



St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy

**November 2025
Newsletter**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term. The children have all come back to school with great enthusiasm and a great attitude to learning, which is as always great to see.

As we returned to school this week, we return as a member of our extended family, St Gabriel the Archangel (Multi Academy Trust); a newly formed family of 64 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, part of a wider community of MACs united in one mission:

Forming pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice.

At the beginning of November, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints, and All Souls Day, when we remember the men and women of faith who have gone before us. During the month of November school's from across the CMAT are running an initiative called 'Light in the Darkness'. The idea of this is that Christ will shine his light into the darkness of our lives. We are called to carry the Light of Christ wherever we go in Prayer and Hope – Especially thinking and praying for people who have died.

Throughout the month of November, we will have a 'Remembrance Box' for the children to offer their own prayers and thoughts to remember and pray for loved ones they have lost. If you would like to offer your own prayers during this month, please write a name intention or your own prayer and send into school. Next week we will send a template for any prayer intentions that you can complete and send back in.

For our Harvest Appeal we supported our parish food bank, this has been collected this week. A huge thank, you to all who donated, it was an amazing effort and greatly appreciated.

Before half term we had the wonderful news that Mr Smith and his wife were blessed with the safe arrival of their new baby boy, Noah. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them. Mr Smith will be returning to school on Monday.

Next Monday 10th November it is Anti-Bullying Week. To celebrate the fact that we are all unique, we are asking children to wear odd socks to school on Monday, 10th November and again on Friday 14th November (the children can wear the opposite ones to each pair!)

This fun and positive activity sends an important message to pupils, that everyone should be free to be themselves, without fear of bullying. During Anti-Bullying Week there will be an assembly led by the School Council. Each class will take part in a range of activities and lessons throughout the week, to discuss and share ideas about anti-bullying. The theme for Anti-Bullying Week this year is: 'Power for Good'.

Next week, on Wednesday 12th November, we are holding an open afternoon at 1.30pm and open evening at 5.00pm in EYFS for any prospective parents for Nursery or Reception next year. Please come along if your child will be in Nursery or Reception next year or if you know anyone who is interested, please pass the information onto them. The application process for the reception class is now open – this is for children who will be 4 on the 1st September 2026. Applications for the reception class need to be made directly through the authority and this closes on 15th January 2026. <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

Applications for Nursery come direct through the school, please ask at the office for a Nursery application form.

We have a very busy half term ahead of us and Christmas will be here before we know it. Please look carefully at all of the dates for November and December.

Mrs Rigby

Principal



This weekend we will once again participate in our local Remembrance Sunday parade.

All children and families are welcome to join us, it will be wonderful to see lots of St. John's children both walking with us and with their beavers and scouts groups. Please see letter sent out.

The children will have the opportunity to pay their respects for those who have died for our country. In November in our prayers, we remember all of those who have fallen and given their lives for us. Lest we forget.

Diary Dates

November

- 10th – Odd Socks Day
- 12th – EYFS Open Afternoon and Evening for new parents 1.30pm or 5.00pm
- 13th- Year 3 Forest School
- 14th – KS2 Celebration Assembly
- 17th-19th Year 5 Alton Castle
- 20th – 26th – Book Fair
- 20th – Reception & KS1 Liturgy of the Word 9.30am
- 21st – Jubilee Finale Event – Pilgrims of Hope
- 28th – School Photographs – Individual and siblings
- 28th – EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly (2.30pm due to school photo's)
- 30th – Family Mass 11am at St Joseph's Church Goldenhill

December

- Start of Advent Prayer Sessions
- 1st – Year 2 Saint Day Assembly 9.10am
- 3rd – KS1/KS2 Christmas theatre trip
- 3rd – Nursery & Reception Inspire Workshop
- 3rd – Confirmation Parents Information Session 6pm Mass/6.30pm sessions St Joseph's Church Goldenhill
- 5th – KS2 Celebration Assembly
- 5th – Christmas Fair 3pm
- 11th – KS2 Mass 9.30am
- 11th – Year 6 Forest School
- 11th – EYFS & KS1 Christmas Production 1.30pm
- 12th - – EYFS & KS1 Christmas Production 9.30am
- 17th – Whole School End of Term Mass 9.30am
- 18th – Reception & Nursery Forest School
- 18th – Whole School Carol Concert led by KS2 2.00pm
- 19th – Whole school celebration assembly

January

- 5th – INSET Day
- 6th – School open
- 9th- EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly
- 15th – Young Voices
- 16th- KS2 Celebration Assembly
- 21st – EYFS visit to St Joseph's Church
- 23rd - EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly
- 28th – Year 4 Trip to Liverpool Museum
- 30th – KS2 Celebration Assembly

PE kits need to be brought into school every Monday and left in lockers for the week, full uniform to be worn everyday. Please ensure your child has the correct uniform and PE kit.

