

Newsletter

Autumn Term: 10th October 2025



The
ORATORY
RC PRIMARY
School

We work together, we play together, we laugh together, we pray together.

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to catch up with so many of you at our wonderful PTA social last night and huge thanks of course to all those brilliant parents that worked so hard to make the event such a success. We have thoroughly enjoyed our Autumn Eco week and the children all looked fantastic in their autumnal outfits today. Next week is the start of our Poetry Fortnight which the children are very much looking forward to – especially their poetry workshops...read on for more details. Have a wonderful weekend!

With my very best wishes,
Mrs Steinart

Upcoming dates

October

13 Oct Poetry Fortnight begins
20 Oct Y1 & Y5 Class Family Mass 2.15pm
22 Oct Parent Forum 10am
24 Oct Half Term 3.30pm

November

3 Nov Inset Day (no children)
4 Nov Children return
7 Nov Y6 Class Remembrance Assembly 9.15am
7 Nov Y5 Cake Sale

November (cont.)

10 Nov Friendship Week
10 Nov Odd Socks Day!
13 Nov Spirituality Day
13 Nov PTA Fundraising Social club night
17 Nov Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale 8.30am
18 Nov Y6 & Reception Class Family Mass 2.15pm
19 & 20 Nov Parents' Evening
21 Nov Glass Door pyjama & hot choc fundraising day

December

2 Dec Christmas Fair in hall 3.30pm
11 & 12 Dec Infant Nativity 2pm
16 Dec Junior Carol Service 7pm
18 Dec Children's Day (Christmas party)
19 Dec End of term 1.30pm

Please note: these dates do not include school trips. Please check on classlist, and in your child's bag, for other letters and announcements

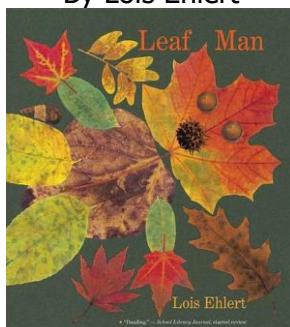
This week's theme: Autumn Eco Week

This week in assemblies we have looked at the theme of Autumn. We spoke about what happens during the season of Autumn and learnt about what different animals do during Autumn. We then said some special prayers thanking God for the changing seasons and the beauty of Autumn. The children enjoyed one of my favourite Autumn stories and are going to enjoy making their own 'leaf characters' when they're next out and about in nature. We also made some special Oratory Eco Promises, thinking about we can be good and sustainable stewards of God's Creation.

Story of the Week

Leaf Man

By Lois Ehlert



Music of the Week

Autumn from the Four Seasons

By Antonio Vivaldi



Art of the Week

Autumn Leaves

By Georgia O'Keefe



Eco Workshops

The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our exciting Eco workshops this week. The Junior classes had a fantastic time learning about how we can care for our oceans and put their knowledge into action by creating beautiful cork fish using recycled materials - a wonderful combination of sustainability and art. Meanwhile, the Infant classes designed and built their very own bug hotels, which will be proudly placed on our roof playground, ready to welcome a whole host of insects!



Special Occasions & Healthy Schools

Whilst we understand that birthdays are a special time and the children quite rightly love to celebrate with their friends, we kindly remind parents to please follow our school policy by not bringing cakes or sweet treats into school. Not only are we a healthy school, we also have a number of children with allergies that need to be carefully managed.

If you'd like to celebrate your child's birthday with a cake, you are more than welcome to share them with classmates after school at St Luke's.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Poetry Workshops

As our Poetry Fortnight will be starting next week, all classes will be taking part in some fantastic poetry workshops next Thursday based on this year's National Poetry Day theme: Playing with Poetry.

Poetry is nothing if not playful – because, rooted in the imagination, poetry is simply playing with words! And Playing with Poetry will allow the children to experience for themselves the power and ease of playing with language.

The day will culminate in a whole school assembly where every class will perform their poems together. No doubt it will be a wonderful day of poetry for the children!

Please log onto your [ParentPay](#) account to contribute towards the cost of the workshops.

