

Newsletter

Autumn Term: 4th September 2026



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

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to see many of you this week and of course to welcome the children back to school for a brilliant start to another fantastic year! I would like to especially welcome any new families joining our Oratory family this year. You will find lots of news, dates and important information in the weekly newsletter so do please read and enjoy it. During this short week for the children, we have been focusing on settling in, reviewing routines and generally getting to know each other, which we will of course continue next week too. The children are already showing us how they live out our school motto and are raring to go for another year of brilliantly demonstrating The Oratory Way.

With my very best wishes,
Mrs Steinart

Upcoming dates

September

- 14 Sept** Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale 8.30am
- 15 Sept** Start of year Mass at Brompton Oratory 10am
- 17 Sept** Meet the Teacher Evening 6.30pm
- 21 Sept** Languages Week
- 22 Sept** Secondary Transfer Meeting Y5&Y6 3.45pm
- 25 Sept** Y6 Cake Sale

October

- 2 Oct** Foodbank donations for Harvest Assembly
- 8 Oct** Optional Flu immunisations for children
- 9 Oct** Autumn Mufti Day
- 12 Oct** Poetry Fortnight begins
- 19 Oct** Y1 & Y5 Class Family Mass 2.15pm
- 21 Oct** Parent Forum 10am
- 23 Oct** Half Term 3.30pm

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

November

- 2 Nov** Inset Day (no children)
- 3 Nov** Children return
- 6 Nov** Y6 Class Remembrance Assembly 9.15am
- 6 Nov** Y5 Cake Sale
- 9 Nov** Friendship Week
- 9 Nov** Odd Socks Day!
- 12 Nov** Spirituality Day
- 16 Nov** Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale 8.30am
- 16 Nov** Y6 & Reception Class Family Mass 2.15pm
- 18 & 19 Nov** Parents' Evening
- 20 Nov** Glass Door pyjama & hot choc fundraising day

December

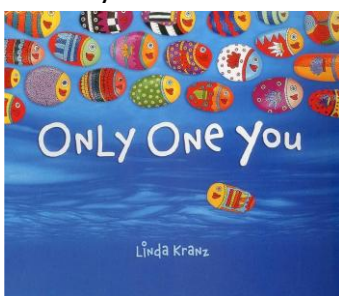
- 1 Dec** Christmas Fair in hall 3.30pm
- 10 & 11 Dec** Infant Nativity 2pm
- 16 Dec** Junior Carol Service 7pm
- 17 Dec** Children's Day (Christmas party)
- 18 Dec** End of term 1.30pm

This week's theme: ORATORY RIPPLES

This week in assemblies we used the beautiful quote by Mother Teresa that our school vision is based on – *I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples* – to reflect on the ripples that we would like to create during this new school year. We reflected on how when we live out The Oratory Way, we can create ripples that spread throughout our classrooms, our families, our community and beyond. The whole school are taking part in a 'ripple art project' that reminds us that although each one of us is only one person, our ripples of kindness together can create something extraordinary.

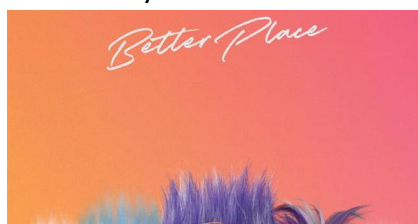
Story of the Week

Only One You
By Linda Kranz



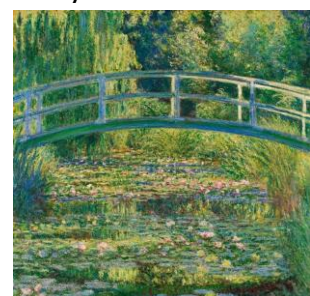
Music of the Week

Better Place
By Trolls Band



Art of the Week

Waterlilies
By Claude Monet



Housekeeping reminders for parents

Attendance and punctuality

Children's attendance and punctuality are vital to their academic and social development, and children with poor attendance do not progress as well as their peers.

Attendance and punctuality are also important life skills so please help us by ensuring your child attends school every day and by always arriving on time in the morning and when collecting your child at the end of the school day.