Thank you.



Terms Dates 2025/2026



Monday 1st September	INSET
Tuesday 2nd September	INSET
Wednesday 3rd September	First day of school
Friday 24th October	Last day of term
Monday 3rd November	INSET
Tuesday 4th November	School opens to all
Friday 19th December	Last day of term
Monday 5th January	INSET
Tuesday 6th January	School opens to all
Friday 13th February	Last day of term
Monday 23rd February	School open to pupils
Friday 27th March	Last day of term
Monday 13th April	School opens to all
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 22nd May	Last day of term
Monday 1st June	School opens to all
Friday 17th July	Last day of term

June Attendance

Nursery	95.67%
Reception	95.75%
Year 1	97.39%
Year 2	98.77%
Year 3	97.65%
Year 4	98.91%
Year 5	98.17%
Year 6	96.49%



Well done Year 4!

CARECLUB

Please ensure you book your Child/ren's place in advance on Arbor, we have limited places and can't guarantee a space if you don't book in.

Bookings have to be made on Arbor 48 Hours in advance.

Emergency Bookings via the Office.
01782 367267

IMPORTANT

If your address/telephone/email has changed, please ensure this is updated on Arbor

ABSENCEIF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL YOU MUST TELEPHONE SCHOOL ON 01782 367267 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ABSENCE LINE. BEFORE 09.30am stating the reason for absence.

Please be mindful of other road users, local residents and the safety of our children when parking around school. Please do not block residents driveways or park on the zig zag lines.

Thank you for your cooperation .

CAR PARKS

The car parks in the school grounds are for staff cars only, please do not use them for dropping off/picking up careclub and afterschool clubs. There is a car park lower down for parent use.



Its important that we hold up to date information on our pupils.

Changes can be made by yourselves.

All you need to do is log into the account and make the changes, we will receive a notification of those changes and approve them.

Trip reminder

Please ensure if you are required to give consent for an upcoming trip that you log into Arbor by the deadline date which appears on the letter.

Thank you for your co-operation.

DAILY LATENESS EQUATES TO...



Remember - your education is important - don't miss out!



Are you interested in being part of St John's PTFA??

We have arranged two meetings for anyone interested on Wednesday 12th November 9am and 3pm in the Hall.



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC ACADEMY

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER 3PM

**COME AND SEE SANTA, RAFFLES,
TOMBOLAS, CAKE STALL, GUESS THE
NAME OF THE TEDDY,
REFRESHMENTS AND MORE**





CHRISTMAS

Lunch

Roasted Turkey

or

Cranberry Cheese
Whirl

both served with Creamed
Potatoes, Roasted
Potatoes, Steamed
Vegetables, Sage & Onion
Stuffing Ball, Pork/ Quorn
sausages in Blanket with a
rich gravy.



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Ice Cream Christmas
Trees

Tuesday 16th December 2025

Please confirm on Arbor if your child would like a
Christmas Dinner, by 5th December

WOW

WOW – the walk to school challenge is delivered by Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, to help as many children as possible to experience the benefits of walking to school.

We are hoping to encourage more children and their families to be active when travelling to school. We know how important being active is to both our physical and mental health, so this is an exciting challenge.

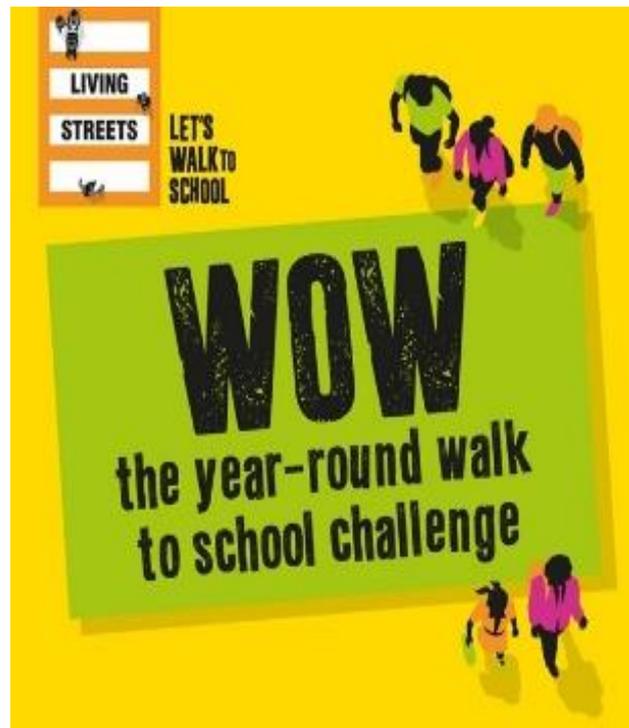
WOW is a pupil-led initiative where the children can self-report how they get to school every day. If you child walks, cycles, scoots, park and stride at least twice a week, for a month, they get rewarded with a badge.

