



# ST GEORGE AND ST MARTIN CATHOLIC ACADEMY



Spring 1 2024 - Newsletter

## Class Attendance this week ...

Nursery	89.87%	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>97.14%</b>
Reception	80.00%	Year 4	92.00%
Year 1	87.33%	Year 5	90.67%
Year 2	85.67%	Year 6	95.67%

Congratulations!  
**YEAR 3** have the  
best  
attendance this  
week.



## Class Attendance this year ...

Congratulations!  
**YEAR 3** have the  
best  
attendance this  
year (so far)!

Nursery	92.08%	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>97.69%</b>
Reception	93.62%	Year 4	95.02%
Year 1	95.28%	Year 5	96.75%
Year 2	96.29%	Year 6	96.71%

## Class Awards

### Values & Virtues

Nursery -	No permission
Reception -	Millie Sellars
Year 1 -	Eric Opritoiu
Year 2 -	Ben Cartlidge
Year 3 -	Makanaka Nhambu
Year 4 -	Socrates Mutare
Year 5 -	Georgia Schwamberger
Year 6 -	Siena Oakley

### Reading

Nursery -	Florence Peart
Reception -	Oluchi Nwabueze
Year 1 -	Jenton Seaman
Year 2 -	Courtney Mavengano
Year 3 -	Aayan Mandaza
Year 4 -	Sebastian Baura
Year 5 -	Caleb Stanyer
Year 6 -	Gracie-Jae Lyons



### Most DoJo's

Nursery -	Milo Allen
Reception -	Haniya Masood
Year 1 -	Grayson Seaman
Year 2 -	Nathan Whittaker
Year 3 -	Princess Chimuriwo
Year 4 -	Miryam Yohanis Belay
Year 5 -	El-Spencer Affui
Year 6 -	Abigail Williams

### Headteacher

Nursery -	No permission
Reception -	No permission
Year 1 -	Elijah Rata
Year 2 -	Athena-Rae Johnson-Hardy
Year 3 -	Eliza Mountford
Year 4 -	Laila Taylor
Year 5 -	Sreenandhu Nair
Year 6 -	Austin Pinnington

### Staffing Update

Sadly, **Miss Rushton** will be leaving us at February half term. She will be leaving us to take on the role of Adult Support Worker. Miss Rushton has been at our school for almost 10 years and I cannot thank her enough for all that she has done for our children over the years. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her lots of luck in her new adventure.



**Mrs Brownsword** will be returning from maternity leave at February half term and so will take on the role of Year 3 class teacher for the rest of this year.

After the Christmas holidays, **Mrs Barlow** will be joining us as HLTA. She will be teaching classes across the school and providing additional support to children. I know you will make her feel very welcome.



**Miss Meaney** will also be leaving us as Breakfast Club Assistant and Teaching Assistant at the end of the first week back. Miss Meaney is returning to University to complete training in Social Work. We wish her lots of luck and thank her for everything she has done. She will continue her role as After-School Club Assistant.



**Mrs. Spooner** will be leaving us as Catering Assistant. Mrs. Spooner has been at our school for 6 years. We will miss her and wish her lots of luck.

### Food Bank Collection

Don't forget, our Food Bank collection point accepts donations all year round.

### Park and Stride

I'd like to remind all parents that there is the Park and Stride initiative operating for our school. Parents are allowed to park at Forest Park, or Northwood Stadium for free of charge. You simply need to complete a form to receive a permit. If you are interested, please call in at the school office.

# Sunday's Gospel

A reading from the Gospel according to St Luke

*The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.*

*And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."*

*But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.*

*Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.*

*"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

*But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"*

*And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."*

*Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."*

*Then the angel departed from her.*

The Gospel of the Lord

Luke: 1:26 - 38

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear of the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary and telling her of God's plan for her. Mary was confused to begin with, but very quickly accepted what the Angel said. She gave her life to God. Mary trusted in God's plan and accepted it. How much do we trust in God? Do we believe that God has a plan for each one of us?

During this time of Christmas, think about the plan that God has for each one of us. Are we ready to say 'Yes' to God? Pray for God's guidance and support.

This Sunday, we light the fourth candle, the candle of Love. We are one step closer to the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day, when we will light the fifth and final white candle – the candle of Christ.

## Nativity Service

A huge thank you to our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children who led us so beautifully in our Nativity Service. This reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas and the celebration of Jesus's birth.