Many thanks!

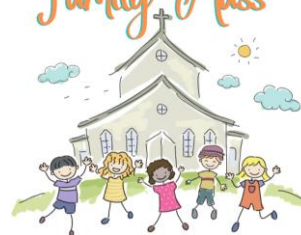
Pupil Chaplaincy Team

Congratulations to our newly formed Pupil Chaplaincy Team, chosen by our Year 6 RE prefects for their fantastic application letters about how they can lead the spiritual life of the school. We know you are going to do a superb job!



Y1 & Y5 Family Mass

Family Mass



We are looking forward to celebrating our first Family Mass of the year on Monday 20th October at 2.15pm in the school hall. We warmly invite all families of children in Year 1 and Year 5 to celebrate this special mass with us. The children will be leading the liturgy, including choosing their favourite hymns!

Year 6 Class Saint St John Henry Newman



We celebrated the Feast of St John Henry Newman in assembly yesterday, learning all about his wonderful motto '*cor ad cor loquitor*' (*heart speaks to heart*) and reflecting on what service we can undertake as Christians.

Children's Mass



There will be the Children's Mass this Sunday at 11:15 at the Little Oratory. The children's Mass is dedicated for the children of the Oratory Primary School so please join us as a whole family! The Little Oratory is through the red doors on side of car park at the Brompton Oratory Church.

Chaplain's Corner – Fr James

On 9th October, we keep the feast of St John Henry Newman. On 1st November, Pope Leo XIV will declare him a 'Doctor of the Church' which means that his writings have greatly contributed to our knowledge of the Faith. We ask this Saint, who founded the Oratory here in England, to pray for us all and help us to enlighten our minds that we may come to a deeper knowledge of our faith and grow in in our love for it.

Wednesday Word
[Wednesday 8th October 2025](#)

Corefulness at Oratory

This week we have started 'Corefulness' throughout the school. This consists of the children in every class taking part in a series of exercises in their classrooms for 4 minutes first thing in the morning and then again when they return to their classrooms in the afternoon. It is a series of short, simple, evidence-based exercise programmes which mature essential movement skills, help to improve a child's readiness to learn and break down barriers to learning. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their first week of participation and we are very excited for this to become a routine and embedded part of the school day.

Take a look at the Corefulness website to find out more and read about some of the many benefits for children: <https://corefulness.com/programmes/#>



Brilliantly Luminous Lemons by Art Club



Fundraising at Oratory

A reminder of the message that was sent out on Classlist this week:

Dear Parents,

I thought it would be helpful to clarify the different and crucial fundraising channels that we have as a school. Therefore, please read the important message from Fr Michael, our Chair of Governors, below and the attached document.

With many thanks as always for your much appreciated generosity and support,
Mrs Steinart

Message from Fr Michael:

The Oratory Primary Schools is a voluntary aided school, and this means that the Government contributes only 90% of our capital costs. The remaining 10% of our capital costs need to be covered by the school's foundation (the Fathers of the Oratory). Funding from the Diocese of Westminster is limited, because we are not a diocesan school. The Building Maintenance Fund (Governors' Fund) was set up to finance capital projects, above all the maintenance of the building. There is always something that needs to be repaired or renewed, and I am sure you are all aware how expensive such work can be these days, even fixing a seemingly small issue. On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to ask you for your support. If you can, please make a voluntary contribution of £100 per child and per year to our Governors' Fund. This will help us to maintain the school building in good shape.

May God bless your generosity!

Fr Michael Lang

*Please note that there is a facility on parent pay for families to make their contributions to the Building Maintenance Fund.

THE NEWMAN FUND

The **Newman Fund** is a voluntary school charity that allows parents and supporters to make regular donations (monthly or one-off) to support essential school expenses not fully covered by government funding.

- The school is small, but many of its costs (admin, internet, premises) are similar to larger schools.
- Government funding is based on pupil numbers and is increasingly tight, leading to staff reductions and cuts in curriculum resources.
- The fund helps maintain educational quality during financial constraints.

