

# Newsletter

Spring Term: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026



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

## Dear Parents,

A very happy new year to you all and here's to a wonderful 2026 at Oratory!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. They have come back ready and raring to go for another terrific term. We were talking in assembly this morning about how this is one of my favourite terms as it is often the one in which, with their continued focus and endeavour, the children make the biggest leaps in their learning.

We enjoyed a very special Feast of the Epiphany Mass with Fr James on Tuesday and look forward to welcoming our Year 3 families to the Year 3 Mass, followed by our First Holy Communion meeting, next Tuesday.

Just a reminder to please ensure children are wearing their full school uniform when they arrive at school. Please also ensure all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. Wishing you a lovely weekend!

**With my very best wishes,**

**Mrs Steinart**

## Upcoming dates

### January 2026

- 5 Jan** Inset Day (no children)
- 6 Jan** Children return
- 9 Jan** House of the term mufti day
- 12 Jan** Winter Week
- 13 Jan** Y3 Mass & First Communion meeting 2.15pm
- 16 Jan** Winter mufti day
- 16 Jan** Year 4 Cake Sale
- 19 Jan** Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale
- 19 Jan** Parent & Child Book share 3.45-5.30pm
- 23 Jan** Y5 Class Assembly 9.15am
- 26 Jan** STEM Week
- 26 Jan** Y2 & Y4 Family Mass 2.15pm
- 28 Jan** Parent Forum 10am
- 30 Jan** PTA Gala Breakfast! (8.30am)

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

### February

- 6 Feb** Year 3 Class Assembly 9.15am
- 9 Feb** Children's Mental Health Week
- 10 Feb** Safer Internet Day
- 13 Feb** Pupil Chaplaincy Team Lent Assembly
- 13 Feb** Year 3 Pancake Sale
- 13 Feb** Half Term 3.30pm
- 23 Feb** Children return
- 24 Feb** Individual & sibling photos
- 25 Feb** Y6 SATs & School Journey Meeting 3.45pm

### March

- 2 March** Book Week
- 5 March** World Book Dress Up Day
- 16 March** Coffee Morning & uniform sale in hall 8.30am
- 18 March** Spring Music Concert: 2pm Infants, 2.30pm Juniors
- 24 March** Y4 Easter Assembly 9.15am
- 25 March** Y5 Easter Assembly 9.15am
- 26 March** Y6 Easter Assembly 9.15am
- 27 March** End of term 1.30pm

## This week's theme: EPIPHANY

In assemblies this week we have looked at the theme of the Epiphany to celebrate the very special feast day on Tuesday. We listened to the story of the Wise Men and then thought about how, just like the Wise Men followed the star, we can follow Jesus through our actions. The children gave excellent suggestions of how they can show kindness.

We also looked and discussed different artists interpretations of the Epiphany.

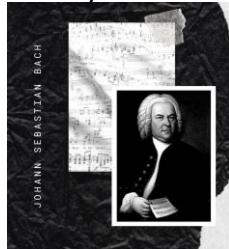
### **Story of the Week**

*The Wise Men*  
Matthew 2:1-12



### **Music of the Week**

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
By Bach



### **Art of the Week**

*Reliquary of the Journey and Adoration of the Magi,*  
Circa 1200



# Fun in the sprinkling of snow!

Year 3 had a wonderful few minutes enjoying the seasonal weather to inspire their writing in English. Perfect timing as they are focusing on very cold settings!



## HAPPY FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY!



## Parent and Child Bookshare

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January, Parents are invited to come into classrooms with their children to look at exercise books. This is an excellent opportunity to talk to your child about what they are learning, what they enjoy and what they find challenging. Please collect your children as usual at 3.30pm, then enter through the side playground from 3.45pm onwards. Please only look at your own child's books. We will be unable to admit those arriving after 5pm.

## Judaism Workshops

On Monday and Tuesday, we will be welcoming Ruth Jampel back to school to carry out her wonderful Judaism workshops which the children always thoroughly enjoy and learn a huge amount in. Please log onto Parent Pay where you will be able to pay for the workshops.

Thank you!

## Children's Mass

There will be a children's Mass this Sunday at 11:15 at the Little Oratory.

