

Key Dates

Mon 2nd Dec	Non uniform day for Christmas celebration - please donate bottles gift
Mon 2nd Dec	EYFS eye test - if you wish to opt-out please see office staff by 8:45am today
Wed 4th Dec	PJ day for all pupils
Wed 4th Dec	Christmas Film night from 3:30pm-4:30pm-pupils may stay if £1.50 is paid on ParentPay in advance-all other pupils must be collected at normal home time
Frid 6th Dec	Non uniform day for Christmas celebrations -please donate a cake gift
Frid 6th Dec	School finishes at 1:15pm Christmas Fayre
Tues 10th Dec	Christmas Panto Workshop-please pay £2.50 if you wish for your child to join in
Thurs 12th Dec	EYFS/Y1 Nativity at 9:30am - parents invited
Mon 16th Dec	Carol Concert at 2:15pm - Y4, Y5 and Y6 parents invited
Tues 17th Dec	Christmas Jumper and Christmas lunch
Wed 18th Dec	Y2/Y3 Nativity at 2:15pm - parents invited
Frid 20th Dec	Last day at school-break up for Christmas



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

As we approach the festive season, I'm delighted to share some of the wonderful happenings at our school. It's been a busy time, filled with learning, growth, and community spirit.

Our EYFS team recently hosted a Reading Workshop, providing valuable insights into how we nurture a love for reading in our youngest pupils. It's heartening to see our little ones embark on their literary journey with such enthusiasm – thank you to all the parents that attended this event. The EYFS staff hope you found it useful.

Year 2 pupils and their families participated in a touching 'Stay and Pray' session, focusing on how we can all use our God-given gifts and talents. These moments of reflection and togetherness are precious, reinforcing our school's ethos and values.

I'm thrilled to announce that our school has been awarded the TIAAS silver accreditation. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community. Well done to everyone involved particularly Mrs Potter who is leading the school throughout our TIAAS journey.

On a sad note, we're bidding farewell to Miss Evans, who has been an integral part of Guardian Angels since 2016. Initially working in our school office and later as a teaching assistant, Miss Evans has touched the lives of many. During her time with us, Miss Evans has shared her many skills and talents across the school. She has been a constant, calming presence in our classrooms, supporting our pupils both in class and in small intervention groups. Her dedication, kindness, and genuine care for our children have been an inspiration to us all. Miss Evans will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike. I know you will join me in thanking her for her years of service and in wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events coming up. Next week, for our non-uniform day donation we're asking for bottles and cakes. These will be a delightful addition to our Christmas Fayre, which is taking place on Friday 6th Dec. Please note that all children will need collecting at 1:15 pm on the day of the fayre.

We're holding a PJ Day Wednesday 4th Dec. All children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas. Following this, we're hosting a Christmas film night. If your child would like to stay for this event, there's a small charge of £1.50, payable via ParentPay.

As always, I'm immensely proud of our school community. The way our pupils, staff, and families come together, especially during this festive time, is truly heartwarming. Your continued support and engagement make our school the special place it is.

New date due to school closure - 2nd December	6th December
Bottles	Cakes

This Week's Gospel



This week is the first day of Advent. Advent is a special time when we wait in hope for the coming of Jesus. Let's think a bit more about the things we wait for and what we hope for today.

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"There will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars. On earth whole countries will be in despair, afraid of the roar of the sea and the raging tides. People will faint from fear as they wait for what is coming over the whole earth, for the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near."

"Be on your guard. Don't let yourselves become occupied with too much feasting and drinking and with the worries of this life, or that Day may suddenly catch you like a trap. For it will come upon all people everywhere on earth. Be on the alert and pray always that you will have the strength to go safely through all those things that will happen and to stand before the Son of Man."





Advent

I wanted to take a moment to share some important information about the resources we've sent home with your child this weekend to support their prayer life during Advent.

As you know, Advent is a special time of year when we reflect on our faith and deepen our relationship with God. That's why we've put together a range of resources for your child to use at home - things like prayer cards, Advent guides, and even a special Advent calendar.

