lessons missed that will never be repeated.



What does the law say I must do as a parent/carer?

Once your child is registered at a school, you are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. This means your child should not have any unauthorised absence as this would constitute an offence in law.

When attendance doesn't improve after support or, when a minimum of 5 days unauthorised holiday/leave is taken, legal action can be taken.

Courts can fine parents/carers up to £1,000 per child and for repeat offences the court can fine parents/carers up to £2,500 per child or impose a prison sentence of up to 3 months.

In many cases, but not all, parents/carers can discharge an offence by paying a penalty notice of £160 for each parent per child, discounted to £80 if paid within 21 days. For a family of two parents/carers with 3 children that would be at least £480.

Where can I get help and advice?

If you need support in relation to your child's attendance, help is available. Please make an appointment with the school to discuss your concerns.

Most difficulties can be resolved informally, but the staff can also arrange an early help assessment or make a request for support to Birmingham Children's Trust if necessary, with your consent.

School nurses can also be helpful if your child has a medical condition or has a lot of time off due to illness.

Parents/carers are strongly advised to work in partnership with the school to address any difficulties impacting school attendance. For more information about school attendance or if you need help or support, please use these links:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/saap

www.birmingham.gov.uk/love



Catholic Social Teaching

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2 2026



Faith filled and Hopeful

Faith filled, trusting in God's love; and hopeful, bringing light to a brighter future for all.



Pray it

Linking Faith filled and Hopeful to prayers of the Church and the Liturgical Season.



Explore it

Linking Faith filled and Hopeful to scripture, the teachings of the Church, Pope Leo XIV and the Saints.



Live it

Linking Faith filled and Hopeful to the way we can choose to live our lives to serve God and to bring hope to others.



PRAYING TOGETHER THIS SEASON

- **In November, we pray to remember.**
As we mark All Saints' and All Souls' Day, we give thanks for those who have shown us faith, courage and love. We ask God to help us grow in faith and to keep our hope alive, even in difficult times.
- **Research the O Antiphons, especially O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn) –**
we ask Jesus to be the light that brings hope to our world.
- **We pray for light in the darkness.**
As we prepare for Advent, each candle on the Advent wreath helps us to grow in faith and hope, as we learn more about bringing light, kindness and encouragement to others.
- **We remember to pray for peace and joy.**
As Christmas draws near, we ask that what we have learned this term helps us to share God's love and hope with the people around us.
- **Pray the examen with students. You could reflect on:**
 - Where have I seen God's presence today?
 - What has given me hope today?
 - Have my words and actions encouraged others or brought light to their day?
 - How can I live out my faith more fully tomorrow?



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13



SCRIPTURE TO EXPLORE

Here are some scripture passages to explore as a family. They remind us how to be faith filled and hopeful, even when life is challenging.



Matthew 5:1-12

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The Beatitudes encourage us to trust in God, to show kindness and to bring hope to others, even when life is difficult.



Isaiah 40:31

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles."

This reminds us that when we trust in God, He gives us strength and hope for the journey, even in difficult times.



Matthew 28:1-10

"Do not be afraid ... He has been raised."

The resurrection of Jesus shows us that love is stronger than darkness and gives us hope for a new beginning.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ❓ What do these passages tell us about being faith filled and hopeful?
- ❓ Which verse gives you the most hope and why?
- ❓ How can we follow the example of Jesus in our everyday lives?
- ❓ What might God be asking us to do to bring hope to our families, school and community?
- ❓ How can these teachings help us when things feel difficult?



INSPIRING SAINTS



These saints show us what it means to be people of faith and hope. Their lives remind us that, with God's help, we can make a difference in our world.



St Thérèse of Lisieux

St Thérèse showed us that small, ordinary actions, done with great love, can make a big difference. She was faithful in everyday life and always trusted in God's love.

"Let us do small things with great love."

St Thérèse of Lisieux

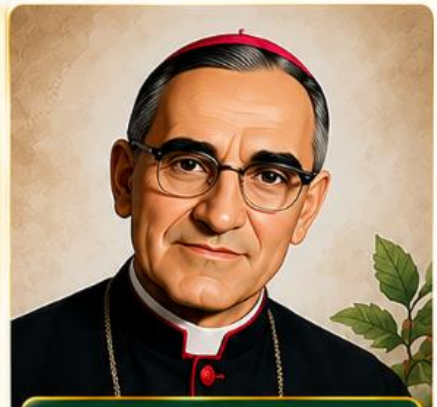


St John Henry Newman

St John Henry Newman was a faithful seeker of truth. He trusted God's plan, even when the path was difficult. He gives us hope to keep listening to God in our lives.

"Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom."

St John Henry Newman



St Oscar Romero

St Oscar Romero stood up for justice and hope for those who were poor and marginalised. He spoke with courage, showing that faith calls us to work for a fairer and kinder world.

