

THE MESSENGER



1st December 2023

Issue No: 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to sharing in the special season of Advent in school over the coming weeks. Today we joined the One Life Music Advent streamed event which was a perfect way to start the season of in prayer! Next week our Advent prayer services begin which always prove to be a great way to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. All are welcome to join us.

Last Sunday we celebrated our first Family Mass. It was lovely to see so many of you there to share in the Mass. It was Youth Sunday and it was inspiring to hear the ways that young people in our community are being called to serve God and are living as true disciples of Jesus.

As I am sure you are aware, Christmas is fast approaching and is a very busy time in school. The Foundation Stage and Key Stage One are very excited to share their Christmas Nativity with you on the 11th and 12th of December. I have been lucky enough to see some little bits of it this week and it is so lovely that we are able to share the true meaning of Christmas with you. Tickets are still available from the school office.

Some other important dates are below;

Tuesday 19th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch (any monetary donations, cash or via Scopay, for the Douglas Macmillan Hospice would be greatly appreciated)
Thursday 21st December	End of Term Assembly 9:30am
Friday 22nd December	Christmas Carol Concert 9:30am

Please note that we return to school on **Tuesday 9th January**.

On a final note, at the end of term, Mrs Capper will be leaving her position at Our Lady of Grace to begin a new adventure in a private setting. I am sure you will join us in thanking Mrs Capper for everything she has done for our school community and wishing her all the best in her future.

Thank you for your continued support during this term and I look forward to sharing this season of Advent with you.

God bless

Mrs Rathbone
Principal

This Advent will mark the start of a special year in the church's calendar. Pope Francis has called for a 'Year of Prayer' in preparation for the Jubilee year in 2025. We are being encouraged to reflect on our life of prayer: what we pray, how we pray & why we pray to encourage us to deepen our own prayer life and love of God and help someone else to pray. There will be a particular focus on the 'Our Father'. This Advent please take time to pray this prayer with your families.





December

- 6th - Year 3/4 Christmas Show visit, St. Margaret Ward
 8th - PTFA Christmas Fayre, 3.15pm
 11th - FS & KS1 Christmas Concert, 2.00pm
 12th - FS & KS1 Christmas Concert, 5.30pm
 13th - Foundation Stage open Morning 9.30am
 14th - FS visit to Lower Drayton Farm
 15th - Festive Inter House P.E. Competition
 19th - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
 19th - Foundation Stage Drop In Session 3.30pm
 21st - End of Term Assembly, 9.30am
 22nd - Family Breakfast, 8.00am
 22nd - Carol Service & KS2 Nativity, 9.30am



Advent Prayer Services

Monday 4th December
Year 5/6

Monday 11th December
Year 3/4

Friday 15th December
Year 3/4

Wednesday 6th December
KS1 - 2.45pm

Wednesday 13th December
Year 5/6

Monday 18th December
KS1

Wednesday 20th December
Foundation Stage



Advent Prayer Services begin at 9.15am, unless stated.

January



- 10th - Year 5/6 Saint's Day
 11th - Young Voices
 17th - Y2 & Y6 SATs Information Sessions
 24th - Year 5 Music at St. Margaret Ward
 25th - Year 5 P.E. at St. Margaret Ward
 30th - Year 5 P.E. at St. Margaret Ward



Celebration Assemblies - Fridays at 2.30pm



Friday 8th December - No assembly

Friday 15th December - KS2 Assembly

Thursday 21st December - End of Term Assembly 9.30am

AUTUMN TERM - 2023

School closes

Friday 22nd December

SPRING TERM - 2024

Inset Day (**school closed to pupils**)

Monday 8th January

School opens to pupils

Tuesday 9th January



ANNOUNCEMENTS



	Head Teacher's Award	Reader Award	Goldfinch Award	Maths
10/11/2023				
Foundation Stage	Wendy Benton	Emily Burgess		
KS1	Seth Exon	Q'amar Al Maatouk	Alisdair Noonan	Bradley Laud
17/11/2023				
Year 3/4	Sophie Simcock	Lexi Brew	Madison Adams	Victor Houghton
Year 5/6	Maisie Laing	Charlie Simcock	Kandice Jackson	Prosper Amegadzie
01/12/2023				
Foundation Stage	Maya Houghton	Marnie-Rae Bedson	Macy-Mabel Webb	Theodore Robinson
KS1	Jorgi Gibbons	Aadynn Hibbert	Evie Copeland	Maisie Mason



A very BIG well done to all of our children who took part in the "Songbirds" concert at the Victoria Hall.