Your contributions to the Newman Fund can help us protect the quality of education and experiences we offer your children.

What Does the Newman Fund Support?

Funds raised go towards essentials such as:

- Renting St Luke's playground
- Reading books, art and science materials
- Classroom furniture and learning equipment
- Specialist music lessons
- Speech and language therapy, educational psychology services
- Subsidised school trips
- IT upgrades
- And much more to keep our school bright, enriched, and inspiring.

Last school year, thanks to your generosity, we raised just under £68,000 – an incredible boost that made a real difference.

Suggested Monthly Donations:

- £10/month funds art materials for a class for a term
- £20/month buys colouring pencils for all classes
- £50/month covers a day of Educational Psychologist support
- £100/month funds specialist music lessons for a month

Any amount you can give – big or small – truly helps.

How to Donate:

1. Complete the Voluntary Donation Form
 2. Set up a standing order or bank transfer
- You'll find all the forms and details here:

<https://www.oratory.rbkc.sch.uk/parent-involvement/>

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

This is an annual request from the Governors who invite parents to make a donation towards the upkeep of the school building. Proceeds cover specially building projects which are hard to pay for within the constraints of the school budget. Recently, for example, the school needed to approach the Governors for a contribution towards the newly installed roof floodlights, new school door and window repairs. The Governors are suggesting a voluntary contribution of £100 per family per year, but please be as generous as you can. Contributions may be given via your ParentPay account.

PTA FUNDRAISING

We appreciate that you already generously contribute to PTA fundraisers. This makes an essential difference to the school in other ways, for example, the PTA are currently helping us raise funds to enhance our rooftop playground with new equipment and refurbishments.

Thank you so much for your continued support. Your generosity ensures we can keep offering a rich, balanced, and joyful education for all our children – now and into the future.

PTA Social Evening

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us for our first PTA social event of the year last night - it was a truly wonderful evening! The hall looked absolutely beautiful, transformed into a beautiful autumn banquet and setting the perfect atmosphere for a relaxed and enjoyable evening together. It was especially lovely to chat with so many of our new families and welcome them to our Oratory family. As always, we are incredibly grateful to the brilliant parents who gave their time and generosity in setting up, clearing up and generally making the evening such a success as ever – thank you!



PTA Club Night Social & Auction!

We can't wait to see you there! Auction prizes needed – please let Markus know if you can donate any prizes, especially as this is our biggest and best fundraiser of the year for our wonderful school – thank you!

PTA CLUB NIGHT & Auction

SAVE THE DATE

13 DAY **11** MONTH **25** YEAR

Oratory RC Primary School

Parent Workshop

A reminder of the information that was sent out on Classlist explaining the brilliant Mind Parent Workshops that we have planned. Parents who attended the first one found it hugely valuable. The next one is 'Managing Behaviour' this Wednesday 15th October (online). A link to join the meeting will be sent out separately on Classlist.

Oratory Parent Mind Workshops:

Introduction to MHST:

Monday 29th September (online)

Anxiety and Mindfulness:

Wednesday 1st October (F2F)

Managing Behaviour:

Wednesday 15th October (online)

Managing Tantrums and Frustrations:

Wednesday 22nd October (online)

Sleep Hygiene:

Wednesday 12th November (F2F)

Online Safety:

Wednesday 26th November (online)

Cycle to School Week

Did you know that next week is Cycle to School Week? See how many of you can cycle (or scoot!) to school all week! Find out more information here: <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletoschoolweek/>

Year 2 Minibeast Hunt

Year 2 had a wonderful time hunting for Minibeasts in Holland Park to support their Science learning and what brilliant minibeasts they spied as well as showing The Oratory Way beautifully ... well done Year 2!



Year 1 Autumn Watch

Year 1 also had a wonderful time at Holland Park Ecology Centre for their Autumn season watch. They showed The Oratory Way from beginning to end and had a great day out as a result – well done Year 1!



What's been going on in class this week?