### Year 4 Cake Sale

Year 4 will be holding a cake sale from 3.30pm in the school hall next Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

Come along and get a tasty treat ... yum yum!



### Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale



We will be having a coffee morning and uniform sale on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January from 8.30am and look forward to seeing those that can make it there!

### Year 5 Class Assembly

We look forward to welcoming all Year 5 parents to our Year 5 class assembly on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 9.15am**.

It is sure to be an amazing Ancient Egyptian spectacle!

### Year 3 Class Mass & First Holy Communion Meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2.15pm



On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm, we will be celebrating the Year 3 Class Mass which will then be followed by a meeting about First Holy Communion arrangements.

### Wednesday Word

[Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026](#)

### Chaplain's Corner – Fr James

Sunday is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is also commemorated on the Epiphany, for it too is an 'epiphany' (manifestation), of Christ's identity. While He manifested His Divinity privately to the shepherds and the magi, He now manifests it to the crowds, inaugurating His public ministry. At His Baptism, we learn that Our Lord is God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity made man, and that by our baptism, we are inserted into His unique loving filial relationship with God the Father, through the Holy Spirit.

### Winter Mufti Day

Next week will be our 'Winter Week' and so to celebrate the theme we will have our Winter Mufti Day next Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January. The children may wear their own clothes and even better if they get into the theme of 'winter' perhaps with colours of blue & white.

We ask parents to make a donation for the mufti day on [ParentPay](#)



# What's been going on in class this week?

## Year 6

It has been a wonderful week back in Year 6! The children warmly welcomed Mr. Alton and demonstrated their excellent attitudes towards learning. It will be an exciting and jam-packed term ahead. Here is what the children focused on in class:

English: Reading Focus: Inference and retrieval with class text *When the Sky Falls* by Phil Earle. Writing Focus: Planning and drafting a letter from a character's point of view. Grammar & Punctuation Focus: Past tense, present tense, past progressive, present progressive.

Maths: Fractions: Dividing fractions by integers, using operations to solve fraction problems, finding a fraction of an amount.

Science: Light: Investigating the life and scientific accomplishments of Isaac Newton.

RE: Exploring the Mass: To know that Jesus is the Bread of Life and to explore what this means for us.

History: Victorians: To develop an understanding of a timeline of British monarchs. To study the events that led to Queen Victoria's Coronation and the celebrations of the day.

PE: Swimming & Hockey



## Year 5

Happy New Year, Year 5, and welcome to the Spring term together! Year 5 has settled in well, excited for the term ahead of them. Whilst we have been super busy thinking ahead for our upcoming assembly on Ancient Egypt, we have also managed to squeeze in lots of other fun learning:

In Maths, we have been looking at multiplying 1- and 2-digit numbers by 4-digit numbers. We recognise the importance of mental maths, but understand that for larger sums more formal algorithms (column method) are important.

In English, we have started our new text – ‘Beowulf’ by Michael Morpurgo. We have been focusing on modal and imperative verbs to use in our letters.

In Art, we began our learning about the work of Kenojuak Ashevak.

PSHE: Linking to our theme of gratitude this week, we have used our mindful techniques to express gratitude where we can in our day.

RE: This week in RE we have reflected on knowing that Jesus has come for everyone and reflected on how we can join his mission. We also enjoyed coming together to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany during our Mass.

In Science, we had great fun investigating how to separate a complex mixture of flour, pasta, paper clips, and rice using a sieve, a magnet, and a large piece of paper.

Have a wonderful weekend. Miss Cornes and Miss Ffyon



# Year 4:

Year 4 have had a wonderful start to 2026, ready and raring to go with all of their fantastic learning!

**English:** We have started reading our new class novel 'Varjak Paw' this week. We have been doing lots of predictions and making inferences based on what we have read so far using our 'mystery bag' and other clues. We have also been creating a 'role on the wall' for the characters we have met.

**Maths:** We are starting off this term with multiplication. We are learning about factors and using them in our multiplication. We used different methods to make arrays and identify factors and practised writing factor pairs, as well as playing times tables bingo.

**R.E:** This week, we discussed the presentation of Jesus in the temple and the reactions of Anna and Simeon.

**Science:** We discussed living things and different characteristics that all living things have. We also discussed how living things can be categorised and made some sorting charts as a class.

