



Key Dates

Mon 7th- Thur 10th Oct	Book Fair- 3:30pm-4:30pm- please enter via the office
Wed 9th Oct	SEND Coffee morning at 9:15-10:15am
Wed 9th Oct	Parents evening for all years except for Year 2 and Year 5
Tues 15th Oct	Year 3 Pray and Stay for parents at 3pm
Tues 15th Oct	Prime VR event opportunity for pupils in school time- please pay on ParentPay for this ASAP
Tues 22nd Oct	Year 6 St Chad's trip
Wed 23rd Oct	Year 5 Parents evening
Thurs 24th Oct	Pupils break up for half term today as tomorrow is Inset day



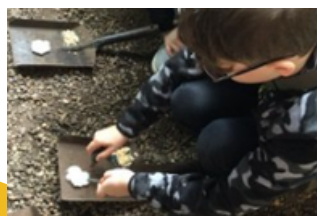
Guided by the teachings of the Church we pray, work, celebrate, and care for each other and other people using the gifts we have been given by God the Father, Son and Spirit.

Mrs Milligan and Mr Spindlow's Message

Our Year 6 children have had a wonderful time at Alton Castle. Children spent two nights at Alton Castle where they deepened both their friendships and their relationship with God.

The children took part in a number of activities including: Archery, Trekking, Cycling, Survival and Archery and the feedback and messages we received from the children and staff at the castle have shown how much they thoroughly loved this experience.

Mr Spindlow, Mrs Milligan and Fr Paul had the pleasure of visiting the children at the castle and joining the children for an evening meal and Mass on Thursday night and it was lovely to see how independent and mature all the children were a credit to the school and their families. Please see our X feed for lots more pictures of their trip.



This Week's Gospel



Today we are going to hear how special and important children were to Jesus.

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came to him and tried to trap him. "Tell us," they asked, "does our Law allow a man to divorce his wife?"

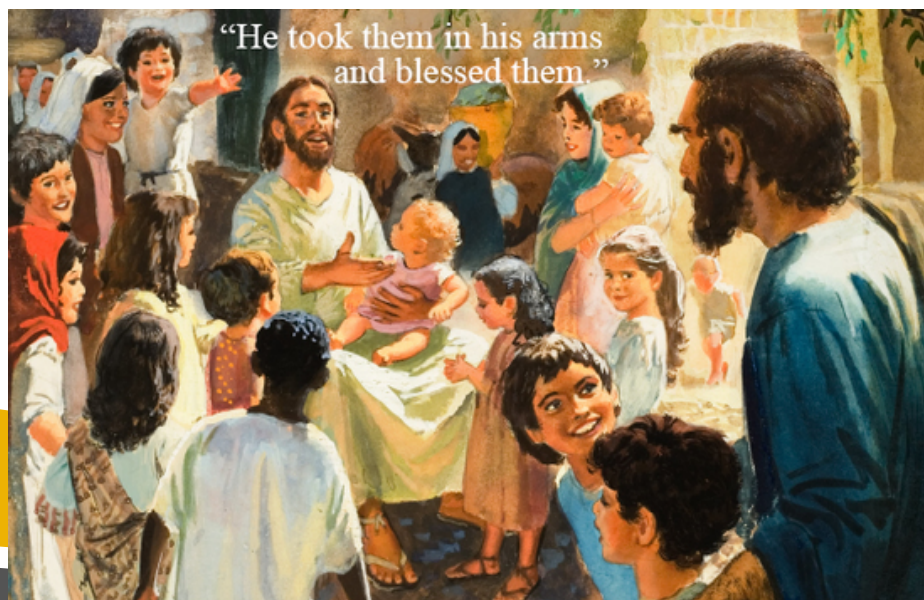
Jesus answered with a question, "What law did Moses give you?"

Their answer was, "Moses gave permission for a man to write a divorce notice and send his wife away."

Jesus said to them, "Moses wrote this law for you because you are so hard to teach. But in the beginning, at the time of creation, 'God made them male and female,' as the scripture says. 'And for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife, and the two will become one.' So they are no longer two, but one. No human being then must separate what God has joined together."

When they went back into the house, the disciples asked Jesus about this matter. He said to them, "A man who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against his wife. In the same way, a woman who divorces her husband and marries another man commits adultery."

Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.





Feast Day Mass, Fr. Paul's Induction and Resource Base Grand Opening

The feast of the Guardian Angels was celebrated in School on Wednesday with our Year 5 children leading a wonderful Mass. Thank you to all the children who read and those that contributed bidding prayers for this special occasion. Our children celebrated in class and even had sweets and a Guardian Angels prayer to take home.

As part of this feast day Mass, Fr. Paul was formally induced as Guardian Angels parish priest. Thank you to all those members of the parish that could join us for this very special event.

Our resource base has been opened formally by members of our OLASS central team and by our chair of governors. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to show the whole schools dedication to serving our community and caring for each other.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 25:40)

Prayer to the Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.



Little Way Week

This week in school, we are celebrating 'Little Way Week'. We started the week with an assembly about Therese of Lisieux whose 'little way of love' has inspired many to follow her example.

