

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Biddulph



“Do whatever He tells you.”

Messenger

March 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term - a very busy half term!

Lent is the most important time for the school and Church. We are doing a number of things to fully prepare the children for Easter. The Lenten prayer services will begin in the next couple of weeks, with the first one on Wednesday 19th March at 9:00am, led by Year 5/6. These always prove to be a very reflective way to prepare ourselves for the season of Easter. You are all most welcome to attend. It would be lovely for our families to accompany us on our Lenten journey.

This week, we welcomed Lauren from Staffordshire's Children's University into school. The children enjoyed a session reminding them about the importance of learning outside of the classroom and building up credits through attendance at after school clubs and extra-curricular activities that they may attend outside of school. If your child is in KS1 or KS2 and attends any clubs outside of school and you would like these credits to be added to their account then please ask the activity provider to complete the form which is being sent home today, and hand these to Mrs McGough in the office who will be able to record this. It would be wonderful to see even more of our children graduate in the summer this year!

Last week, some of our pupils had an amazing time representing Our Lady of Grace at the cross-country event at Sneyd Academy. As always, they gave it their all and were a real credit to our school. We're incredibly proud of each and every one of them - well done, everyone!

Just a reminder that for those children taking the sacrament of Reconciliation, this will take place on Wednesday 12th March at 6pm, at St Joseph's church Goldenhill.

Thank you for your continued ongoing support; it is very much appreciated as always.

Mrs Davis

Head of School



Inspired by the account of Jesus' temptation in the desert, this week's Gospel invites us to explore the Jubilee themes of slavery and freedom through the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

"And Jesus answered him, it is written that you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve."

Luke 3:16

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>

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



Please pray for those children in Year 3 who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this month.



Well done to the children who have taken part in Cross Country & Handball events this half term. A big thank you to parents for your support with transport.



aiM is a local charity dedicated to raising awareness of Sepsis and its devastating effects but more importantly, what signs and symptoms you should be looking out for. Working with local organisations and the local community they hope to bring Sepsis to the forefront of peoples minds and encouraging everyone to ask themselves 'Could it be Sepsis?' Please see the signs and symptoms information below.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

CHILDREN	ADULTS
BLUE, GREY, PALE OR BLOTCHY SKIN.	ACTING CONFUSED, SLURRED SPEECH OR NOT MAKING SENSE.
NOT RESPONDING USUALLY OR NOT RESPONDING TO BEING OR NORMAL ACTIVITIES.	UNCONTROLLED SHIVERING.
RAPID BREATHING OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH.	COLD OR BLOTCHY ARMS OR LEGS.
LITTLE OR NO URINE OUTPUT.	VERY HIGH OR LOW TEMPERATURE.
A RASH THAT DOES NOT FADE WHEN YOU ROLL A GLASS OVER IT.	A WEAL, HIGH PITCHED CRY THATS NOT LIKE THEIR NORMAL CRY.
VERY HIGH OR LOW TEMPERATURE.	DIFFICULTY BREATHING, BREATHLESSNESS OR BREATHING VERY FAST.
BEING SLEEPY THAN NORMAL OR DIFFICULT TO WAKE.	NOT PASSING AS MUCH URINE AS NORMAL.
A RASH THAT DOES NOT FADE WHEN YOU ROLL A GLASS OVER IT.	A RASH THAT DOES NOT FADE WHEN YOU ROLL A GLASS OVER IT.

SEPSIS IS AN EMERGENCY
 CALL 999 OR GO STRAIGHT TO A&E
[WWW.AI-M-CHARITY.CO.UK](http://www.aiM-charity.co.uk)

Lenten Prayer Services

- Wednesday 19th March - Year 5/6, 9.00am
- Monday 24th March - Foundation Stage, 9.00am
- Wednesday 26th March - Year 3/4, 9.00am
- Friday 28th March - Year 1/2 Mother's Day Prayer Service, 9.15am
- Monday 31st March - Year 1/2, 9.00am
- Wednesday 2nd April - Year 5/6, 9.00am
- Friday 4th April - Foundation Stage, 2.30pm
- Monday 7th April - Year 3/4, 9.00am
- Wednesday 9th April - Year 1/2, 9.00am
- Friday 11th April - Year 5/6, Stations of the Cross

Non Uniform Day

TUESDAY 1ST APRIL

CHILDREN MAY COME TO SCHOOL IN THEIR OWN CLOTHES IN EXCHANGE FOR DONATIONS OF EASTER EGGS IN SUPPORT OF THE PTFA EASTER BINGO EVENT.

EASTER EGG BINGO - FRIDAY 4TH APRIL, 3.30PM

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.

- Tuesday 11th March - Year 3/4
- Tuesday 18th March - KS1
- Tuesday 25th March - KS2
- Tuesday 8th April - Whole School - End of Term

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

STAY & PLAY

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

HAF fun this Easter

Holiday Activities and Food funded for children and young people aged 5-16 who get free school meals*. Paid places also available.

visit staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities



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





March & April Diary Dates



11th March	Year 4 & 6 – Halle Orchestra Visit
12th March	Academy Photography Class, leavers & graduations
12th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation, 6.00pm, St Joseph's
14th March	FS/KS1 Assembly
14th March	Poet Visit
14th March	KS1 Dance taster Session, 4pm, Northwood Stadium
18th March	Year 3, Recorder Festival
20th March	Foundation Stage, Biddulph Library Visit
21st March	Foundation Stage Saint Day
21st March	KS2 Assembly
25th March	France Meeting
27th March	Year 5/6 Inspire Workshop
28th March	Mother's Day Breakfast, 8.00am
28th March	Year 3/4 Handball
8th April	End of Term Mass, 9.15am, English Martyrs'
8th April	Foundation Stage Easter Bonnet, 2.30pm
8th April	Foundation Stage Drop in Session, 3.15pm
10th April	End of Term Assembly, 9.15am

Well Done to.....

	 Head Teacher Award	 Reader	 Goldfinch	 Maths
Foundation Stage	Frankie	Jack V	Jack T	Beatrix
Key Stage 1	Bradley	Wendy	Beatrice	Harry
Year 3/4	Aubrey	Penelope	Betsy	Alisdair
Year 5/6	Lilly	Emily	Rose	Kellan

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.