

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Bidulph



“Do whatever He tells you.”

# Messenger

## December 2025



Dear parents/carers,

A huge thank you to everyone who donated items towards the Operation Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We filled 17 shoe boxes with the generous donations received and our chaplaincy team enjoyed putting their faith into action by helping to pack these, ready to deliver. These little boxes will help make a real difference to children on Christmas day.

Last Sunday, was the beginning of the season of Advent. It was lovely to see some of our families attending the family Mass. We are also looking forward to celebrating the special season of Advent in school over the coming weeks, uniting in prayer to prepare for the coming of Christ.

As part of this, today we joined the One life Music Advent streamed event, which was a perfect way to celebrate the season of Advent. We have also shared the first two of our school Advent prayer services, led by Y5/6 and KS1. These services always prove to be a great way to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Remember, you are all welcome to join us- they begin at 9:15am, unless otherwise stated.

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 'A Miracle in Town' with you next week. I have been lucky enough to share in the preparation for this and it is so lovely that we are able to share the true meaning of Christmas with you.

Some other important dates are:

Tuesday 9th December- Advent Light Prayer Service 10:45am.

Tuesday 16th December – Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch (any monetary donations to Douglas Macmillan Hospice would be greatly appreciated)

Thursday 18th December, 9:30am – End of term assembly

Friday 19th December, 9am - KS2 Carol Concert and Nativity. This is taking place in the school hall.

Please note that we return to school on **Tuesday 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  
Head of School



In this week's Gospel we will hear how John the Baptist had an important hope-filled message announcing what people could do to prepare for Jesus' arrival. His message helps us today to live our journey of faith – the decisions we make about how we live and love today help us to live life to the full in God's presence.

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



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!

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>

**CHRISTMAS Lunch**

Roasted Turkey  
Or  
Cheese &  
Cranberry Whirl (V)

Both served with Creamed Potatoes, Roasted Potatoes, Steamed Vegetables, Honey Roasted Parsnips, Sage & Onion Stuffing Ball, Pork sausage in Blanket with a rich gravy.

Christmas Tree Ice Cream  
Or  
Christmas Pudding with Custard

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025

school food solutions

Children from Y1/2 and Y3/4 had a brilliant visit to Biddulph Library this week!



Y3/4 has a brilliant time at the Regent Theatre this week when they went to See Nativity! The Musical.



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.

## December Diary Dates

**Monday 8th – Y3/4 Advent Prayer Assembly – 9:15am**

**Monday 8th – FS/KS1 Christmas Performance – 2pm**

**Tuesday 9th - Advent Light Prayer Service – 10:45am**

**Tuesday 9th – Choir – Community Carols at UHMM – 12:30pm**

**Wednesday 10th – Y5/6 Advent Prayer Assembly – 9:15am**

**Wednesday 10th – FS/KS1 Christmas Performance – 5:30pm**

**Thursday 11th – Y3/4 Advent Prayer Assembly – 9:15am**

**Thursday 11th – Y5 SMW Transition Session - 9am**

**Friday 12th – Y3/4 SMW Christmas Performance - 9am**

**Monday 15th – Non-uniform Day in support of Christmas Fayre**

**Monday 15th – Y1/2 Advent Prayer Assembly – 9:15am**

**Tuesday 16th – Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day**

**Wednesday 17th – FS Advent Prayer Assembly – 9:15am**

**Wednesday 17th – FS Santa Train Trip - 12pm**

**Wednesday 17th – Christmas Fayre – 3:15pm**

**Thursday 18th – End of Term Assembly – 9:30am**

**Thursday 18th – Choir - Carols at Davlyn House – 10:30am**

**Friday 19th – KS2 Carol Concert and Nativity - 9am**

### School Mass Dates

**Tuesday 9th December – Y3/4 Mass – 9:15 – English Martyrs'**

**Tuesday 16th December – Whole School Mass, 9:15, English Martyrs'**

# Well Done to.....

	 Head Teacher Award	 Reader	 Goldfinch	 Maths
Foundation Stage	Beatrix	Saoirse	Eliza	Eddison
Key Stage 1	Jeremy		Olive	Tom
Year 3/4	Jack	Evie	Nathan	Harry
Year 5/6	Penelope	Johan	Charlotte	Elyra

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](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/)

ABSENCE ....IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL YOU MUST EITHER telephone school on 512644, report the absence via Studybugs or email [office@olognewman.co.uk](mailto:office@olognewman.co.uk) BEFORE 09.30am stating the reason for absence.