

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Bidulph



“Do whatever He tells you.”

Messenger

MARCH 2026



Dear Parents,

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

It was wonderful to welcome the children back into school last week and as always they have begun the half term working hard, displaying excellent behaviour and making us very proud to be part of such a special school community.

Lent is a very special and important season for both our school and the Church. We have begun a range of activities to help prepare the children for Easter. Our Lenten prayer services started this week and, as always, they offer a meaningful opportunity for reflection as we journey towards Easter, remembering Jesus' death and resurrection. You are warmly invited to share in these prayer services and participate in this spiritual journey with your child and the rest of our school community.

The week before ½ term we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week. The children had a fantastic week taking part in many activities learning about what mental health is and ways in which we can improve our 'mental wealth'. We also raised £56.00 for the children's mental health charity 'Place2Be'. Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful cause.

On Thursday 12th February, our events team held their annual Valentine's disco. The children had an amazing time and £143.00 was raised! Thank you to our wonderful Events Team for organising and running this. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers. If you are able to support the Events Team in any way (no regular commitment is required) please speak to Mrs Rigby or the school office, thank you.

Finally, this week the children have taken part in a non-uniform day and fun run in order to support some of the staff/ students who are part of the St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Mr Sigley (our PE specialist) and Mr Glover (Principal at St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy) along with sixth form student, Joshua Beardmore will be running the London Marathon later this year to raise money for CAFOD. We are incredibly proud of their commitment to such an important cause and thank you in supporting the school in their efforts to raise money for such a worthy charity- it is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Davis



In this week's Gospel, the Samaritan woman experienced that Jesus' love is for everyone. In this time of prayer, we have an opportunity to accept the love Jesus offers and shares this love with others. This Lent, we can say 'Yes!' to Jesus' transforming love in our lives.

Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.'

John 4:10

WORLD BOOK DAY!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR EFFORTS THIS WORLD BOOK DAY, WE APPRECIATE HOW MUCH PLANNING GOES INTO THOSE AMAZING COSTUMES AND EVERYONE LOOKED AMAZING! WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!



Gallery



Now that the weather is starting to pick up, we still have cool days please ensure children are wearing the appropriate coats for outdoor play!



Breakfast

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

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UPDATES ON FACEBOOK.



Our next family Mass is being held on Sunday 17th May at 9am at English Martyrs' Church. It will be lovely to see you there.

North Staffs Deanery Vocations Mass



Well done to all those children who attended the North Staffs Deanery Vocations Mass on Monday 2nd March. It was a beautiful mass and the children represented the school with grace.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to those children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, it was a joyful celebration with family and friends.



Arbor

We will be using Arbor Messaging for non-urgent communication going forward. Please add turn on Notifications so you don't miss anything!

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](https://studybugs.com)

PHOTOGRAPH DAY!

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH

ACADEMY PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE JOINING US FOR CLASS PHOTOS, RECEPTION GRADUATION PHOTOS AND YEAR 6 LEAVER PHOTOS.





March Diary Dates



5th	World Book Day
6th	Y3/4 Class Assembly- 9.05am
9th	Y3 Recorder Festival
10th	Parents Evening (In Person)
11th	Academy Photography- Class/Leavers Photos
11th	Parents Evening (Online)
12th	KS2 Watch Me Learn- Wellbeing- 9-11am
13th	Mother's Day Breakfast 8am/Liturgy 9.15am
13th	Foundation Stage-Mothers Day Activities 9.30-11am
17th	Y1/2 Inspire Workshop 2-3pm
19th	FS/KS1 Watch me Learn- Wellbeing- 9.30-11am
20th	Non School Uniform Day
20th	KS2 Celebration Assembly-9.05am
23rd	Stoke SSP Dance 2026 Performance
26th	End of Term Assembly-9.30am

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.

Tuesday 10th March- FS/KS1

Tuesday 24th March - Whole School Mass

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 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.