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

St Oscar Romero

October Half-Term Family Activities

Birmingham October Half-Term Family Activities 2026

Ideas for a happy, safe and enjoyable half-term with your family!

FREE ACTIVITIES & DAYS OUT

- ★ **Surreal Shadow Creatures**
MAC Birmingham (B12/B13), Tue 27 Oct, 10am–12pm or 1–3pm.
Ages 3+. Free drop-in puppetry and shadow-creature making.
- ★ **Family Nature & Halloween Activities**
Kings Heath (B14), Sat 31 Oct, 10am–12pm.
Leaf art, autumn mandalas, pumpkin printing and nature discovery.
Check organiser details.
- ★ **Lapworth Museum of Geology**
University of Birmingham (B15). Free general admission; dinosaurs, fossils, rocks and natural history. Check opening times.
- ★ **Halloween Heads**
New Art Gallery Walsall, 27–31 Oct, 10am–4pm.
Free drop-in spooky/silly character-head art.
- ★ **Warrior Arm Bands**
New Art Gallery Walsall, Wed 28 Oct, 11am–3pm, ages 4+.
- ★ **Cradley Library**
Dudley area, 26–31 Oct, 11am–2pm. Free children's activities; check daily programme.
- ★ **Family Hub Halloween Activities**
Walsall and Wednesbury. Spooky play, crafts and autumn activities; booking may be required.
- ★ **Dudley Museum at the Archives**
Free general admission; local history, fossils and geology; check opening times.
- ★ **RSPB Sandwell Valley**
West Bromwich. Wildlife spotting and birdwatching; some activities/parking may cost extra.
- ★ **Sandwell Museums**
Family crafts, creative sessions and local history at venues including Oak House and Haden Hill House.

FREE FAMILY PERFORMANCES

Noori and Her Fantastical World

Family dance-theatre touring Birmingham libraries.
Confirm dates, times and booking with organiser.

- ★ **Handsworth Library (B21)** — Sat 24 Oct
- ★ **Selly Oak Library (B29)** — Mon 26 Oct
- ★ **Northfield Library (B31)** — Tue 27 Oct
- ★ **Hall Green / South Yardley** — Tue 27 Oct
- ★ **Shard End Library (B34)** — Wed 28 Oct
- ★ **Yardley Wood Library (B14)** — Thu 29 Oct
- ★ **Perry Common Library (B23)** — Fri 30 Oct
- ★ **Ward End Library (B8)** — Sat 31 Oct

HALLOWEEN & PAID ATTRACTIONS

- ★ **Cadbury World, Bournville**
Halloween entertainment, chocolate attractions and seasonal activities. Check prices/tickets.
- ★ **Thinktank Science Museum (B4)**
Hands-on science; look for Magic Mayhem Science Show and Halloween events.
- ★ **LEGOLAND Discovery Centre (B16)**
Halloween LEGO challenges and indoor family activities.
- ★ **National SEA LIFE Centre (B1)**
Sharks, rays, penguins and underwater ocean tunnel.
- ★ **Birmingham Botanical Gardens (B15)**
Check for seasonal family activities.
- ★ **West Midlands Police Museum (B4)**
Look for family mystery and Halloween activities.
- ★ **Disney On Ice, Solihull**
Disney characters, music and skating; check performance dates.

USEFUL LINKS

- ★ **Visit Birmingham**
visitbirmingham.com/whats-on/half-term-in-birmingham/
- ★ **Birmingham Museums**
birminghammuseums.org.uk
- ★ **MAC Birmingham**
macbirmingham.co.uk
- ★ **Birmingham Libraries**
birmingham.gov.uk

Please check dates, opening times, age suitability and booking before travelling. Free admission may not include special workshops or seasonal events.

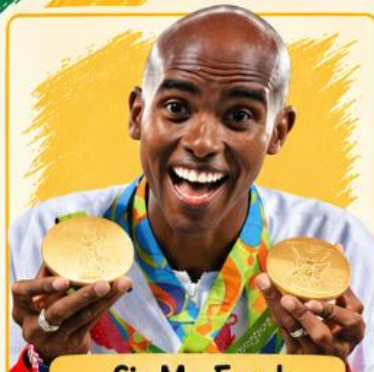
Wishing all our families a happy, safe and enjoyable October half-term!

Black History Month



Black History Week

During Black History Week, our children have explored inspirational black icons through artwork. They have learnt about the lives and achievements of remarkable people and used colour, pattern and different artistic techniques to celebrate their stories.



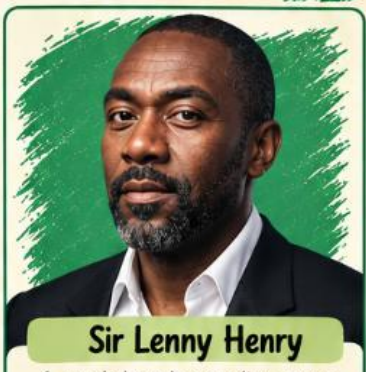
Sir Mo Farah

A world-famous long-distance runner who showed hard work, perseverance and determination. He inspires us to never give up and to always do our best.



