

Last day of term before Christmas



Our last day of term is Wednesday December 20th, and school will finish at 1.30pm, following our recent parent consultation and agreement from governors.

It is important that the routines and expectations surrounding this change are made clear from the outset, therefore we ask that you please note the following points carefully:

- All classes will be registered at 1.20pm and dismissed from the hall in the usual way at 1.30pm.
- Please do not arrive early at the office, requesting for your child to leave before lunch. Afternoon absence will not be authorised.
- It is important that all families attend school for the half day. If registers show a dip in attendance, then the school may need to revert to a 3.30pm finish once again.

Parent/Teacher meetings

Later this month, there will be parent/teacher meetings after school. Reception and Year 6 will be holding their meetings on 28th and 29th November and the other classes will be holding their meetings on the 29th and 30th November. These meetings are very important for you. Your child's class teacher will be able to let you know about the progress they have made in each core part of the curriculum. They will also share with you the next steps which are planned for your child's learning, what their targets are and how can help at home. In turn, it is a good opportunity for you to ask questions and let the teacher know of any concerns. Appointments need to be kept to ten minutes though, otherwise there can be a terrible backlog, and parents who have later appointments can end up waiting for a long time. Ten minutes is usually enough, but if you or your child's teacher needs further time, another appointment can always be made at a later date. Sign up sheets are on the moveable whiteboard in the hall.

School Fundraising

Thank you so much for your generosity and willingness to help the school with fundraising. It always helps parents who are new to school to have an explanation of what the different voluntary funds are for:

The Governors' Fund: all church schools have one of these to help with the upkeep of the building. £30 is requested from each family per year (please see below).

Parents' Association Fund: this fund raises money through events such as cake sales, auctions, raffles, coffee mornings etc. The money raised is used to pay for events for the children throughout the year, such as the Christmas entertainment and First Communion Breakfast. It is also used for 'extra projects' agreed between the PA and the school, such as the new sound system, furniture, play equipment and books for class libraries.

The Newman Fund: this is our brand new school charity, which is currently being set up and a bank account opened. It is a time consuming and detailed process but we hope it will be completed within the next few weeks. The Newman Fund will allow parents to give a regular amount by direct debit, or bank transfer. This money will be used by the school to pay for ongoing expenses such as the hire of St Luke's park for lunchtime play. Your contribution to the Newman Fund will allow the school's government funding to stretch further in providing for staffing and equipment. We will let you know as soon as you can begin contributing to this fund.

Governors' fund

Contributions towards the Governors' Fund are now due. This is an annual request from the governors who invite parents to make a donation towards the upkeep of the school building. As a voluntary aided school, the governors pay for a proportion of the cost of building works from the governors' fund. Recently, for example, the redecoration to the hall was paid for from the governors' fund. The governors suggest a voluntary contribution of £30 per family per year. Contributions may be given to the school office and **cheques should be made payable to "The Oratory Primary School"**. The Governors' Fund is a registered charity with The Oratory Church and as such we have Gift Aid forms in the office which parents can sign. This is an easy way of making your contribution go further and you only need to sign the gift aid declaration once. We would be most grateful if Governors' Fund contributions could be received before the end of this half term.

Mini Explorers in Year 1



Year 1 have been having a wonderful time being explorers in their class role play area this week, as part of their 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers' topic on animals. They have even been making their own fossils!