



St George and St Martin

Start of Autumn Term



Here we are at the start of another year! The children have settled brilliantly into their new classes. A big welcome to our new children and their families – we hope you enjoy your time with us.

As a reminder to all families, we offer an open-door policy. This means that we will always do our best to accommodate you if you would like to speak to a member of staff. If ever there is an issue, please do contact us straight away so that we can deal with it.

As I shared at the end of last term, a newsletter will be sent at the end of each half term. This will give information about the things that have happened during the half term and will give upcoming dates for the following half term.

The weekly Gospel will be shared on Dojo, along with upcoming dates and award winners for the week.

As we started this new term and new academic year, we are now a part of the new St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Company. This means that we are now part of a bigger group of schools – 63 schools are involved! We will continue to work closely with the original Newman schools, as feeder schools for St Margaret Ward, but will also work more closely with the other 62 schools. This will open up more experiences for our children.

Parking and driving around school

A reminder to please take care when driving and parking around school. We are part of the School Streets initiative and so you are unable to drive along certain streets from 8am until 9:30am and from 2:15pm until 3:45pm.

I have been asked to remind you that the Richer Sounds car park is for customers only and that non-customers are charged £10 per hour to park.

Instrument lessons

For children who currently have woodwind, piano or violin lessons, lessons will continue next week and will cost £50 per term.

Any child in Year 3 and above who would like to learn to play a woodwind instrument, piano or violin, please contact the school office.

Places available in classes

We currently have places in some classes. If you know of anyone wanting a place, please ask them to contact the school office.

The only classes we don't have places in is in Nursery and Year 4.

Updates

Homework

We have reviewed our homework policy and there are some changes. These changes have been made to put a greater emphasis on the basic skills needed for all children to succeed.

Reading is the most precious gift you can give to your child and so this is a big focus of homework.

	Reading	Practising spellings	Times tables	Daily maths
Early Years	10 minutes daily (plus chosen library book read to them)	Weekly (Reception)		
Key Stage One	10 minutes daily (plus chosen library book read to them)	Weekly (common exception words)	Year 2 1 x weekly (Monday)	5 minutes daily
Year 3 and Year 4	15 minutes daily (plus chosen library book if scheme reader)	Year 3 weekly (common exception words)	2 x weekly (Monday, Wednesday)	5 minutes daily
Year 5 and Year 6	20 minutes daily		3 x weekly (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)	5 minutes daily

- Parents must sign the home reading diary when their child has completed shared reading tasks at home. If children are fluent readers, they should be encouraged to read on their own for at least 10-20 minutes a day.
- In KS1 and Year 3, spelling will be assessed through a weekly spelling test.
- There may be additional tasks sent home to consolidate work in class.
- Children in Year 6 will take home SATS practice papers to help prepare them for the national SATS tests.
- Children who repeatedly do not complete homework will be expected to complete during break or lunch time.

Updates

Clubs

The clubs will start on Monday 15th September. Places can be requested by following the appropriate Microsoft Forms link. You will be emailed with via Arbor once clubs have been allocated. Forms will close at 9am on Wednesday 10th September.

Reception and Key Stage 1

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ff_X21JOLUqrNU74XKfVxHt7rKpnpEZGvU_RPoIISf5UNjFCWTIJQIYxTko5WVBTT05ETVJVRkwzWC4u

Key Stage 2

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ff_X21JOLUqrNU74XKfVxHt7rKpnpEZGvU_RPoIISf5URDRCWVIPSTQ0NVNGNFowSDNaSjU4V1hMTi4u

Little G and Ms

Our Little G and Ms Baby and Toddler group will start again on Monday 22nd September at 2pm. This is run by a member of staff and all are welcome. Please spread the word.

Operation Encompass

We are proud to be an Operation Encompass school. Operation Encompass is a police and education early information sharing partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. Information is shared by the police with a school's trained Key Adult (Mrs Farmer) prior to the start of the next school day after officers have attended a domestic abuse incident thus enabling appropriate support to be given, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attendance Policy

In line with our Collegiate attendance policy, we will carry out home visits if a child is off ill for 3 days consecutively. This is regardless of whether you have contacted school to say that they are ill.

Jubilee Year

As pilgrims of hope, we are on a mission to build a world where:

- **We recognise** the dignity of every person, loved and created by God.
- **We follow** the example of Jesus' love and his mission to bring good news 'to the poor'. (Luke 4)
- **We work** for the common good of all, understanding that our actions impact our local and global family because we are all interconnected.
- **We are good stewards** of the earth, knowing that the earth's gifts are for everyone, not just for a privileged few.
- **We prepare** a path to peace in our world, challenging the root causes of poverty and injustice.
- **We speak out** for debt relief, to set free those who are burdened by unjust debt.
- **We work together** with CAFOD and our local Caritas to be practical signs of hope and put love into action.



Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Uniform Policy

Early Years—Nursery and Reception

BOYS—(Autumn & Spring Terms) Grey trousers, white polo shirt, maroon v-neck jumper (with embroidered school motif), grey socks, black shoes.

BOYS—(Summer Term) Short grey trousers, white polo shirt, maroon v-neck jumper (with embroidered school motif), grey socks, black shoes

GIRLS—(Autumn & Winter terms) Grey skirt or pinafore dress, white polo shirt, maroon v-neck cardigan (with embroidered school motif), white socks or grey tights, black shoes.

GIRLS—(Summer Term) Pink and white gingham dress, maroon v-neck cardigan (with embroidered school motif), white socks, black shoes

Years 1-6 Autumn and Spring Terms

BOYS—Grey trousers, white shirt, school tie, maroon v-neck jumper (with embroidered school motif), grey socks, black shoes.

GIRLS—Grey skirt or pinafore dress, white shirt, school tie, maroon cardigan (with embroidered school motif), white socks, black shoes.

Years 1-6 Summer Term

BOYS—Grey trousers or short grey trousers, white short sleeved shirt, school tie, maroon v-neck jumper (with embroidered school motif), grey socks, black shoes.

GIRLS—Either grey skirt/pinafore dress, white short sleeved shirt with school tie OR pink and white gingham dress with maroon cardigan (with embroidered school motif), white socks, black shoes.

Ties for children in Years 3 - 6 must be a clip-on tie or a 'normal' tie. No elastic ties in Years 3 - 6.

Children **MUST** wear black shoes, not trainers.

Hair should not be noticeably dyed, and not be shaved or partially shaved with lines or patterns. All long hair should be tied back.

Cardigans/jumpers with embroidered school motif are available from the National School wear Centre in Hanley or Supersport in Tunstall.

PE kit

Pumps

Maroon shorts

Light blue polo shirt

Navy jogging bottoms

Navy sweatshirt/hoody

Trainers

Diary dates for next half term

Wednesday 3rd September

8:50am School opens for new school year

Thursday 4th September

9am Values and virtues assembly – all welcome

Monday 8th September

9 – 12:30 Year 5 visit Sandyford Fire Station for Safe and Sound

Wednesday 10th September

Cricket starts for Years 1 – 6

Thursday 11th September

9:15am Whole-school Mass – all welcome

5:30 – 8pm SMW prospective parents' evening

Friday 12th September

11 – 12 Year 6 visit Northwood Day Care Centre

Monday 15th September

Clubs start

Thursday 18th September

8:50 – 9:20am Stay and pray – all welcome

Wednesday 24th September

11 – 12 Year 4 visit Northwood Day Care Centre

Thursday 25th September

9:15am Whole-school Mass – all welcome

9 – 11:30am Year 6 visit SMW

Friday 26th September

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

Saturday 27th September

10 – 12 SMW open morning

Monday 29th September

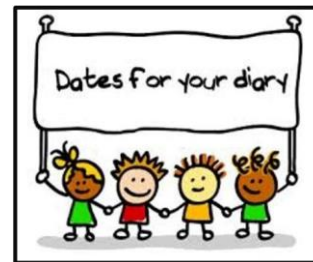
Launch of St Gabriel the Archangel

Thursday 2nd October

8:50 – 9:20am Stay and Read – all welcome

Friday 3rd October

Individual photos



Diary dates for next half term

Tuesday 7th October
Inspire morning – Year 3

Thursday 9th October
8:50 – 9:20am Stay and do Maths – all welcome

Friday 10th October
9am Year 5 class assembly – 2 places reserved per child
9 – 11:30am Year 6 visit SMW

Monday 13th October
11 – 12 Year 5 visit Northwood Day Care Centre

Tuesday 14th October
Family Day – details to follow

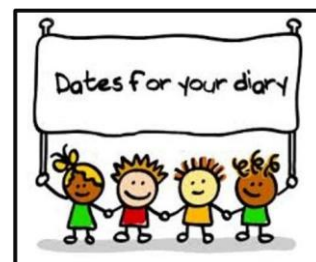
Thursday 16th October
9:15am Harvest service

Friday 17th October
9am Year 4 class assembly – 2 places reserved per child

Tuesday 21st October
2:30 – 7:30pm Parents' evening

Thursday 23rd October
9am Values and virtues assembly

Friday 25th October
Treat day – please send a small treat for your child to eat at break
11 – 12 Year 3 visit Northwood Day Care Centre
3:20pm School closes for half term



Attendance Rewards for this year

The children have decided that for 100% attendance for the year, there will be a visit to Inflato and for the class with the best attendance they will have a class party, using the Astro.