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

STAY & PLAY

From Wednesday 8th November 2023
Free Stay & Play Sessions
Every Wednesday
(Term time only)
2.00pm to 3.00pm

Parents and their children (under 4) are welcome to join us at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy. Sessions will consist of fun activities for you & your child to join in with. This is an ideal opportunity for you & your child to meet new people in a safe & welcoming environment.

For further details please contact the school on 01782 512644.

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy
Woodland Street, Biddulph, ST8 6LW

ENJOY A FESTIVE FAMILY DAY OUT AND EARN CASH BACK FOR YOUR SCHOOL

HOW IT WORKS

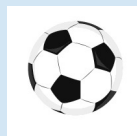
- COME ENJOY A DAY OUT AT THE FARM PICKING YOUR PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE
- WHEN PURCHASING YOUR TREE, ASK AT THE TILL FOR YOUR SCHOOLS TOKENS. THE AMOUNT YOU HAVE SPENT ON YOUR TREE(S) WILL BE PUT AGAINST YOUR SCHOOL
- IN THE NEW YEAR WE ADD UP HOW MUCH EACH SCHOOL HAS EARNED AND SEND A PERCENTAGE BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL

KEELE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

Well done to.....



Football Awards
Sophie Simcock
Olive Tomkinson



Swimming
Orla Tunnicliffe
Lexi



Musicshare

Congratulations to our Year 5 children who took part in the Musicshare event at Lichfield Cathedral last month. It was a late night, but a fantastic experience for all involved.



Thank you for your support of our PTFA disco before half term. A total of £270 was raised in total.

Thank you to all children who took part in the Potted Sports event at St Margaret Ward. You were fantastic representatives of the school. Thank you also to parents for providing transport.

English Martyrs' Mini Fayre
Saturday 2nd December 10am to 12 noon
Tombola, toy & craft stall & raffle
All welcome



Did you know that Our Lady of Grace is a referrer for the Stoke-on-Trent Food Bank? Any of our families in need of support can contact Mrs McGough in the school office to request confidential help obtaining a voucher.



Please share your positive views about our school on Parent View <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> Thank you for your support.

Reminders to Parents



- ♦ **School Uniforms**—Our full uniform range is now available at Supersport, High Street, Tunstall or online at www.supersport.co.uk/schoolwear.html. The school office carries elastic and normal ties, water bottles and a small stock of other uniform items. Please order via Scopay.
- ♦ **School Dinners** - Nursery Meals are £2.40 per day
Reception & KS1 meals are free
Years 3/4/5 & 6. meals are £3.10 per day
Menus are on the School Website.

Breakfast Club

from 7.30am £4.50 (Late or no booking £9.00)
from 8.00am £2.50 (Late or no booking £5.00)

Children must arrive no later than 8.15am

**If your child is at Breakfast Club for the full week the Friday session will be free.
All sessions must be booked and paid for at least one week in advance.**

Care Club

Mon-Fri 3.00pm-5.45pm - Snack included

Care Club First Child;
from 3.00pm to 5.00pm £5.00
from 3.00pm to 5.45pm £7.50

Care Club Siblings;
from 3.00pm to 5.00 £3.00
from 3.00pm to 5.45pm £6.00

Late or no booking up to 5.00pm £10.00

Late or no booking up to 5.45pm £15.00

All sessions must be booked and paid for at least one week in advance.

Unattended pre booked sessions will still be charged.

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 is payable in advance and should either be paid online via your child's Sco pay account.

ABSENCEIF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL YOU MUST EITHER telephone school on 512644, report the absence via Studybugs or email office@olognewman.co.uk

BEFORE 09.30am stating the reason for absence.

You must also send a letter or email detailing the dates and the reason for their absence on your child's return to school as this is required by Education Welfare.

If you require this document in any other format please contact the office.