

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Biddulph



“Do whatever He tells you.”

Messenger

November 2025



Dear parents/carers,

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

As we returned to school this week, we return as a member of our extended family, St Gabriel the Archangel Multi Academy Trust; a newly formed family of 64 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. We are part of a wider community of MACs united in one mission:

Forming pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice.

The month of November is a month of remembering all those we love who have died. On Sunday 2nd November, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints, and All Souls Day, when we remember the men and women of faith who have gone before us.

During the month of November, school's from across the CMAT are running an initiative called 'Light in the Darkness'. The idea of this is that Christ will shine his light into the darkness of our lives. We are called to carry the Light of Christ wherever we go in prayer and hope, especially thinking about and praying for people who have died.

Throughout the month of November, we have made available a 'Remembrance Tree' for the children to offer their own prayers and thoughts to remember and pray for loved ones they have lost. If you would like to offer your own prayers during this month, please add your prayer to a luggage label for your child to bring in. Luggage labels are also available for children to collect from school.

On Monday 10th November, we will also begin our anti-bullying week. The national theme for the week this year is 'Power for Good'. On Monday 10th 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.

Tuesday 25th November, at 2pm, we will be holding our prospective parents' session for the Foundation Stage. If your child will be 3 years old on the 1st September 2026, then applications can be made directly to the school. Similarly, the application process for the Reception class is now open – this is for children who will be 4 on the 1st September 2026. Applications for the reception class need to be made directly through the authority and this closes on 15th January 2026.

Mrs Dabis
Head of School

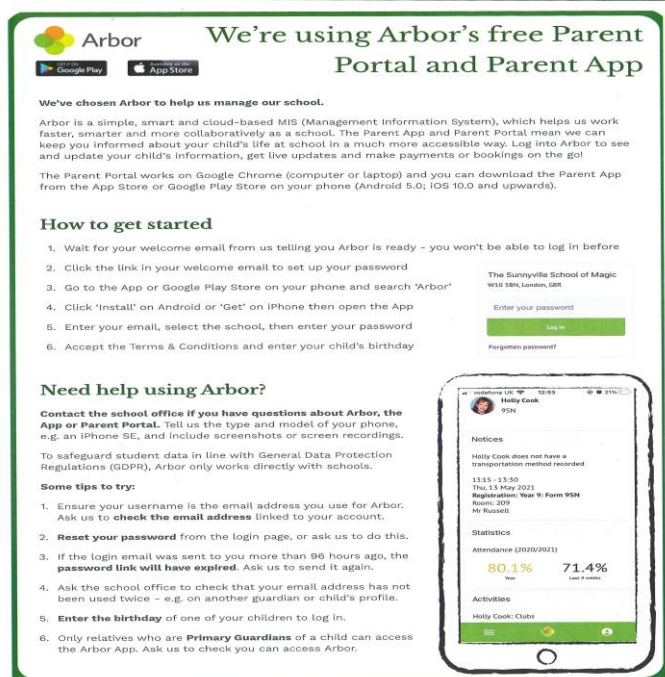


In this week's Gospel we will hear how Jesus likened His body to the holy Temple in Jerusalem to speak about His Resurrection. We will learn that each one of us is a unique Temple of the Holy Spirit and we are called to recognise and share God's presence with others.

Head Boy- Charlie Swift
Head Girl- Chloe Morris

Deputy Head Boy – George Clack
Deputy Head Girl – Charlotte Elliott

Following the migration of our text system to Arbor, we will now also be using the system for emails. We are also intended to increase the use of in app messaging so please make sure you are signed up to the Arbor app and enable push notifications!



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.



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 be courteous to our neighbours when parking to drop off/collect your child. We have established good relationships with our local residents and ask you to be considerate of their access needs. Thank you for your support.



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



Make sure you don't miss out on any important dates during the school year by subscribing to our school calendar here; <https://www.ourladyofgraceacademy.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=9&viewid=1>

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



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

October Diary Dates

Monday 10th November – Anti-Bullying Odd Socks Day

**Monday 10th November – Nursery Rhyme Dress-up Day –
Foundation Stage**

Wednesday 12th November – Y5/6 Chester Zoo Visit

Friday 14th November – Y5/6 Saints Day Assembly

Friday 14th November – Rhyme Time Session for FS parents

Monday 17th-Wednesday 19th November – Alton Castle - Y5

Wednesday 19th November – Red Wednesday

Friday 21st November – Watch Me Learn (Maths)

**Monday 24th November – Academy Photos – Individual, Family
and Siblings**

Tuesday 25th November – FS Prospective Parents Session

Thursday 27th November – KS1 Potteries Museum Visit


Friday 28th November – FS Inspire Workshop

School Mass Dates

**Tuesday 11th November – FS/KS1 Liturgy of the Word, 9:15,
OLOG**

Tuesday 18th November – KS2 Mass, 9:15, English Martyrs'

Well Done to.....

	 Head Teacher Award	 Reader	 Goldfinch	 Maths
Foundation Stage	Ivy	Florence	Poppy	Eliza
Key Stage 1	Kai	Joseph	Nela	Jeremy
Year 3/4	Isla G	Lucca		Julia
Year 5/6	Rojin		Sophie	Samuel

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 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 £3.25 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 Arbor 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 Arbor.

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.