



16th September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Gospel Virtues

We begin this academic year with a focus on being **COMPASSIONATE** and **LOVING** as we seek to live out Gospel Virtues. Pupils will be learning about and praying for these virtues in their liturgies. Staff will be looking out for pupils who are living these virtues and will be awarding wristbands accordingly.

Mass - how important is it in your family life? - a note from Mrs Noble-Barton

Now that the summer is behind us and we are back into the swing of normal family life, it is time to reflect on the place that Mass holds in our precious and busy weekends. During our whole school Mass today I was struck by how 'lost' some pupils seemed; they were trying to follow the Mass, participate in gestures and join in with responses but their lack of exposure to the Mass was evident. Upon ministering Holy Communion I was astounded at the number of pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 who didn't know that 'Amen' was the required response to 'Body of Christ'.

Of course, teaching pupils about the Mass is part of the R.E. curriculum at school and part of the programme of Liturgy and Collective Worship offered from us here. However, parents are children's first educators and their first role models of faith and so the importance and reverence placed on Mass by parents is of paramount importance.

Mass is the central prayer of our faith and the greatest gift left to us by Jesus. As a busy, working mother I understand the demands on your time. I implore you to make Mass the central, 'non-negotiable' appointment in your weekend. The nourishment and love which your family will gain will be invaluable.

Please find below the times of weekend Masses at many local parishes:

Parish	Mass Times
St Nicholas, Boldmere	Saturday - 6pm Sunday - 9am & 11am
Holy Trinity, Four Oaks	Saturday - 6pm Sunday - 9am & 11am & 6pm
Holy Cross, Walmley	Saturday - 6pm Sunday - 8.30am & 10.30am
Erdington Abbey	Saturday - 6pm Sunday - 8am & 9.15am & 10.30am & 12 noon & 6pm
St Peter and St Paul, Erdington	Saturday - 5pm Sunday - 9.30am
Christ the King, Kingstanding	Sunday - 10am
Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale	Saturday - 6pm Sunday - 11.30am
St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham	Sunday - 9.30am & 11.30am

'In an ever-changing world, the Holy Eucharist is a constant reminder of the great reality of God's changeless love.' Mother Teresa.

Photographs

Official class photographs will be taken on Friday 23/9. Photographers will return to do individual shots on Tuesday 1st November.

Bank Holiday - Monday 19th September

We hold the Royal Family in our prayers as they prepare for the state funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II. First and foremost she was a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and so we ask the Lord to send comfort to her relatives and to all families affected by bereavement.

As per the directive from the Department for Education, St Nicholas will be closed on Monday 19th September as a mark of respect.

Unfortunately this delays our Reception class' first full day in school but we look forward to welcoming them (and all pupils!) into school on Tuesday.

Thank you!

On Tuesday 13th, the school came together in support of 'Sepsis Awareness Day'. We have close links to UK Sepsis Trust through Brian Davies, one of our parents and we thank you for helping this great cause.

So far the money raised is £108. It's not too late to donate - money can be given via the school office.

A note on charitable giving..part of the Catholic life and mission of our school will always be to support those in need, the weak, vulnerable or marginalised. However, we appreciate that times are tight for most families due to economic pressures. If you ever feel financially unable to donate or participate in any event, please don't, your child will never be penalised or prevented from participating.

Achievement Assembly

There will be an assembly at 2.45pm on Friday 23rd September in the school hall. You will be contacted via Parentmail beforehand if your child is receiving a certificate. Please note that we will endeavour not to 'roll over' certificates where possible this year as this creates a backlog. Thank you.

Bishop Walsh Open Evening

Bishop Walsh Catholic School will be holding its annual open evening on Wednesday 21st September between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. This is an opportunity for Y6 pupils & their parents to tour the school, meet staff & pupils and view activities from different departments. This is an important part of deciding on the next educational step for your child.

Twitter

Twitter is a wonderful platform for us to share news, photos and achievements with you. In order to ensure that we use Twitter as safely as possible, we vet all 'follower requests' and only allow trusted individuals or organisations to follow us. We currently have quite a few outstanding follower requests which we haven't confirmed because the Twitter handle doesn't tell us who the person is/which child they relate to. If you have requested to follow us (@StNicholasCP) and we haven't confirmed, please drop an email to enquiry@ telling us what your Twitter handle is. Thank you.

'Bring and borrow' adult book exchange

As part of our growing reading culture at St Nicholas, we will be having a 'bring and borrow' adult book exchange where you can donate any unwanted adult books and borrow one of interest to you.

It will be hugely beneficial for your child if you can show them that you enjoy and value the importance of reading too!

There will be a box in the front office for any initial donations and the exchange will be up and running from the beginning of October.

Reading homework

Only for children who do not take part in the Read Write Inc. phonics programme.

Each week, your child will be assigned reading homework by their class teacher. This will be linked to their learning in English, Science, History or Geography. ***Please watch the video which explains how to access, complete and submit your child's reading homework using Purple Mash. Your child can use the PDF annotator if they wish and this will need to be saved in the same way.***

<https://youtu.be/BcrncZb5shQ>

Word of the month

To support your child's vocabulary development, St Nicholas will be introducing a 'word of the month'. To kickstart the initiative, we are inviting your child to suggest a word that they would like the whole school to explore, learn and use in their speaking and writing. Examples of potential words are: enchanted, phenomenal, tranquil, mesmerising, arduous, intriguing, concealed, prestigious. Please hand your suggestions to Miss Smith by **Wednesday 28th September**. The reading ambassadors will select from the entries and October's word of the month will be revealed in our Celebration assembly on Friday 30th September.

Dates for your diary

Friday 23/9	Official class photographs being taken
Monday 26/9	Early Reading/Phonics Meeting at 9am
Friday 30/9	Macmillan coffee morning / Reception parents' meet up
Monday 3/10	KS2 + Y2 reading meeting at 9am
19th & 20th Oct	Parents' evenings
Friday 21/10	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
W/c 24/10	Half term
Tuesday 1/11	Individual photographs

God bless,

Mr Porter
Executive Principal

Mrs Noble-Barton
Head of School



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

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