## Values and Virtues

Our values and virtues for next half term are Compassionate and Loving.

We are compassionate when we feel sympathy and concern for other people who are in difficulty, whether they are near to us or far away.

We are loving when we show our sympathy and concern for other people by our actions and by our words.

## Year of Prayer

In 2025 we celebrate a Jubilee Year of the Church. To prepare for this special occasion, Pope Francis has dedicated the year of 2024 to the Year of Prayer. Throughout the year, we will be sharing prayers with children, supporting them in prayer and teaching them ways to pray. We would love for you to share in this too. When we share the prayers of the month, say them as a family. Prayers can be simple and said at any time. Prayers can be to ask God for help, to thank God, to ask for forgiveness. They can be for ourselves, our friends, our family, people from around the world.

We can all pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father,  
Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.



## Key Stage Assemblies

We would love to welcome parents to our Key Stage assemblies next half term. These assemblies are led by Mr Bridgewater and Mrs Farmer and tell the children about the values and virtues for the half term.

Key Stage 1 and Early Years will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 2:30pm. Key Stage 2 will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 2:45pm. No need to book, just turn up.



# What's been happening?

We've been very busy this half-term. This is just some of the things that we've been up to...

## St Margaret Ward Links



Our Year 5 children have visited St Margaret Ward to take part in PE.

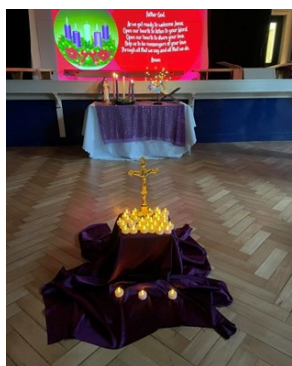


Our Year 3 children took part in Christmas activities and watched 'The Snow Queen'.

## Year 5 Inspire Morning



Thank you to the families who came along to our Inspire morning on Monday. The children enjoyed painting, making baubles and taking part in prayer and liturgy.



## Our busy half term!



## Family Learning



We've had a great term of Family Learning this term, so a big thank you to all of you who've come along to take part in these activities.

## Fire Service Visit



Last Monday, our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoyed a visit from the fire service. They loved seeing the fire engine, hearing the siren, using the hose and dressing up in the uniforms.

## Panto Trip



Last Friday, we took the whole school to see the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime at The Regent Theatre. The children had a brilliant time and behaved brilliantly.

## Music Share



On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, Year 6 travelled to Lichfield Cathedral to take part in Music Share. They had spent 3 weeks learning a range of songs and then performed these alongside other schools at the Cathedral. The children not only took part in the concert, but also took part in Evensong. We all felt like royalty sitting in the quire!

# Christmas Mass Times

## St George and St Martin's

Christmas Eve—Sunday, 24th December  
Vigil Mass: 5.00pm

Those remembered on Christmas Tree and the People of the Parish  
(Blessing of memory Tree—4.45pm)

Mass of Midnight: 9.30pm (Carols from 9.00pm)

Christmas Day Mass—Monday, 25th December  
Morning Mass: 9.30am

Feast of St Stephen—Tuesday, 26th December—10.00am

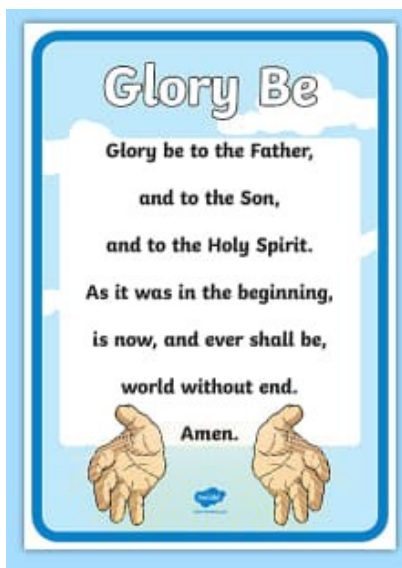
## Our Lady and St Benedict's

Christmas Eve—Sunday, 24th December - 7.30pm



## Prayers of the Month

KS1—Glory Be & KS2 the Angelus



### The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

*Hail Mary.*

V. And the Word was made flesh.  
R. And dwelt among us.

*Hail Mary.*

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray;  
Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord,  
thy grace into our hearts;  
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, thy Son,  
was made known by the message of an angel,  
may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his  
Resurrection.  
Through the same Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

## More News

### Bowling Green

As you know, we works to transform the bowling green into playground have begun. Unfortunately, the contractors have run into an issue with the mine shaft and so we are awaiting a response from the Coal Board to find out what is needed to make the mine shaft safe, as capping it is no longer an option.