**P.E:** This week we started learning some hockey skills. We practised our passing through different drills and games.

Well done everyone on a fantastic week and a great start to our Spring term! Enjoy the weekend.



# Year 3:

Year 3 have had a fantastic start of the Spring term.

This week Year 3 have learnt:

-In Maths, we focused on multiplying and dividing by 3 to strengthen our 3-times tables.

-In English, we began our new novel 'Pugs of the Frozen North'. We used expanded noun phrases and prepositions to create a setting description. We also used persuasive techniques to persuade Shen to take the pugs with him or leave them behind.

-In RE, we began our new topic of 'Reconciliation', which we discussed will be key to our learning for their First Holy Communion.

-In French, we named family members. We created our own family trees in French.

-In Science, we started to explore Light. We discovered that we need light in order to see and that darkness is the absence of light.

-In History, we were introduced to The Stone Age. We looked at the stone weapons and tools that gave the Stone Age its name.

-In Art, we were inspired by Stone Age cave paintings, and discussed the natural materials that were used to create them.



# Year 2:

Year 2 has been off to a wonderful start this term! The children have settled back into school routines well after the break and have been doing some great learning. Here is what they have been up to this week:

- In **English**, we have been researching information in preparation for writing a non-chronological report about polar bears.
- In **Maths**, we have been subtracting two 2-digit numbers across 10.
- In **RE**, we have been looking at Jesus' life and have been reflecting upon how he was young like us.
- In **Science**, we have been thinking about the importance of exercise and the effects that it has on the body.
- In **History**, we have started our new topic on 'Incredible Inventions'. We looked at different machines that have been invented. We thought about how inventions have changed over time.
- In **Art**, we made careful studies of garden birds using pencil.



# Year 1:

We have had a wonderful first week back in 2026 and another exciting week of learning. This is what we have been learning this week:

**Maths:** In Maths we have been learning about number up to 20. We have been using our tens and ones to read and compare numbers. We have also been practising writing our numerals up to 20 in words.

**English:** In English we have started our new book 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon. We used our question words to find out more about the alien and have been practising using a question mark. We enjoyed making Beegu out of yellow playdough and then using our adjectives to write a character description.

**Science:** In Science we have been learning about carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. We sorted animals into categories of what they eat.

**Religious Education:** We had a very special lesson this week starting our new topic of 'families and celebrations'. Using the pictures of our families celebrating different events we spoke to our friends about the event and different ways we celebrate and show love in our families.

**Phonics:** This week in Phonics we practised our sounds and learnt the soft c and ph sound. We enjoyed a sound hunt in the classroom searching all the words that have the 'ph' sound in.

**History:** In History we brought our favourite toys in this week. Starting our new topic of things from the past we looked at modern day toys. We discussed what our toys were made out of, how we played with them and why they were our favourite.

Have a wonderful weekend, Miss Wood



# Reception:

Reception have had a great first week back and have jumped straight back in to their learning and play!

**Phonics:** This week, we have been learning new sounds which included some digraphs. A digraph is when two letters make one sound. This week, we have focused on the sounds j, ai (rain), oa (boat) and ie (tie).

**Literacy:** This week, we have been reading our new class text "All through the night". The children discussed illustrations in the story and role played characters in the story.

**Maths:** This week, we have been looking at the value of 0 in relation to numbers 0-5.

**UTW:** This week, we focused our discussions on police officers as people who help us and discussed how they help and what they do for work.

**EAD:** This children created pictures of a city in the night using different materials and shapes.

**PSED:** This week, we introduced the topic of People Who Help Us and discussed different people in the community who help us in different ways.

**RE:** This week, we discussed the story of Jesus lost in the temple as a young boy.



## 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
<b>Reception</b>	Agnes	Samuel
<b>Year 1</b>	Patrick	Giulio
<b>Year 2</b>	Lily	Duda
<b>Year 3</b>	Cahl	Hayden
<b>Year 4</b>	Matilda	Alvaro S
<b>Year 5</b>	Alex G	Ambra
<b>Year 6</b>	Kamira	Liam
<b>Special Act of Kindness</b>	Juliette (Y4)	

House of the Week	Class of the Week
<b>Red House</b>	<b>Year 4</b> (For a wonderful start to 2026!)