

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Biddulph



“Do whatever He tells you.”

Messenger

November 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term! The children have all come back to school with great enthusiasm and a wonderful attitude to learning, which is as always great to see.

On Monday 11th November, the Catholic church honours St. Martin of Tours, he was a soldier who left his post in the Roman army to become a “soldier of Christ” as a monk and later bishop. We will come together to commemorate Armistice Day. The children and staff will take part in prayer and a two-minute silence.

On Monday 11th November, we will also begin our anti-bullying week. The national theme for the week this year is ‘Choose Respect’. On Tuesday 12th November, we will take part in ‘Odd Socks Day.’ You will be receiving further communication about how we are marking this week as a school.

On Friday 22nd November, there will be a watch me learn session where you can observe your child taking part in a Maths lesson. A separate letter with specific timings will be sent out to you. Following this, on Tuesday 26th November, we will be holding a Maths information session at 2pm. This session will share more information regarding how we teach maths at school and how you can support this at home.

On Tuesday 26th November, we will be holding our prospective parents’ session for the Foundation Stage at 6pm. If your child will be 3 years old on the 1st September 2025, the applications can be made directly to the school. Please contact Mrs McGough in the office for an application form. Similarly, the application process for the Reception class is now open – this is for children who will be 4 on the 1st September 2025. Applications for the Reception class need to be made directly through the authority, <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.asp> Applications close on 15th January 2025.

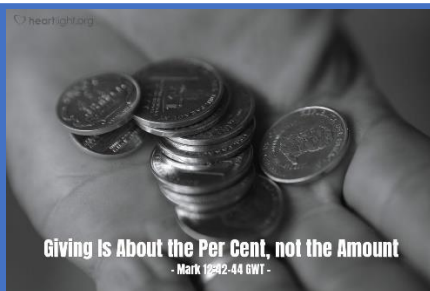
Thank you for your support of the time change for the Celebration Assembly on a Friday, it was lovely to see so many of you this morning. This change ensures that curriculum time on Friday afternoon’s can be maximised and we can get the children out on time.

Lastly, I’m sure you will have noticed the improved security fencing and gates to our school site. The works have been going on since the summer break and are nearing completion. This project includes the addition of automated gates which are programmed inline with the times of the school day.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Davis

Head of School



In this week’s Gospel we hear the Gospel story of the widow who gave away her last two coins. This reading teaches us that Jesus is interested in the generosity of our hearts. Even if it feels like we have little to give, will we trust God and give our all?

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

**FOUNDATION STAGE
Prospective Parents Sessions**

For Admission in September 2025

Date:
Tuesday 26th November 2024

Time:
6.00pm

For more information or to book a place - email office@olognewman.co.uk or telephone 01782 512644

For the safety of everyone in our school community, please be careful where you chose to park your vehicle and remember to be considerate to our neighbours.



Studybugs

If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

<https://studybugs.com>

Please make sure that your child brings a filled water bottle into school every day. **Please note these should not contain juice.** Water bottles are available to order from school, via Scopay, priced £2.50.

Arbor We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school. Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go! The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings. To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to check the email address linked to your account.
2. Reset your password from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the password link will have expired. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. Enter the birthday of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are Primary Guardians of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.