As you can imagine, we are very disappointed as we were expecting our new playground to be completed for the Spring Term. I will keep you updated once we have further information

### Phonics Meeting

As you may know, our Year 1 children will have a phonics assessment in June. In order to help you to support your child at home with this, we will be holding a meeting for parents on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 3:30pm and 5:30pm.

Please complete the Microsoft Form to book in to one of the meetings:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ff\\_X21JOLUqrNU74XKfxHt7rKpnpEZGvU\\_RPolISf5UQjVQWjRLTTc0WThaMIJDVkJZSQ1ZDTRGNI4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ff_X21JOLUqrNU74XKfxHt7rKpnpEZGvU_RPolISf5UQjVQWjRLTTc0WThaMIJDVkJZSQ1ZDTRGNI4u)

### Family Learning

Our next Family Learning session is for Years 3 and 4 and is titled 'Paintbrush Adventures'. During the session children with their grown ups will write letters, make a crayon of their own and use their maths

skills to work out which is the most popular colour amongst their friends.

If you would like to book a place, please complete the Microsoft Form by 3:30pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ff\\_X21JOLUqrNU74XKfxHt7rKpnpEZGvU\\_RPolISf5UQjVQWjRLTTc0WThaMIJDVkJZSQ1ZDTRGNI4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ff_X21JOLUqrNU74XKfxHt7rKpnpEZGvU_RPolISf5UQjVQWjRLTTc0WThaMIJDVkJZSQ1ZDTRGNI4u)

Place are limited to 12.

### Nursery Inspire Morning

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, we will be holding our Nursery Inspire morning. We'd love for you to come along and spend time learning with your child. There's no need to book a place, just turn up. We really hope you come along to this fantastic opportunity. Unfortunately, we can only accept one family member per child and cannot accept younger siblings.

### School Fundraising

Thank you so much for everyone's support in the Christmas Fayre, raffle, Christmas shop and disco. We have raised £1,165 for our school funds. This money will help to pay for additional opportunities for the children.





# Reminders

## Funding for 2 year olds

The Department for Education have requested that we share the following information:

*From 2 January 2024, eligible working parents can apply for 15 hours of childcare for their two-year-old. Parents have until 31 March 2024 to apply for a code, with mid-January to the end of February being the optimum time to apply in case they need to provide further information to support their application.*

*To apply for a childcare code each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum/living wage and under £100,000 adjusted net income per year. This means that each parent needs to earn from just over £8,600 per year to be eligible for 15 hours a week of childcare during term time.*

*There is more information on the childcare support available to parents on the [Childcare Choices](#) website, where they can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.*

This does not mean that we will be accepting 2 year olds, but to make you aware of the possible funding available.

## Uniform reminders

As we are coming into the colder months, please ensure your child has outdoor PE kit – navy joggers, and navy hoody (this DOES NOT have to be branded). Children cannot wear their burgundy school jumpers and cardigans for PE.

A reminder that girls should be wearing white socks or grey tights. Black socks and tights are not part of our school uniform.

All Key Stage 2 children should either have a clip-on tie, or a 'proper' tie. Key Stage 2 children cannot wear an elastic tie.



## SHARP system

We have recently become a part of SHARP System. The SHARP system allows your child to make an **anonymous report about anything that is troubling them**. This can be personal, for example, they may be having difficulties with schoolwork, friendships or their mental well-being. The SHARP system can also be used for them to share a concern for someone else. The SHARP system can be accessed by following:

<https://sgsmnewman.thesharpsystem.com/admin>

## 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 you 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.



# Diary Dates for the Next Term

## **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

8:50am School opens to all children

## **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

2:30pm Key Stage 1 and Early Years assembly – all welcome to attend

3:20pm Class drop-in

6pm Meeting for Year 6 children wanting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and their parents

## **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

9:15am Whole-school Mass – all welcome to attend

9:15am, 3:30pm, 6pm Live stream meeting led by Ten:Ten (please book via letter sent)