I really encourage you to explore these materials with your child over the coming weeks. Spend some time each day praying together, reflecting on the meaning of Advent, and finding ways to grow closer to God. If you happen to have any special prayer services or moments of prayer at home, please do share those with us at school. We'd love to hear about how your family is nurturing your child's spiritual life.



School Closure

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your understanding and support during the school closures on Thursday and Friday.

As you know, we were faced with unmanageable levels of staff and pupil absence, which left us with no choice but to close the schools for those two days. However, I'm pleased to report that a thorough deep clean of Guardian Angels will be completed, and we are now fully prepared to welcome all of our wonderful pupils back on Monday.

I understand that unexpected school closures can be incredibly disruptive, and I appreciate your patience and understanding during this challenging time. Your support means the world to us, and it is a testament to the strong community we have built together.

Christmas RE Homework

This year we are asking our children to design a religious Christmas scene that they can bring into school. All designs for the RE Homework need to be brought into school by Monday 16th December 2024, where the winner will be chosen from each class.

We are very much looking forward to seeing your creative ideas!



This Week's Attendance



Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	90.7
Year 1	93.9
Year 2	90.4
Year 3	93.1
Year 4	85.3
Year 5	94.8
Year 6	82.7

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

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 22 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.

Minor sickness and school attendance

There has been a steady increase in the number of children missing school on account of assumed illness. We need the support of all parents and carers to tackle this trend.

Is my child well enough?

High temperature

If your child looks or feels shivery or is unusually cold or hot, he or she may have a high temperature. There may be various reasons for this. A child with a high temperature should not be in school. However after feeling and looking better for 24 hours, a child should be able to return to school.

Cold and cough

A cold and a cough does not disable a child from attending school. However children with heavy colds or persistent coughs should stay at home. A child whose cough is disappearing and who is feeling better should return to school.

Rashes

A rash could be the first sign of one of childhood's many illnesses, such as chicken pox or measles. The rash or spots may cover the entire body or appear in only one area. Do not send a child to school with an unexplained rash or skin eruption until you have contacted NHS 111 or your GP surgery for advice.

Minor aches and pains

A child whose complaint is a minor headache, aches or pains does not usually need to be kept at home. Keep the school informed and the staff can monitor your child.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

If vomiting occurs, your child should stay at home for 48 hours and until he or she can keep food down. A child with diarrhoea should also be kept at home for 48 hours after the last episode. If your child does not improve as you expect, contact NHS 111 or your GP surgery for advice.

Common sense

Use this when deciding whether your child needs to stay at home. Work on the basis that an extremely sick children belong at home and well children belong in class!

Please remember that early morning aches often pass, so don't keep your child at home "just in case" when he or she could be learning in class. For further advice, you could talk to a member of the school staff, your local pharmacy, GP surgery or NHS 111.



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Toy safety

"I would hate for any other child to go through what Becca suffered because of buying dangerous toys via online marketplaces."

Mum of two-year-old Becca who swallowed magnets from a toy

Toys from reputable brands are made to be safe. But if they come from an unknown seller on an online marketplace, a market or small discount store, they could be dangerous.

Buying safety

- Buy toys from brand names you know. If you've never heard of the seller or the brand and price is really tempting, it could be dangerous
- Watch out for cheap copies of popular toys. They may not be made to UK safety standards.
- Check if the toy has been removed from sale because it's unsafe. Visit gov.uk and search 'product recalls'
- If you buy something that looks unsafe, trust your instincts and send it back.



Under 3s most at risk

Babies and toddlers are curious and naturally put everything in their mouths. So dangerous toys can pose the biggest risk to small children. Be especially careful when buying for under 3s.

Watch out for missing or contradictory age warnings. If a toy is pictured with a toddler but marketed as unsuitable for young children, pick something else.

Which toys are most dangerous?

- Toys with:
 - accessible button batteries that can burn through your child's food pipe
 - super strong magnets that can rip through your child's belly
 - long cords that can strangle your child
 - small parts that can choke your small child
- Water beads that can block your child's bowel if swallowed
- Electrical toys with exposed wires or chargers that can catch fire.

