St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy

November 2026 Newsletter

St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

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.

The month of November is a month of remembering all those we love who have died. On Sunday 1st 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 half term we asked families to enjoy time together outside thinking about people in your family who have passes way and who the children may want to think about and pray for. Throughout the month of November, we have a 'Remembrance Tree' in the hall for the children to offer their own prayers and thoughts to remember and pray for loved ones they have lost. If any of the children would still like to bring a leaf in to add to our display, please pass these on to class teachers.

For our Harvest Appeal we supported our local food bank. A huge thank, you to all who donated, it was an amazing effort and greatly appreciated.

On Monday 16th November it is Anti-Bullying Week. The national theme for the week this year is 'Break the Silence'. You will be receiving further communication about how we are marking this week as a school and about our odd socks day.

Next week, on Monday 23rd 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 2027. Applications for the reception class need to be made directly through the authority and this closes on 15th January 2027. 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.

On Sunday 29th November, we will be celebrating the first of our family masses and would love to see as many of our St John's families there as possible. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community, celebrate our faith and prepare for the season of Advent. All children and families are warmly invited, and we would really encourage you to join us for this special occasion. **Fr Julian has sent a special invite to our Year 6 children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year as they are taking their next step in their sacramental journey.**

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 the letter sent out.
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

5th – 11th Book Fair
8th - Remembrance Day Parade 10:15am Kidsgrove Town Hall
13th – KS2 Celebration Assembly 9:10am
16th – School Photographs
17th – Y5 Class Saint Day Assembly 9:10am
17th – Y3 & Y4 Trip to Lichfield Cathedral
17th – Reception & Y6 Height & Weight Check
18th – 20th Y5 Residential Trip to Alton Castle
19th – KS2 Mass 9:30am
19th – Y3 Outdoor Education
20th – EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly 9:10am
23rd – EYFS Open Afternoon 1:30pm & 5:00pm
25th – KS1 & KS2 Christmas Theatre Trip
26th – Nursery & Reception Inspire Workshops
27th – KS2 Celebration Assembly
27th – Non Uniform Day, bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair
29th November – Family Mass at St Joseph's Church, Goldenhill 11:00am
30th November – Start of Advent Prayer Sessions

December

3rd – Y5 Outdoor Education
4th – EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly 9:10am
7th – EYFS Christmas Trip
8th – EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 9:15am
9th – EYFS & KS1 Nativity Performance 9:15am
10th – Reception & KS1 Liturgy of the Word 9:30am
10th – Y6 Outdoor Education
11th – KS2 Celebration Assembly 9:10am
11th – Non Uniform Day, bring a gift/giftset for the Christmas Fair
11th – Christmas Fair
15th – Christmas Jumper & Christmas Lunch Day
16th – Whole School End of Term Mass 9:30am
16th – Christmas Disco
17th – Whole School Carol Concert (led by KS2) 2:00pm
18th – No Celebration Assembly
18th – School Closes for the Christmas Holidays

Terms Dates 2026/2027

Tuesday 1st September	INSET
Wednesday 2nd September	INSET
Thursday 3rd September	First day of school
Thursday 22nd October	Last day of term
Friday 23rd October	INSET
Monday 2nd November	INSET
Tuesday 3rd November	School open to pupils
Friday 18th December	Last day of term
Tuesday 5th January	INSET
Wednesday 6th January	School open to pupils
Friday 12th February	Last day of term
Monday 22nd February	School open to pupils
Thursday 25th March	Last day of term
Monday 12th April	School open to pupils
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Friday 28th May	Last day of term
Monday 7th June	School open to pupils
Wednesday 21st July	Last day of term

October Attendance

Nursery	98.16%
Reception	93.13%
Year 1	98.68%
Year 2	97.17%
Year 3	95.74%
Year 4	98.88%
Year 5	96.79%
Year 6	95.75%

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.

Late fees are now applied to accounts if your child is not booked in in advance.

Emergency Bookings via the Office. 01782 367267

IMPORTANT

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

ABSENCE ....IF 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 you cooperation .