St Therese decided to do little acts of kindness for others so that she could share God's love with them. In school, all the children have reflected on the little acts of kindness they could do for others this week - A perfect way to reinforce our care mission week!

This Week's Awards



Virtues Award

EYFS - Arthur
Year 1 - Erin
Year 2 - Jack
Year 3 - Darcie
Year 4 - Eden
Year 5 - Jolie
Year 6 - All of Year 6



Reader of the Week

EYFS - Amelia A
Year 1 - Noah
Year 2 - Adonis
Year 3 - Luna
Year 4 - Ronny
Year 5 - Amelia B
Year 6 - All of Year 6



PE Star of the Week

EYFS - Arlo-Jay
Year 1 - Naemi
Year 2 - Maggie
Year 3 - Jax
Year 4 - Freddie
Year 5 - Mason
Year 6 - All of Year 6

Star Pupils

EYFS

Lucy and Carson

Year 3

Hosanna and Millie-Mae

Year 1

Graciemae and Joshua

Year 4

Chae and Connor

Year 2

Marnie and Hunter

Year 5

Evan and Niamh

Year 6

All of Year 6

This Week's Attendance



Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	91.5
Year 1	88.6
Year 2	90.7
Year 3	84.7
Year 4	96.7
Year 5	97.8
Year 6	87.3

Attendance Update

Schools can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

Guardian Angels have now had to fine 15 families following Birmingham City Council guidelines

If issued with a penalty notice, parents must pay £80 within 21 days or £160 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority..

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute the parent.

Attendance Support

Mrs Tennant and the attendance team are always available to offer advice and support to help ensure your child is able to attend every day and reach their full potential. To book an appointment, please call the office on: 0121 747 2782

Every Day Counts

Just before the holiday, all schools in England received a message from the Secretary of State for Education, outlining the concerns linked to attendance nationwide. Whilst our attendance has improved and the number of children below 90% attendance has decreased, there is still work to be done. Our teachers are providing an excellent education in every classroom, everyday - every day missed is a missed learning opportunity. Attendance will remain a huge focus for the whole school this year.

Attendance Ladder





Safeguarding Tip of the Week

This week's safeguarding focus is mental health. Mental health is about our moods, feelings and emotions. Recognising the signs that a child may be struggling with their mental health can be really hard and it is important that we talk about mental health with our children. Below are some tips to support you with these conversations:

- Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life
 - Give it your full attention - be an active listener
 - Take it seriously and explore the feelings together
 - Offer empathy rather than solutions
- For more information see:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/mental-health-parenting/>

E- Safety Tip

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity - including, of course, among children and young people - and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT
There are a number of ways that players can communicate in a game. As one example, there are in-game chat systems within the game itself. There's also party chat, a group voice chat system that connects you with anyone on the same platform. This leads to the most commonly used chat system, which is known as voice chat. Many games also have a separate text chat system that lets you type in your thoughts.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
Whether it's text or voice chat, in-game chat is frequently open to all players in the game. This means that anyone can talk to you, even if you're not expecting it. You may not know who they are, and you may not know what they're saying. This can be a scary experience for children and young people, and it can also be a way for someone to groom a child.

DANGER OF GROOMING
It has been reported that some young people have encountered older and sometimes adult players, sending gifts or offering to buy them things. It's good to advise young people that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online.

BULLYING AND ABUSE
While some in-game chat can be fun, it can also be a place where bullying and abuse happens. This can be in the form of name-calling, insults, or even threats. It's important to let children know that they should report any bullying or abuse to a trusted adult.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT
A player might find it tempting to accept a friend request from someone they've met in a game. This can be a way for someone to contact you privately, and it can be a way for someone to groom a child.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE
Some games are very competitive, and this can create a stressful environment for children and young people. It's important to let children know that they should take breaks from gaming if they feel stressed or overwhelmed.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT
In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows parents and educators to control what their children can see and say in the game. It's important to check the game's settings regularly to make sure that chat is locked down.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS
Most games offer a report feature for offensive behavior. This allows parents and educators to report any inappropriate behavior to the game's developers. It's important to let children know that they should report any bullying or abuse to a trusted adult.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS
If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a voice chat system. This allows them to talk to people they know and trust, and it can be a way for them to stay safe while playing.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY
Make sure children understand the difference between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what a competitive atmosphere is like, and how to deal with it. It's important to let children know that they should take breaks from gaming if they feel stressed or overwhelmed.

