

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Biddulph



“Do whatever He tells you.”

Messenger

December 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge thank you to everyone who donated the shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We were blown away with the number of filled shoe boxes that were donated. These little boxes will help make such a difference to children on Christmas day.

On Monday 25th November, some of our children from KS1 performed at the Victoria Hall in the City Songbirds Christmas Concert. They were all amazing and were, as always, a credit to Our Lady of Grace.

Our wonderful school choir also have a number of events coming up to help spread a little Christmas cheer!

Last Sunday marked the first Sunday of Advent. It was lovely to see some of our families attend Mass to celebrate this. We also look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas fayre, which is being held on Friday 13th December from 3:15pm.

We continue to look forward to spending the special season of Advent in school over the coming weeks. Today, we joined the One Life Music Advent streamed event, which was the perfect way to celebrate the season of Advent as a school community. Our Y5/6 and Y1/2 classes have also shared the first of our school Advent prayer services this week, which they led beautifully. These services always prove to be a great way to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. As always, you are welcome to attend. These begin at 9:15am.

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 excited to share their Christmas Nativity with you next week (Monday 9th 2-3pm and Tuesday 10th 5-6pm). I have been lucky enough to see some of it this week and it is so lovely that we are able to share the true meaning of Christmas with you.

Some other important dates in the next couple of weeks are:

Thursday 12th December- Non Uniform Day- Donations for Christmas fayre to be brought in.

Tuesday 17th December – Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch (any donations to the Father Hudson Reverse Advent would be greatly appreciated)

Thursday 19th December- 9:15 – End of term assembly

Friday 20th December- 8-8:40 Family Breakfast

Friday 20th December- 9:30 Carol Concert and KS2 Nativity.

Please note that we return to school on Monday 6th January. Thank you for your continued support during this term and I look forward to sharing this season of Advent with you.

God Bless

Mrs Davis

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>

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.



Now the weather has turned colder, please ensure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing for break & lunchtime i.e. coat, hat, gloves.

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

Google Play | App Store

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.

The Sunnyville School of Magic
WIS 58N, London, GM

Enter your password
Log in

Forgot password?



Parish of Our Lady of Grace
Christmas Fayre

Saturday 7th December
12.00noon to 3.00pm

St. Joseph`s Catholic Academy
Mobberley Road, Goldenhill, ST6 5RN

Free admission

Quality stalls, Santa, *Choir*, *Raffle* & *Refreshments*
All welcome

Swimming Awards

Seth Exon



Brownies

Macy-Mabel Webb Parkinson



Rainbows

Olive Tomkinson



A reminder of free
Breakfast Club from
8.00am available for
Year 5 & 6!



A very **BIG** well
done to **Samuel** who
took part in the
"Songbirds" concert
at the Victoria Hall.
You were amazing!



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

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



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



December Diary Dates



9th	Year 5 – Science practical, St. Margaret Ward
9th	FS & KS1 Christmas Production, "Sleepy Shepherd" 2.00pm
10th	FS & KS1 Christmas Production, "Sleepy Shepherd" 5.00pm
11th	Prospective Parents Foundation Stage open morning, 9.30am
11th	Year 4 MTC Parent Meeting, 5.00pm
12th	Non-uniform day in support of Christmas Fayre
13th	Christmas Fayre, 3.15pm
16th	Year 3/4 Christmas Visit to St. Margaret Ward
17th	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
19th	End of Term Assembly, 9.15am
20th	Family Breakfast, 8.00am
20th	Carol Service & KS2 Nativity, 9.15am

Please see below for details of End of Term Mass & Advent Prayer Services.

School Masses will take place on a weekly rota basis— led by Whole school, EYFS, KS1 or Year3/4 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 December - Year 3/4
Tuesday 17th December - Whole School - End of Term

Advent Prayer Services

Monday 2nd
December Year 5/6

Wednesday 4th December
KS1

Monday 9th December
Year 3/4

Wednesday 11th December
Year 5/6

Friday 13th December
Year 3/4

Monday 16th December
KS1

Wednesday 18th December
Foundation Stage



Advent Prayer Services begin at 9.15am, unless stated.

Well Done to.....

	 Head Teacher Award	 Reader	 Goldfinch	 Maths
Foundation Stage		Joseph	Rosie	Florence
Key Stage 1	Emily	Samuel	Aria	Isabelle
Year 3/4	Olive	Olivia	Maisie	Nathan
Year 5/6	Chloe	Harvey	Cody	Caleb

Don't forget to register for free with our new fundraising partners – raising funds for Our Lady of Grace while you shop!



Easyfundraising - https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/our-lady-of-grace-catholic-academy/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-fb1

My School Fund - <https://www.myschoolfund.org/>



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.

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.