Dr Mae Jemison

The first black woman to travel into space. She inspires us to be curious, to follow our dreams and to believe that anything is possible.



Sir Lenny Henry

A much-loved comedian, actor, writer and campaigner who uses his platform to promote equality and to support important causes. He inspires us to use our talents to make a positive difference and to stand up for what is right.



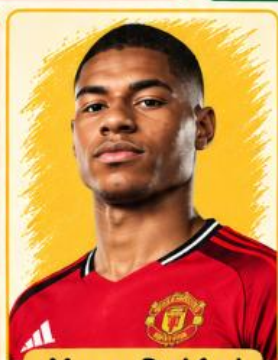
Mary Seacole

A nurse who cared for soldiers during the Crimean War. She showed courage, kindness and determination in the face of many challenges. She inspires us to help and care for others.



Ella Fitzgerald

A legendary singer known as the "First Lady of Song". She shared her incredible talent with the world and inspired many people through her music, hard work and joy.



Marcus Rashford

A professional footballer who uses his platform to help others, especially children. He inspires us to stand up for what is right and to work for a fairer society.



Benjamin Zephaniah

A poet, writer and performer who used his words to celebrate culture, challenge injustice and give a voice to others. He inspires us to be brave, to speak up and to value who we are.

Reception enjoyed learning about Marcus Rashford during Black History Week. We learnt how he helps children and families. We explored the importance of kindness, fairness and helping others.



Year 3 explored the life and achievements of Sir Lenny Henry, learning how he has inspired others through comedy, acting and charity work. Inspired by Pop Art, the children experimented with bold colours, repeated images and printing techniques to create vibrant portraits celebrating his personality and achievements.



Cultural Heritage Day

Today, our school came together to celebrate **Cultural Heritage Day**, recognising the rich diversity of cultures, traditions and backgrounds within our school community. Pupils and staff had the opportunity to celebrate their identities, share their heritage and appreciate the different cultures that make our school so special.



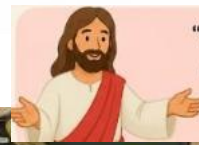
Nursery and Reception enjoyed coming into school dressed in their cultural clothing.



Harvest Service



Harvest Donations



"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



October Prayer



Dates for Your Diary

October		
1 st October	6PAU/3RAY	Mass-6PAU/3RAY 10am St Patrick's Church
8 th October	5FES/1THO	Mass- 5FES/1THO 10am St Patrick's Church
9 th October	All	World Mental Health Day – wear something yellow
13 th October- children finish early	All	Parent Consultation Afternoon 1pm–5pm (children finish at 12:50pm at Infants and 1:00pm at Juniors)
	Y3 & Y6	Sacramental Commitment Mass 10:00am St Patrick's Church (Date to be confirmed)
19 th October	All	Black History Week
22 nd October	All	Interhouse Competitions
23 rd October	All	Cultural Heritage Day – children dress in clothes that reflect their culture

November		
1 st November	All	National non-fiction November – highlights the joy of reading facts.
5 th November	6PAU/2HOJ	Mass-6PAU/2HOJ
11 th November	All	Remembrance Day
16 th November	All	Red week - Aid to the church in need /Anti-bullying week Odd Sock Day
18 th November	All	Red Wednesday- staff and children to wear red
20 th November	EYFS	Ballet live lesson EYFS The Magic Flute 10.45am



		St Edmund's Feast Day
27 th November		St Chad's retreat day (Sacramental preparation)

December

10 th December		Visiting Pantomime- Aladdin
11 th December	All	Christmas Fair
14 th December	EYFS/KS1	11:00am EYFS Nativity + Families 2:30pm KS1 Nativity + Families
15 th December	KS2	2:45pm KS2 Carol Service/Peri Concert + Families
16 th December		Festive Jumper Day Christmas Dinner at St Edmund's Site
	St Elizabeth Centre	A gentle Christmas journey-St Elizabeth Centre-Nativity for parents-2:00pm
18 th December	All	Whole School Mass/ Carol Service- Bambinelli Blessing Class Christmas Party End of term finish 1:30pm



Academic Year 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term 2026	Spring Term 2027	Summer Term 2027
Wednesday 2 nd September to Friday 23 rd October	Tuesday January to Friday 12 th February	Monday 12 th April to Friday 28 th May
Half Term	Half Term	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November to Friday 18 th December (1:30pm Finish)	Monday 22 nd February to Thursday 25 th March (1:30pm Finish)	Monday 7 th to Friday 17 th July (1:30pm Finish)
Christmas Break	Easter Break	Summer Break

INSET Days:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

**Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st July
2027**

Please make sure you do not book holidays during term time. We are unable to grant permission for absences under these circumstances.

