

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Biddulph



“Do whatever He tells you.”

Messenger

FEBRUARY 2025



Dear Parents and carers,

On Friday 24th January, we, along with millions of others, celebrated the official launch day of the Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope' starting with a live stream assembly. Following on from this, the children and parish will take part in activities to action the Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope within our local and wider community. The children learnt more about this special message during our One Life Music retreat day on Tuesday- where we had a lovely day joining together in prayer as a school community and thinking about how as 'pilgrims of hope' we want to go out and build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth can flourish.

Monday also marked the start of 'Children's mental health week', where the theme of the week was 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. Know yourself, grow yourself is about encouraging children and young people to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. It is so important children understand their likes and dislikes, strengths, fears, hopes and dreams. Our emotions play a key role in telling us just that, and being aware of how to listen to and express ourselves is a major part of building self-awareness. The children have had a fabulous week and due to the 'dress to express day' on Thursday we raised £51.00 for Place2Be. Please find attached the Tips for children and Tips for Families which you may find useful.

On Tuesday 11th February we will also be marking 'Safer Internet Day'. The children will learn to recognise possible scams and how to keep safe when online. Please see the links below, which will support you in keeping your children safe online.

[Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy - Online Safety](#)
[Tips for Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

And finally, a reminder that this Sunday 9th February we also have our family Mass to celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Grace. It would be lovely to see as many of our children and families there as possible. Mass begins at 9am.

I do wish you all a lovely weekend!

Mrs Davis

Head of School



In this week's Gospel, we hear how Simon Peter, James and John were compelled to follow Jesus after witnessing a miraculous catch of fish. This reminds children that we too are invited to follow Jesus and become part of God's family.

During this week where we are thinking about children's mental health, it is a reminder to us that we all have a co-responsibility to teach our children the importance of spending time with God to find peace and strength.

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>

Acro Dance Awards

Well done to.....
Isabelle Power
Olive Tomkinson
Florence Tomkinson
Macy-Mabel Webb-Parkinson

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



Westminster Catholic Cathedral in London are looking to recruit boys from all over the UK for their outstanding choir. There is a Zoom session at 6.30pm on Wednesday 12th March for parents to find out more. Please see their website at choirschool.com and email freeman@choirschool.com for more information.



Whole School Disco
Thursday 13th February
4.30pm-6.00pm



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

Entry £2 per child
Maximum of £2.00 for refreshments (drinks, crisps and sweets)

Children from Foundation Stage and KS1 children must be accompanied by a parent. Parents of other year groups are welcome to accompany their child should they wish.

Congratulations to those children in our choir who joined the Young Voices in concert last month at the BP Pulse Live Arena. You were all amazing & we are very proud of you!



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



February Diary Dates



11 th	Safer Internet Day
11 th	Foundation Stage Drop in Session
13 th	Whole School Disco, 4.30pm
14 th	KS1 Class Assembly, 9.10am
14 th	KS/KS1 Watch me Learn Phonics
14 th	FS/KS1 Parent English Session
17 th -21 st	Half Term
24 th	INSET Day
26 th	Year 3/4 British Museum Virtual Visit
28 th	FS/KS1 Assembly, 9.10am

School and Class Mass Times

Throughout the Spring term we will continue to celebrate Mass at English Martyrs` Church.





These Masses will usually take place on a Tuesday morning at 9.15am. Any changes for specific Masses are detailed below.

Sunday 9th February, 9.00am - Family Mass - Our Lady of Grace Feast Day

Tuesday 11th February - Year 3/4

Tuesday 25th February - Year 5/6

Well Done to.....

	 Head Teacher Award	 Reader	 Goldfinch	 Maths
Foundation Stage	Rosie	Dayton	Florence	Michael
Key Stage 1	Lucca	Eva	Jack	Jorgi
Year 3/4	Bobby	Maisie	Rojin	Rosalie
Year 5/6	Olivia	Kellan	Grace	George

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

HM Government
Head to the Education Hub to find out more.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

NHS

**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.