



ST GEORGE AND ST MARTIN CATHOLIC ACADEMY



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – W.E. 06.10.2023

Class Attendance This Week

Nursery	98.35%	Year 3	96.24%
Reception	92.08%	Year 4	97.33%
Year 1	97.33%	Year 5	95.30%
Year 2	99.28%	Year 6	93.33%

Congratulations!
YEAR 2 have the
best
attendance this
week.



Class Attendance This Year

Nursery	96.97%	Year 3	97.40%
Reception	94.93%	Year 4	96.45%
Year 1	97.97%	Year 5	97.02%
Year 2	98.72%	Year 6	97.25%

Congratulations!
YEAR 2 have the
best
attendance this
year (so far)!

**There will be no awards this week
due to school photographs**

Family Day

We look forward to welcoming over 140 family members on Monday. If you booked a place using Microsoft Forms, you have been successful in gaining a place. The morning session will run from 9 – 11am and you can sign in in the school hall. The afternoon session will run from 1:30 – 3pm and you can sign in in the school hall.



Opportunities for Parents

We have lots of opportunities for parents to come along and work with their child in school. You have already received the dates of our Stay and Do Maths and Stay and Pray sessions, we have our Family Day planned for 9th October, we have our monthly drop-ins.

I am awaiting the Family Learning team to confirm some Family Learning sessions' dates, which I will of course inform you of.

We are also starting something new this year called Inspire sessions. Each class will hold an Inspire session during the year that parents will be invited to. During the session, parents will work with their child and then share in a prayer and liturgy as a class. Our first session will be for Year 1 families on Thursday 26th October from 8:50 – 11am (no need to book, just turn up).

Staffing Update

We have managed to recruit a new caretaker! Mr Turkmen will be joining the school in the next few weeks, and I'm sure you'll make him very welcome.



School Fund

Each family is asked to contribute £10 per year to the School Fund. This money is used for a variety of things including subsidising trips, visitors and themed weeks. School Fund money is very important as without it school trips would be much more expensive to go on and the children would miss out a number of experiences.



Baby and Toddler Group

Our baby and toddler group started this week, so please spread the word and come along to join in the fun! Tuesdays 9 – 10am.



Parking

Please ensure you park considerately and safely when dropping off and collecting children. Thank you.

Active Families Session

On Friday 13th October, we will be holding our annual Active Families Session. This is an opportunity for you to come along and learn some games that you can play with your child at home to get everyone active. Mr Sigley will be running the sessions and will share lots of games with you and your child. Please see separate letter.



SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance.' So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

They answered, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?' "I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."

The Gospel of the Lord

Matthew 21:33 - 43

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear another parable. The landowner represents God. No matter how many times we reject God, He will always reach out to us. Jesus knew that he was going to be rejected by the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and wanted them to recognise how important He was – he would be the keystone of the Kingdom of God.

This week, as a family talk about the things that you might do that rejects Jesus and the things that you do that show respect to Jesus. What do you do more of?

COLLEGIATE FUNDRAISING

This term, our Collegiate is raising money for Dougie Mac. Many of you will have been touched by the work of Dougie Mac. I encountered first-hand the work of Dougie Mac when my mum spent her final days in the hospice and the only way to describe the staff there are as gifts from God. In order for Dougie Mac to provide the care that it does to a large number of people in our area, they rely heavily on donations and fundraising.

Our first fundraising activity will take place on Friday 13th October and it's one that I know is very popular – Splat the Teacher! Splats will be available at a cost of £2 per splat.

Our second fundraiser will take place on 17th November and will be a cake sale – details to follow.

Our final fundraiser will take place in the Summer Term as we will again be having a staff team running/walking the Potters 'Arf in aid of Dougie Mac. I will keep you updated!



VOCATIONS MONTH

In October, the North Staffs Deanery will be praying for vocations. Vocations are God's calling to each of us. Some may be called to teaching, some to nursing, some to caring, some to family life and some to religious life. During October, we ask you to pray the following prayer:



Heavenly Father,
we ask you to send labourers
into your harvest.

Inspire, in the hearts of your people,
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate
and religious life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity,
so that those whom you call
have the courage to give themselves
to your Church in faith.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MESSAGE FROM FR. ADRIAN

Any Year 6 parents who may be applying for a place at St Joseph's College and would like Father to complete a reference, must take the application after Mass on Sunday 15th October (or after Mass at OLSB on Saturday 14th October) or Sunday 22nd October (or after Mass at OLSB on Saturday 21st October).

No applications will be signed beyond these dates.

BOWLING GREEN



The bowling green is now no longer a bowling green, and we'll have to start calling it the field! The contractors have been working hard digging out the grass and starting to create steps from school side to the field. We are so excited that our dreams are starting to become a reality. It is hoped the work will be finished before Christmas, but I will of course keep you updated.

HARVEST SERVICE

On Thursday 19th October, we will celebrate the harvest for this year. This celebration will take place in church and everyone is welcome to attend. We will praise God for the harvest through songs and poems.

We remind our families that this is a church service and so must be treated with reverence and respect. The following must be followed when attending our Harvest Service:

- No eating, drinking or chewing,
- No photos or videos in church,
- Younger children should not be running up and down the aisles,
- Mobile phones MUST be turned off and no phone calls should be made in church,
- Talking must be kept to a minimum, both before and during the service,
- Clapping the children's performances will take place at the end of the whole service with the permission of Fr Adrian, please do not clap the children during the service.

This year, as for many years, we will be collecting food for Stoke-on-Trent Food Bank. The Food Bank are in desperate need of food as their demand has doubled! They are now feeding 2000 people per month! Please donate what you can. I know that there are families who cannot donate anything at this time, so please do not worry. If you are able to donate, please do. We will be accepting harvest donations from Monday 16th October until Friday 20th October.

Items of food that could be brought in include:

UHT milk	Sugar (500g)	Soup
Pasta sauces	Sponge puddings (tinned)	Tomatoes (tinned)
Cereal (small packs)	Rice pudding (tinned)	Tea bags/instant coffee
Tinned potato/instant mash	Tinned meat	Tinned fish
Tinned vegetables	Vegetarian option	Fruit (tinned)
Jam	Biscuits or snack bars	'Free from' items



DIARY DATES FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

October – Vocations Month

Monday 9th October – Friday 13th October

Healthy Active Lifestyle Week

Monday 9th October

Family Day

Tuesday 10th October

World Mental Health Day

Thursday 12th October

6pm Combined Schools' Mass @ St Gregory's, Longton

Friday 13th October

9am Year 4 class assembly – 2 places reserved per child

1:15 – 3:15pm Active Families workshop – all places allocated

3:20pm Splat the teacher - £2 per splat

Tuesday 17th October

2:30pm Coffee afternoon – come along for a cuppa and biscuit with Mrs Farmer

Thursday 19th October

9:15am Harvest service in church – all welcome to attend if you accept our reverence guide

3:30pm Cross country @ Birches Head Academy

Friday 20th October

4 – 5pm Year 5 and 6 collegiate handball tournament @ Dimensions



LATE ARRIVALS



We are having a number of children arriving late to school. Please ensure your child arrives before 8.50am when the second bell sounds. If your child arrives after this time they will be marked as late in the register.

Lateness = Lost Learning

5 minutes late each day 3 days lost!

10 minutes late each day 6.5 days lost!

15 minutes late each day 10 days lost!

20 minutes late each day 13 days lost!

30 minutes late each day 19 days lost!

If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could effect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

If you are experiencing any problems then please do not hesitate to contact the academy.



Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

D. Farmer

Mrs. Farmer (Principal)