School starts each day at 8.55am but the doors to the playground open at 8.30am if you want to take your child to school early. School finishes each day at 3.30pm.

Holidays must not be taken in term time. Holidays taken during the school term will not be authorised and may be reported to the Education Welfare Officer. Our term dates are published on our website so please check them before booking holidays.

Absence

Please phone the school before 8.30am and leave a message on the designated absence line giving specific reasons for any illness (eg headache, temperature, upset tummy) rather than just saying that your child is unwell or sick. Please also remember to follow this up with a letter/email to the teacher and the office to ensure that the absence is authorised in the school's official register at info@oratory.rbkc.sch.uk

NB public Health England guidelines stipulate that children must stay away from school for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Planned absence

Routine medical and dental appointments should be taken outside of school hours or in the holidays. However, we appreciate that this is not always possible and ask that you notify the school in advance and provide a copy of your child's appointment letter if they have an appointment during the school day.

Year 6: Visits to secondary schools are authorised but we ask that parents inform the school in advance so that this can be recorded in the register.

Please email the class teacher and the school at info@oratory.rbkc.sch.uk to inform us of any open day visits, exams etc

End of day collection

If someone else will be collecting your child and the arrangements are made in advance, please put a note explaining this in your child's school bag. This will authorise the teacher to let your child leave with the person named in your letter. Please reserve phoning the school or emailing the teacher/office on the day for emergencies only.

Permission to leave school unaccompanied

Please let the school know in writing or by email if you give permission for your child to leave school by themselves.

Emails can be sent to info@oratory.rbkc.sch.uk.

We will also ask you to complete a mobile phone permission form if your child will be travelling to or from school alone with a mobile phone, which will need to be handed into the office upon their arrival in school.

Medicines in school

The school is only permitted to administer medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor and there is a form for you to complete authorising us to do this. Please give your child any over the counter medicine (eg hay fever treatment) before the start of the school day. Children should never be given medicine to take to school; instead, please bring any prescribed medicine to the school office where you will need to complete a consent form.

Uniform

Our uniform is an important part of our school identity and one of the reasons you will have chosen Oratory for your child, and we expect all pupils to wear their uniform with pride. A uniform list is published on our website and we will carry out uniform checks periodically to ensure that all students wear the correct uniform. Please remember to label all items of uniform so that lost property can be returned to its rightful owner.

Jewellery, including earrings, may not be worn. Long hair past the collar must be tied back (including boys with longer hair), otherwise hair must be cut short at the back and sides.

Children's belongings

We want to encourage the children to be independent so please send your children to school with everything they will need during the day rather than having to drop things off at the school office during the day.

Allergies

Nuts of any kind are not allowed in school as we have several pupils with severe nut allergies.

Our school ethos

Our ethos is very important to us. At the start of the school year, we always work hard to develop the children's understanding of our key guides for this: our motto, school rules and school prayer:

Motto

We work together
We play together
We laugh together.
We pray together



School Rules

- Listen:** focus and follow instructions.
- Endeavour:** try your best, always.
- Appreciate:** treat our school with care.
- Respect:** be kind and polite.
- Nurture:** look after yourself and others.

Dear Lord,

We are one school, all equal.

Thank you for my friends old and new.

Thank you for giving us different talents

And for making us special in different ways.

Please watch over and guide all the pupils and teachers here at the Oratory.

Let there be peace.

Help our minds shine with brightness.

May you teach us to follow in your footsteps

And love others as we love you.

Help us grow happily together and to recognise Jesus in all of us.

Let our school be full of love for here we learn your ways, Lord.

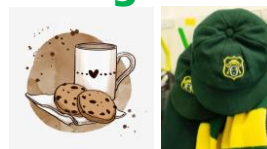
Amen

'Meet the teachers' Evening Thursday 17th September

Our meet the teacher evening will be held on Thursday 17th September. This will begin with a presentation from Mrs Steinart in the school hall at 6.30pm and be followed with a meeting with your child's class teacher in their classroom. You will go through a 'parent pack' and your child's class teacher will be giving you an overview of the year ahead and what to expect.

We very much look forward to welcoming you!

Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale



We look forward to welcoming you to our first coffee morning of the year on Monday 14th September from 8.30am in the school hall. This is the perfect opportunity for any new families to get to know our school community and also a chance to purchase any pieces of second-hand uniform your child may need.

Parent Forum

We value open communication and consultation at Oratory Primary School and the school's **Parent Forum** makes it easier for parents to raise questions and make suggestions about the school. Our parent forum aims to represent the views of all parents and to be a voice to inform our school of the needs of children and families. Each half term, the parent reps from each class meet with Mrs Steinart to raise questions, suggestions and concerns. Mrs Steinart may also consult parents on future plans for the school. The forum facilitates communication between parents/carers and staff and governors, offer a parent's perspective on current policy and practice and input into decision making and planning for future provision. The next parent forum meeting will be held virtually on **21st October**.

How can I raise something for discussion at the forum?

- By emailing your class rep well before the meeting
- By sending a letter to the school, marked 'Parent Forum' and placed in the letterbox on the door in Bury Walk

How will I find out what was discussed?

The questions and suggestions raised at the meeting, along with the school's response and any actions taken will be sent to parents via Classlist, and uploaded on the school website.

What sort of things might be raised at the forum?

The forum will be a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvement. Possible topics might include school routines, school lunches, school events, fundraising, school uniform and general curriculum questions.

What sort of things should not be raised at the forum?

The forum is not a place to address specific concerns about an individual child or issues relating to individual members of staff. Parents who need to discuss these issues should approach their class teacher or the Deputy/Headteacher.

Harvest Collection for 'The Trussell trust'

The Trussell Trust support a nationwide network of food banks and provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK. In the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty – including 4.5 million children. They support more than 1,200 food bank centres in the UK to provide a minimum of three days' nutritionally-balanced emergency food to people who have been referred in crisis, as well as support to help people resolve the crises they face.

On Friday 2nd October we will be holding a special harvest assembly with Fr James, and we are asking each child to bring a donation to the Trussell Trust. We will then need some kind parent helpers to take the food along to the collection centre after the assembly – so please do let Mrs Steinart know if you are able to help. Please look at the list below to find out which item of food your child should bring.

Important: Please wait until **Friday 2nd October** to send your child in with their item, as we have nowhere to store them until then. Items need to be in original packaging and be well within their 'best before' date. Thank you!

- Reception: Cereal



- Year 1: Sweet Biscuits



- Year 2: Tinned food



- Year 3: Lentils or dried pulses



- Year 4: Rice



- Year 5: Savoury biscuits/crackers



- Year 6: Dried pasta



Chaplain's Corner – Fr James

A heartfelt welcome back to everyone for the start of another school year, and to our new joiners! I shall keep all of you in my prayers, and I hope you will keep me in yours too. Please do come to our opening Mass on Tuesday 15th September at 10am, at the Brompton Oratory, to entrust all of our community to Our Blessed Lord as we begin the new academic year, remembering His words 'without Me, you can do nothing' (John 15:5).

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

This is signed by the priest of the church you worship at, if your family is known to him as weekly Sunday Mass attendees.

Because the Brompton Oratory has a large congregation, the Fathers can only sign the certificate for those who are registered with the Oratory's Mass Attendance Scheme and whose records reflect weekly attendance, unless they know the family personally as weekly Mass attendees at the parish.

FIRST SUPER STEINART'S!

Congratulations to these Year 3 children who received the very first Super Steinart's of the year for their brilliant redrafting and improvement in their artwork.



Secondary Transfer Meeting

We will be holding a Secondary Transfer Meeting on Tuesday 22nd September at 3.45pm in the Year 6 classroom. This is a repeat of the meeting that was held in the summer term. We will go over the application process that Year 6 parents need to complete this term, including all deadlines etc.

We will also discuss secondary transfer in general if any Year 5 parents would like to join. All secondary application information will also be sent out to Year 6 parents following the meeting.

Settling into our new classes

The children have had a wonderful first couple of days in school where the focus has been on reviewing our school routines, setting shared expectations, preparing our growth mindsets for the year ahead and also generally getting to know each other better! Here are a few snapshots of what's been going on...as you can see, everyone is looking pretty pleased to be reunited with friends and living out The Oratory Way!