Walking to school helps children to feel happier and healthier and they arrive feeling refreshed, fit and ready to learn. More families walking also means fewer cars on the road during the school run, helping to reduce congestion.

If you live too far away or don't have time to walk the whole way to school, you can 'park and stride'. This means parking or getting off public transport at least **five** minutes away from the school and walking the rest of the way.

Let's swap those school runs for school walks!

If you have any questions, please speak to the office or find more information and useful videos at livingstreets.org.uk/wowlaunch





HERE
EVERY DAY
READY
ON TIME



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME

Reminders to Parents

◆ **School Uniforms**—Our full uniform range is now available at Supersport, High Street, Tunstall (including Ties and book bags).

◆ **School Dinners** -

Price per meal **£2.50** for Nursery.

Price per meal **£3.25** for years 3/4/5 & 6.

◆ **Breakfast Club** - Staffed by Mrs Copeland & Miss Hancock

◆ Places must be booked and paid for in advance via Arbor

Breakfast Club per child; from 7.30am £5.00 or £20 for the whole week—Children must be in by 8.30am

Drop off at 8.30am cost £1.00

◆ **After school care club**—Mon-Fri 3pm-5.45pm –Snack included. Staffed by Mrs Bennett & Mrs Copeland

◆ Places must be booked and paid for in advance via Arbor

Care Club per child:

from 3.00pm to 4.30pm £5.00

from 3.00pm to 5.45pm £7.50

St Margaret Ward Siblings can be dropped off **from 8.10am and picked up by 3.40pm** no charge. Before or after this time charges above apply.

◆ We are a cashless school—all bookings and payments are to be made in advance via your child's Arbor account.

Late Arrivals / Early Leaving - please bring/collect your child to/from the school office. It is important that your child attends school regularly and on time in order to ensure good academic achievement. Please ensure that where possible, medical appointments are arranged outside school hours.

Please note the school has a strict no smoking policy on its grounds. This includes E-cigarettes or any other nicotine based products.

If you see anyone on the school premises when the school is closed please call the police on **101** and report the incident. Thank you for your support and cooperation

Would Parents and Carers please note that dinner money, careclub and afterschool clubs are payable in advance and should be paid online via your child's Arbor account.

School Hours: EYFS/KS1 - children need to be in school for 8.40am registration, please ensure you are outside the classroom doors/on the EYFS playground by 8.35am, the gates for EYFS/door for KS1 will be closed at 8.42am.

Nursery doors open 3.00pm Reception & KS1 Collection at 3.10pm

KS2 Doors open at 8.45am need to be in by 8.50am, school gates are locked at 8.52am. Collection at 3.20pm

Office Opening Hours Monday - Thursday 08.00-16.00 Friday 08.00 - 15.30



Please note Dogs should not be brought onto school premises

Reminders to Parents

Uniform

Boys

School Navy woollen jumper (school colours on the V neck)

White school shirt (polo shirts for Nursery)

School tie

Dark grey flannel trousers

Grey, black or white socks

Black shoes

Black boots (only during winter months and must be no more than ankle height)

PE Kit

Navy T-shirt (with/without school logo)

Navy cotton shorts

Navy sweatshirt/hoodie (with/without school logo)

Navy jogging bottoms (Winter)

Black plimsolls or Trainers

Summer Term only

Boys may wear dark grey flannel shorts

Girls

School Navy Cardigan (school colours around the edge)

White school shirt (polo shirts for Nursery)

School tie

Dark grey skirt, pinafore or trousers

Grey, black or white socks or grey or black tights

Black shoes

Black boots (only during winter months and must be no more than ankle height)

PE Kit

Navy T-shirt (with/without school logo)

Navy cotton shorts

Navy sweatshirt/hoodie (with/without school logo)

Navy jogging bottoms (Winter)

Black plimsolls or Trainers

Summer Term only

Girls may wear navy and white checked summer dresses

The wearing of correct school uniform is considered to be an important part in establishing a sense of community and standards in school. Children are encouraged to take pride in wearing appropriate uniform, including PE kit.

Hair and Accessories

Hair should be conventionally cut with no visible lines and should be an appropriate length (not shaven or less than grade 2).

Shoulder length hair should be tied back at all times using a navy bow or plain bobble in the school colours (navy and white) or black.

Highlights/Lowlights and any additional hairpieces (eg braids/hair tinsel) are not permitted.

A small bow or hair bands may be worn but these must be in school colours (navy and white).

Tattoos, Make up and Nail Varnish

Temporary transfer tattoos, make up and nail varnish are not allowed.

Jewellery

In the interest of Health and Safety, jewellery must not be worn. This includes earrings, which are not permitted even if covered with a plaster.



Please note Dogs should not be brought onto school premises