Meet Our Expert
Lizzy Crockett is the Chair of Children and has been working in the games industry for five years. He's also a parent and teacher, and he's passionate about online safety. He's been featured in the media and has given many talks about online safety.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

Wake Up Wednesday
@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

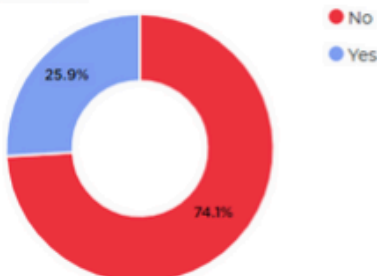
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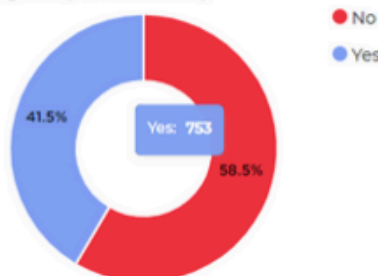
This Weeks Votes

Would you prefer to use an under-16s phone? (KS2)
Do you have too much screen time? (KS1)

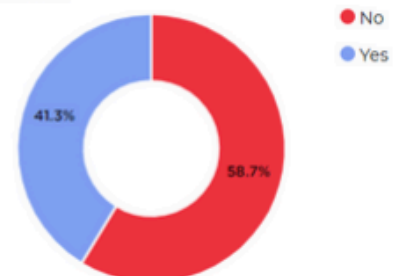
Your School



Regional (West Midlands)



National





Right of the Week

Article 9 (separation from parents)



Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (for example, if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.

Virtues of the Half Term

Curious and Active



Pupils in our school are growing to be Curious about everything; and active in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

Our school helps our pupils to grow By leading pupils to be curious about the universe and all human activity, and to take increasing responsibility for their own learning, and by providing opportunities for them to be active in the life of the school, the Church, and the wider community.

Birthday Celebrations

**Elsie-Mai (Year 1), Marnie & Alicja (Year 2),
Ava (Year 3) and Kyle (Year 4)**

Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family



Weekly Prayer



God of love, you teach us to see that everyone is special. Help us to play our part in welcoming others and sharing your love with all people. Amen.

Have a lovely weekend and God Bless,

Mrs Helen Milligan, Mr Spindlow and all the staff at Guardian Angels

Composer of the Week

James Brown



Interesting facts:

- Brown grew up in poverty
- He started his career as a gospel singer
- Brown's rhythmic style and sharp vocals on stage led to the style called 'funk'
- James Brown was one of the founders of funk music thanks to his rhythmic style and sharp vocals on stage.
- Funk was developed during the 1960s and derived from a mixture of soul, R&B and jazz music, and had a blend of rhythm and dance mixed in.
- James Brown's success in the music business and development of soul music earned him the nickname 'The Godfather of Soul'.
- James Brown was musically gifted in many ways. He could play several instruments including the percussion, organ and drums.
- James Brown made an appeal for peace on national television following the assassination of Martin Luther King.



Future of our faith

Dear Parents and Carers, As you may be aware Archbishop Longley has asked all parishes to reflect on the future of our Church here in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. For us here in the Birmingham East Deanery this is pertinent given that we already as you may be aware have some churches that are currently not used. Your child / children benefit from a Catholic education and as key stakeholders we would really value your opinions and views as we plan for the future. If you could take a few minutes to complete the form it would be really valuable for us. The survey is anonymous and we ask for your honest feedback.

Future of our faith - Parents

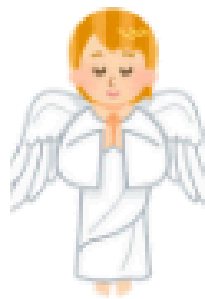


Message from St Thomas More Church

Mass for Children & Young People with Additional Needs & Disabilities

We would like to invite you, your families & friends to this special Mass. All volunteers DBS checked. Wheelchair access to Church and Church Centre.

St Thomas More Church, 130 Horseshoes Lane, Sheldon. B26 3HU. Saturday 5th October 11am 2024 Join us for refreshments after Mass in the Church Centre



Take part in our Guardian Angel competition to get your piece of artwork displayed in school forever as part of our 70th anniversary



**In the space below, create an image of an angel.
All entries will be judged by our parish and school council**



Our ref: AA/CP/Rec25

October 2024

Parent/Carer of

Dear Parent/Carer,

Apply online for your child to start Reception class in September 2025

I am writing to you because I understand that your child is able to start school soon. By law, parents/carers must ensure that their child is receiving suitable full-time education at the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday. In Birmingham, however, your child can go to school in the September after his or her fourth birthday.

We would ask you to visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and submit an online application from 1 October 2024 and by **15 January 2025** (the final closing date). We would strongly recommend that you ensure you read the 'Primary Admission Arrangements 2025' information prior to submitting your application. In addition to this, most schools will hold open sessions where parents/carers can talk to teachers or view the school's own prospectus etc. Please visit your preferred school's website for further details.

Online applicants will receive an immediate email confirmation when the application is submitted. Those online applicants who have not provided an email address will not receive an acknowledgement, so it is very important that you include an email address. If you have not received an acknowledgement by 15 January 2025, then you should call Children's Services on 0121 303 1888 to confirm that your application has been received.

Online applicants that submit their application with a valid email address will be sent an offer by email on 16 April 2025. Parents/carers that submitted an online application without a valid email address will be sent an offer letter by first class post which should arrive from 16 April 2025 and should be delivered by the end of that week. Finally, please remember, you do not need to have the internet at home. You can apply online from any device with internet access or if you are able from a computer whilst at work.

If you have any questions about your child starting school, please do not hesitate to contact a member of Children's Services on 0121 303 1888 where staff will be pleased to offer their assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Michell
Head of Schools Admissions, Attendance, Exclusions and Pupil Tracking