11:30am – 11pm Young Voices

2:45pm Key Stage 2 assembly – all welcome to attend

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

11 – 12 Year 6 visit Northwood Day Care Centre

## **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Clubs start

## **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

9 – 11am Nursery Inspire morning

## **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

9 – 11am Family Learning for Years 3 and 4 – Paintbrush Adventures

3:30pm and 5:30pm Phonics meeting for parents of children in Year 1

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

9am Year 5 class assembly – 2 places reserved per child

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

9:30am Family Mass – all welcome to attend. Children wanting to receive the Sacraments this year must attend this Mass

## **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

11 – 12 Year 5 visit Northwood Day Care Centre

## **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

8:50 – 9:20am Stay and read – all welcome to attend

6pm Meeting for children wanting to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and their parents

## **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

9:15am Whole-school Mass – all welcome to attend

9 – 12 Utilita Kids football cup

3:30pm and 5:30pm Key Stage 1 and 2 SATS meeting – details to follow

## **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

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

## **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Year 6 visit Stanley Head

## **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

11 – 12 Year 4 visit Northwood Day Care Centre

## **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

9am Year 3 class assembly – 2 places reserved per child

## **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

Safer Internet Day

Year 5 visit Liverpool Museum

## **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

2:30pm Key Stage 1 and Early Years assembly – all welcome to attend

3:20pm Class drop in

## **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

2:45pm Key Stage 2 assembly – all welcome to attend

## **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

Treat day – please send a small treat for your child to eat at playtime

9am Year 6 class assembly – 2 places reserved per child

11 – 12 Year 3 visit Northwood Day Care Centre

3:20pm School closes for half term

## **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

8:50am School opens

## **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

9 – 11am Year 2 Inspire morning

## **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

6pm Meeting for children wanting to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and their parents

## **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

9:15am Whole-school Mass – all welcome

## **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

11 – 12 Year 2 visit Northwood Day Care Centre

## **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

8:50 – 9:20am Stay and do maths – all welcome to come along

1:15 – 3:15pm Family Learning for Years 3 and 4 – The Day the Crayons Quite

Year 2 visit Stanley Head



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# Diary Dates for the Next Term



## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Year 2 visit Stanley Head  
12 – 3pm Year 5 visit St Margaret Ward  
5 – 7:30pm Parents' Evening

## Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February

9 – 11am Family Learning for Nursery and Reception – Rhyme time  
3:30 – 5:30pm Parents' Evening

## Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

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

## Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Mother's Day shop

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Bikeability for Year 5 children who have completed Level 1  
Mother's Day shop

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

9 – 2 Year 5 take part in Recorder Festival  
3:20pm Class drop-in  
7pm Stoke Schools Sing

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March

9:15am Whole-school Mass – all welcome

## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Year 4 visit Manchester Museum  
11 – 11:30 Nursery and Reception visit Northwood Day Care Centre  
2:15pm Mother's Day service for Nursery and Reception

## Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Science Week  
Last week of clubs

## Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

11 – 12 Year 1 visit Northwood Day Care Centre  
12 – 3pm Year 5 visit St Margaret Ward  
1 – 3pm Sacrament of Reconciliation for Year 3 children  
6pm Meeting for children in Year 6 wanting to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and their parents

## Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March

9 – 11am Family Learning for Years 3 and 4 – Greener Planet  
3 – 5pm Sacrament of Reconciliation for Year 3 children

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March

9am Year 1 class assembly – 2 places reserved per child

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March

9:30am Family Mass – all welcome to attend, but children wanting to receive the Sacraments must attend

## Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Book Fair arrives

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

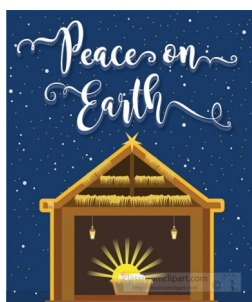
9:15am Whole-school Mass – all welcome to attend  
6:30pm Dance Extravaganza

## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

8:50 – 9:20am Stay and pray – all welcome to attend  
6 – 7pm Early Years and Key Stage 1 disco  
7:15 – 8:45pm Key Stage 2 disco

## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Treat day – please send a small treat for your child to eat at play time  
11 – 11:30am Nursery visit Northwood Day Care Centre  
2:15pm Nursery Easter bonnet  
3:20pm School closes for Easter



Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Thank you for all your support.

Regards

*D. Farmer*

Mrs. D. Farmer (Principal)

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