Checking toys

- If you're unsure about the safety of a toy, here are some checks you can do:
- Check battery compartments for accessible button batteries or loose spares in the box
 - Check for any loose small magnets
 - Give the parts on the toy a quick tug and check for small parts that come off
 - Look for long cords or access to stuffing
 - Check if there are any age restrictions or safety warnings on the product.

Report dangerous toys

- If you spot or buy a toy you're concerned about:
- Citizens Advice consumer helpline: 0808 223 1133
 - Citizens Advice consumer helpline (Welsh-speaking adviser): 0808 223 1144
 - Advice Direct Scotland helpline: 0808 164 6000
 - Northern Ireland Consumerline: 0300 123 6262

capl.org.uk
@ChildAccidentPreventionTrust @capl_charity

child accident prevention trust

E- Safety Tip

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

97 DAYS

13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
Snapchat's new chatbot, which applies to questions in a human-like manner, means the software is able to identify and have significant implications, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnosis, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.
- PREDATORS AND SCAMS**
Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, taking a user's photos and videos from parents and users in their photos. They're good. Snapchat's own research found that 81% of teenagers had experienced this - on the app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'Snapchat+' or features which highlight your most searched-in real time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but shouldn't be used for more sinister reasons.
- MY EYES ONLY**
Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. There can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and users in their photos which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by going to Settings > My Eyes Only > My Eyes Only. This leads you to the 'My Eyes Only' section where you can see photos, videos and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION
Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (keeping the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has features called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which allow content to reach users. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, content moderators can have people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The features used by group content are controlled by the parent, to what an online age rating system and age-appropriate content. Snapchat now also has 'parental notifications' (which are sent to parents if a child has used the app). However, it's not clear if this is a device or if it's a notification. It's worth checking the app's settings to see if you can control this.

ONLINE PRESSURES
Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the heavily effects on children by the parent, to what an online age rating system and age-appropriate content. Snapchat now also has 'parental notifications' (which are sent to parents if a child has used the app). However, it's not clear if this is a device or if it's a notification. It's worth checking the app's settings to see if you can control this.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Snapchat's Family Center lets you view the details of the child's account, their friends, the content they've posted to the app, and the app's usage. You can also limit the child's account to only the Family Center for them to use. To help you control the child's account, you can go to Settings > Family Center > My Eyes Only > My Eyes Only. This leads you to the 'My Eyes Only' section where you can see photos, videos and the My Eyes Only folder.
- FAMILIARISE YOURSELF**
Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has parental controls, but you need to be able to use them. Snapchat has parental controls, but you need to be able to use them. Snapchat has parental controls, but you need to be able to use them.
- BLOCK AND REPORT**
If a stranger does contact with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying or sexual harassment, you should report the user to the app. You can do this by going to the user's profile, tapping the three dots in the top right corner, and selecting 'Report'. You can also report the user to the app. You can do this by going to the user's profile, tapping the three dots in the top right corner, and selecting 'Report'.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS**
Snapchat's filters can be used to handle if you're not an open dialogue. For example, the 'My Eyes Only' filter can be used to handle if you're not an open dialogue. For example, the 'My Eyes Only' filter can be used to handle if you're not an open dialogue.