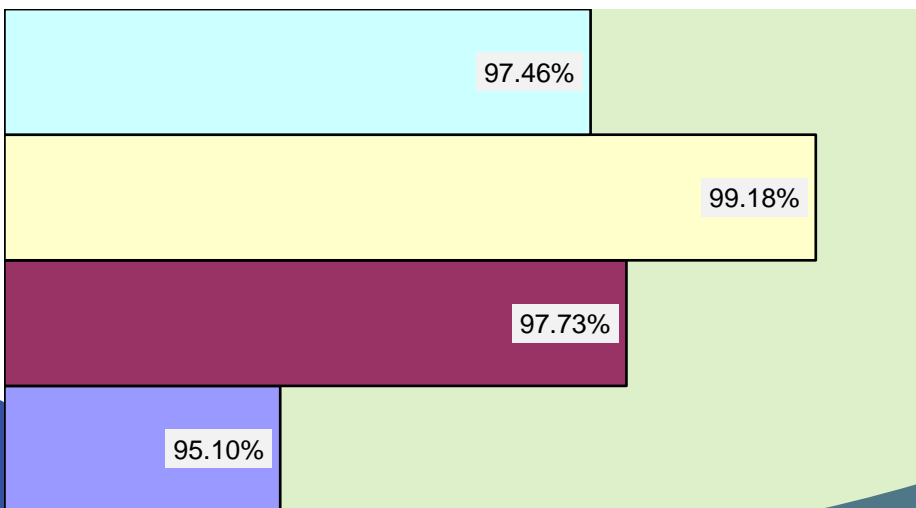


Thank you for your support of our Harvest Appeal for the Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank. A total of 62.42kg was collected and donated!

★ Attendance 2024/25 ★

Friday 8th November 2024

Nurs&Rec
Y1&Y2
Y3&Y4
Y5&Y6



OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

STAY & PLAY

From Thursday 7th November 2024
Free Stay & Play Sessions
Every Thursday
(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



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



November Diary Dates



11th	FS Nursery Rhyme Dress Up Day
12th	Anti bullying Odd Sock Day
13th	Year 5 Music Share Concert, Lichfield Cathedral
15th	FS Parent/Child Nursery Rhyme Workshop, 9.00am
15th	Year 3/4 Inspire Workshop, 2.00pm
20th	Red Wednesday
22nd	Watch Me Learn Maths – please see letter
22nd	Year 3/4 Class Assembly, 9.05am
25th	Songbirds Christmas Concert, Victoria Hall, 6pm
26th	FS Prospective Parent Session, 6.00pm
26th	Parent Maths Session, 2.00pm
27th	Academy Photography – Individual, family & siblings
29th	FS Inspire Workshop, 2.00pm



Uniformd stocks a variety of preloved school uniform items priced £1.00 to £5.00 and our catalogue can be found by following the link below; <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/our-lady-of-grace-catholic-academy>






You can help by donating clean, good condition school uniform items (excluding shirts and polo tops), coats or shoes which can then be made available through Uniformd. Donations may be left at the school office.



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.

Well Done to.....

	 Head Teacher Award	 Reader	 Goldfinch	 Maths
Foundation Stage	Alfie	Charlie		Kai
Key Stage 1	Eva	Mason	Nela	Wendy
Year 3/4	Milenna	Bobby	Olive	Jessica
Year 5/6	Eughann	Olivia	Harry	Charlie

School Masses will take place on a weekly rota basis— led by Whole school, EYFS, KS1 or Year 3/4 and Year 5/6.

All of these Masses take place on a Tuesday morning at 9.15am (*unless otherwise stated*).

We encourage all parents, grandparents and members of the parish to support these Masses where possible.

Tuesday 10th September - Whole School

Tuesday 17th September - Year 5/6

Tuesday 24th September - Year 3/4

Tuesday 1st October - KS1

Tuesday 8th October - Year 5/6

Tuesday 22nd October - Year 3/4

Tuesday 5th November - KS2

Tuesday 19th November - Year 3/4

Tuesday 26th November - KS1

Tuesday 3rd December - Year 5/6

Tuesday 10th December - Year 3/4

Tuesday 17th December - Whole School - End of Term

Wrap around care

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

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 available on the school website.

Please note that dinner money is payable in advance and should be paid online via your child's Scopay account.

School Uniform

Our full uniform range is now available at Smart Uniform, Unit 2, Highgate, Tunstall Trade Park, Tunstall, ST6 4JZ or online at

<https://smartuniform.co.uk/>

Our uniform policy is available on the school website

The school office carries elastic and normal ties, water bottles and a small stock of other uniform items.
Please order via Scopay.

School Attendance



**From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.
#AttendanceCounts"**

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. Follow this link to get NHS advice on common illnesses.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

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.