CAR PARKS

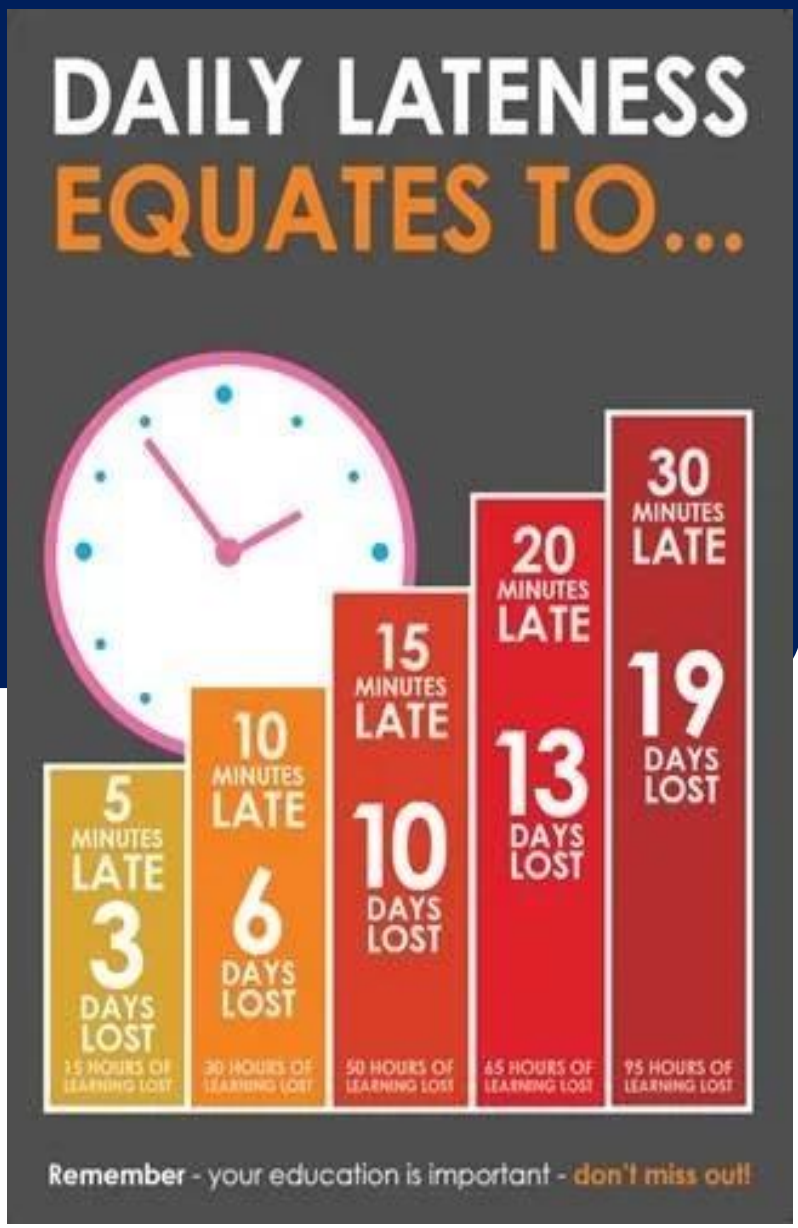
The car parks in the school grounds are for staff cars only, please do not use them for dropping off/picking up careclub and afterschool clubs. There is a car park lower down for parent use.



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.

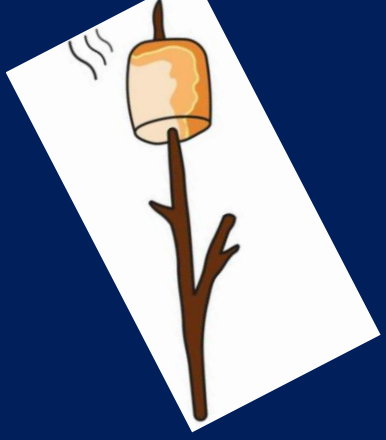


<u>Trip reminder</u>

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.





Outdoor Education dates to remember!

Autumn Term:

Thursday 19th November – Year 3

Thursday 3rd December – Year 5

Thursday 10th December – Year 6

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.

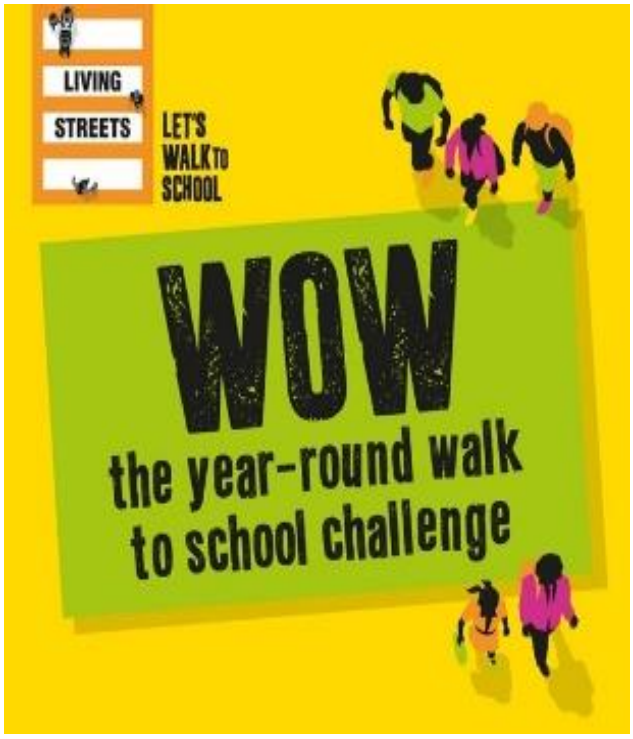
WOW is a pupil-led initiative where the children can self-report how they get to school every day. If you child walks, cycles, scoots, park and stride at least twice a week, for a month, they get rewarded with a badge.

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 National Schoolwear, Hanley (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 840am 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	Girls
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	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