Year 6

Another busy and productive week in Year 6, which started with a fantastic Eco workshop that the children thoroughly enjoyed. We are looking forward to our Poetry Fortnight next week for which our focus will be World War One poetry.

English: Drafting our trickster story openings, focusing on character description and atmosphere; continuing and finishing our stories; proof-reading and editing them ready for publication.

Maths: Square numbers and cube numbers; reviewing methods of multiplication, long multiplication and solving problems with multiplication.

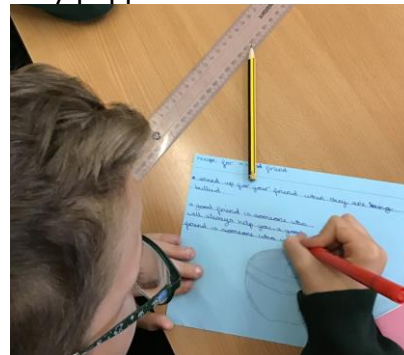
Science: drawing, building and testing circuits following scientific diagrams

RE: Reflecting on the wonder of God's Creation; reading Bible verses linked to Creation and writing our own creation poems

Latin: To understand that adjectives agree with nouns in number and gender

History: To understand how WW1 created a new type of warfare and how trenches impacted the life of soldiers

Art: To understand the purpose of installation art and plan design for clay poppies



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic week celebrating both Autumn Week and Eco Week! We started off with an exciting Eco workshop, which really got us thinking about how we can care for our environment, and we ended the week in style with our Autumn Mufti Day. Here's a glimpse of what we've been learning:

In Maths, we have been working on subtracting whole numbers with more than four digits, as well as using mental strategies for addition and subtraction. We've also practised rounding to estimate and check our answers — using both our accuracy and confidence.

In English, we concluded our class novel, *Tales from The Caribbean*, by choosing our favourite tale and turning it into a comic strip. We explored different shot types and comic features to bring our stories to life.

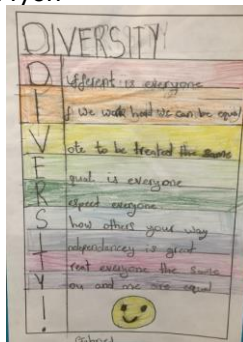
In PSHE, we continued exploring the theme of celebrating diversity. We wrote thoughtful acrostic poems and reflected on the importance of embracing what makes us unique.

In RE, we have been reflecting on how God calls us to care for creation, thinking about how we can use our God-given gifts to help others. We also looked at the example of St. Francis of Assisi, considering how we can follow in his footsteps.

In Art, we began our exciting project on Egyptian tomb paintings by selecting and transferring part of an image to start building our own artwork.

In Science, we explored the process of reproduction in plants, carefully drawing and labelling each stage of the cycle.

Have a lovely weekend, Miss Cornes, Miss Carmody and Miss Ffyon



Year 4:

Year 4 have had another wonderful week. We really enjoyed our Eco workshop on Monday and learned all about re-using and repurposing materials. We even got to make our own fish!

English: In English we have been writing our own narratives of twisted tales.

Maths: We practised addition of 4-digit numbers with exchanges.

R.E: We reflected on God's call to Moses and learned how God chose David to be king.

P.S.H.E: We discussed age restrictions and how this helps to keep us safe on the internet.

History: We learned about the structure of the Roman army and the differences between legionaries and auxiliaries.

P.E: We practised our skills and developed our teamwork through exciting handball games.

Art: We completed our Roman mosaics.

Science: We discussed the importance of evaporation and condensation as part of the water cycle.

French: We learned how to describe illnesses of different body parts in French.

Well done to all on another wonderful week. I hope you all enjoy the weekend. Miss McVeigh



Year 3:

Year 3 have had a wonderful week, starting off with a great Eco Week workshop.

This week Year 3 have learnt:

-In Maths, we have begun our topic of addition and subtraction. We have focused on our number bonds within 10 to support us with adding and subtracting 1s and 10s from 3-digit numbers.

-In English, we have focused on using our reading skills of summarising to create a blurb for The Pied Piper of Hamelin. We then used paragraphs and fronted adverbials in a retelling of the story.