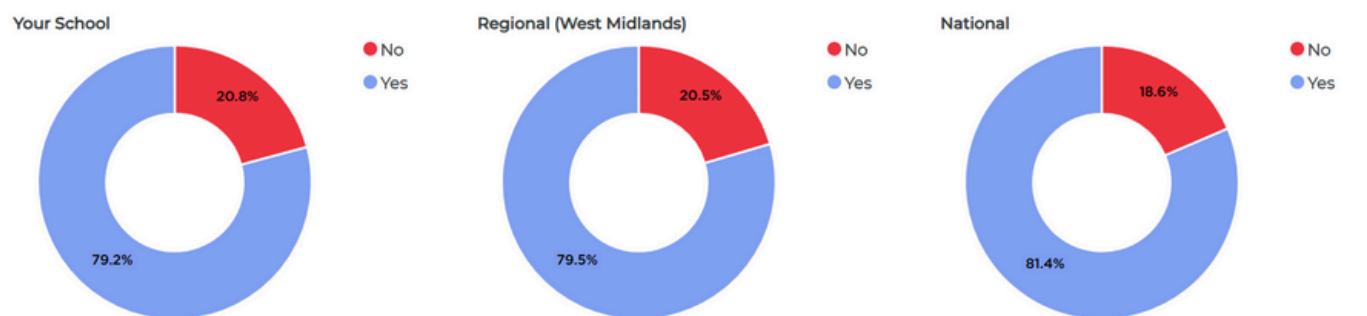
Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sulhaman is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher with her background in the government and working in a cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various guidance papers and worked on research for the Department of Education, government, business and working behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds #wakeupwednesday @wakeupwednesday @wakeupweds

VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Should we learn more about coping with extreme weather?



Other News



Reception Place for September 2025

Deadline to submitted an application for a Reception Place for September 2025 is Wednesday 15th January 2025

Please apply via the council that you pay your council tax to.

A Supplementary Information Form will also need to be completed. Upon request - this form can be emailed to you or you can collect one from the school office. Please ensure that this form is completed and returned to the school office before the deadline as above

Virtues of the Half Term

Intentional and Prophetic

Pupils in our school are



Intentional: Planning our actions and choosing to live how God wants us to. Every action we make has an impact on other people and the world around us. We think about the choices we make and care for God's creation.

Prophetic: Spreading the word of God through how we live our lives. As we choose to act intentionally and make good decisions, we encourage others to do the same. We set a good example and try to be role models for others.

Birthday Celebrations

Mason (Y4) Blake (Y6)



Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family

Weekly Prayer



Loving God, may your love be with us always and bring peace and joy to all people around the world, as we wait in hope for the coming of your Son Jesus. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.Amen.

Have a lovely weekend and God Bless,

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

Composer of the Week

Duke Ellington Orchestra

Pop – Jazz



Born: 29th April 1899
Died: 24th May 1974
Nationality: American

Famous piece of music: Take the A Train

- Duke Ellington was an American composer, pianist and bandleader who composed thousands of scores over his 50-year career
- A major figure in the history of jazz music, he composed thousands of songs for the stage, screen and contemporary songbook
- Ellington was raised by two talented, musical parents in a middle-class neighbourhood of Washington, D.C. At the age of seven, he began studying piano and earned the nickname "Duke" for his gentlemanly ways
- He began to play professionally at age 17
- Perhaps Ellington's most famous jazz tune was "Take the A Train," which was composed by Billy Strayhorn and recorded for commercial purposes on February 15, 1941. It referred to a subway line in New York City
- Ellington earned 12 Grammy awards from 1959 to 2000, nine while he was alive
- On May 24, 1974, at the age of 75, Ellington died of lung cancer and pneumonia. His last words were, "Music is how I live, why I live and how I will be remembered." More than 12,000 people attended his funeral

Christmas events 2024

*Wed 4th Dec

PJ Day-all pupils can wear PJ's
Christmas Film Night

3:30-4:30pm

£1.50 (must be paid if pupils want to stay-otherwise they must be collected at normal home time)

Frid 6th Dec

Christmas Fayre at 1:15pm

All pupils must be collected at 1:15pm

Non uniform day-please donate cakes

*Tues 10th Dec

Christmas Pantomime Drama Workshop
(during school day) please pay £2.50 for your child to join in

Mon 16th Dec

Christmas Carol Concert at 2:15pm in the school hall for Y4, Y5 and Y6 parents

Tuesday 17th Dec

Christmas lunch is served-please order this on ParentPay-no later than 1st Dec

Pupils may also wear their Christmas Jumpers with their school uniform

Frid 20th Dec

Toy and Party Day-no electrical toys or consoles NOT allowed. Pupils can wear their party clothes

***PAYABLE ON PARENTPAY**

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