-In RE, we looked at our own Godparents and thought about the importance of promises and the Baptismal Promises our parents and godparents have made for us.

-In PSHE, we thought about our emotional wellbeing and the actions we take when our feelings are heightened.

-In French, we used our knowledge of numbers to answer the question 'How old are you?'.

-In PE, we created a full-length pitch handball game. We focused on our sportsmanship.

-In Science, we looked at animal skeletons. We organised animals into vertebrates and invertebrates.

-In Art, we finished our work on our pop-up cities inspired by Barbara Gilhooly's work.



Year 2:

Year 2 have had a lovely Autumn Eco week! The children had a lovely time at Holland Park Ecology Centre where they went minibeast hunting. They also enjoyed their Eco workshop during which they learnt about different habitats and made a bug hotel for our rooftop garden. Here is what else they have been up to:

- In **Maths**, we have started our unit on 'Addition and Subtraction'. We focused on number bonds to 10 and 20 and worked to understand fact families and related facts.
- In **English**, we finished our text 'Rapunzel'. We did some debating and discussed whether Rapunzel should or should not try to escape from the tower. We then retold the story of Rapunzel using the past tense.
- In **RE**, we learnt about Daniel in the Lion's Den. We discussed how we can learn from Daniel's complete trust in God and how his faith saved him.
- In **Science**, we continued our focus on minibeasts and microhabitats with a visit to Holland Park Ecology Centre.



Year 1:

We were so proud of the children's behaviour on the school trip to Holland Park. They represented our school beautifully. This is what we have been learning this week:

English: This week we have been exploring sentence structures and focusing on our capital letters and full stops. We have been learning the order of the alphabet and reordering letter.

Maths: This week in Maths, we have been ordering numbers and pictures. We have also been using number lines to find the missing numbers. We have also been using our greater than, less than and equals to symbols to compare numbers.

Science: We have been exploring the sense of hearing. The children listened to different sounds in the environment and we sorted them into loud and quiet sounds.

Phonics: In Phonics this week we have been learning the sounds y (making the ie sound), igh and ea. We have been learning the tricky words little, down, live, give.

Religious Education: In RE we have been learning the story of Noah and the Ark. We have been learning about God's promise to us and thinking about our promises to look after the planet.

Art: In Art we have been making drawings of rainforest leaves using pastels and jungle animals after being introduced to Rousseau's 'Surprised!' painting.

Geography: In Geography we have been understanding that weather patterns are different around the world. We have been comparing Greenland, the UK and South Africa.

Have a lovely weekend, Year 1 team



Reception:

Reception have had a wonderful week of learning and have enjoyed exploring their learning in different ways.

Phonics: This week, we focused on the single sounds d,g,o,u.

Literacy: This week, we continued our class text Dogger. The children have been discussing and writing about their favourite toy.

Maths: This week, we have been learning about colour and shape patterns.

UTW: This week, we talked about the differences in toys from the past and toys in the present. We talked about what they were made of and how they were made.

PSED: This week, we focused on the emotion of happiness. We discussed what makes us happy and what our body feels when we are happy.

PD: The children practised their balancing, jumping and hopping skills in PE this week. We have also been practising cutting and name writing.

EAD: The children have been making crafts to reflect their learning of phonics sounds.

RE: This week, we focused on looking after God's world.



PUPIL OF THE WEEK & ACT OF KINDNESS

Congratulations to these children who have had an extra special week and received Pupil of the Week and Act of Kindness awards. Keep up the great work!

	Pupil of the Week	Act of Kindness
Reception	Orion	Pedro
Year 1	Tomas	Victoria
Year 2	Ludovica	Eugenia
Year 3	Justin	Sienna
Year 4	Valentina	Alvaro B
Year 5	Oscar	Patrick
Year 6	Maximus	Zelia
Special Act of Kindness		All of Year 6!

 House of the Week 	 Class of the Week 
Green House	Year 1 (For showing The Oratory Way so brilliantly on their trip this week)