

## Key Dates

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 day and Christmas lunch - please ensure you order on ParentPay
Wed 18th Dec	Y2/Y3 Nativity at 2:15pm - parents invited
Frid 20th Dec	Last day at school - break up for Christmas - pupils can bring a toy and wear party clothes
Mon 6th January	School open for all



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

What a wonderful term we've had so far at Guardian Angels! I'm delighted to share some highlights and important updates with you all.

First and foremost, I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our recent school fayre. Your support and enthusiasm made it a truly memorable event for our school community.

I'm immensely proud of our pupils who have shown remarkable resilience and good behaviour, especially in light of the challenges we've faced with absences. Their positive attitudes and commitment to learning continue to inspire us all.

Our staff, as always, have been exemplary role models over this half term. Their recent initiative to collect clothes donations for St Chad's Sanctuary demonstrates the caring and compassionate ethos we strive to instill in our school community. Well done to all involved!

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our school has been awarded the Silver TIAAS Award. This recognition is a testament to the outstanding work we're doing, and I'd like to extend a special thank you to Mrs Potter for driving this brilliant initiative. Your dedication and hard work have truly paid off!

On a practical note, I must remind all parents and carers about our illness policy. In line with public health guidelines, if your child is unwell, please keep them at home for 48 hours after their symptoms have subsided. This helps prevent the spread of illness and ensures a healthier environment for all our pupils and staff.

As we move forward, let's continue to work together to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children. Your ongoing support and partnership are invaluable, and I look forward to sharing more successes with you in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

We hope that Advent, the time of preparing for Jesus, has started will for all of our families. You can access the Cafod Advent calendar here:  
<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

# This Week's Gospel



In today's readings we are told that someone very special is coming. Who do you think that might be? John the Baptist tries to help people get ready for this special person.

## Luke 3:1-6

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. At that time the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. So John went throughout the whole territory of the River Jordan, preaching, "Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins." As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

**"Someone is shouting in the desert:**

**'Get the road ready for the Lord;  
make a straight path for him to travel!**

**Every valley must be filled up,  
every hill and mountain levelled off.**

**The winding roads must be made straight,  
and the rough paths made smooth.**

**The whole human race will see God's salvation!"**





## Advent

I wanted to take a moment to share some important information about the resources we've sent home with your child 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.

## Christmas Fayre

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for your donations and attendance of today's Christmas Fayre. Without our generous families, each year, the event would not be possible. We hope that you and your family had an enjoyable time and were able to win lots of fun prizes!

All monies raised from your generous donations will be used to support our school and our chosen charities too.

Thank you all!



## 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	86.4
Year 1	91.3
Year 2	88.1
Year 3	87.5
Year 4	89.4
Year 5	87.1
Year 6	90.0

### 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

### Young Carers

This week our safeguarding focus is on young carers. The term young carer is used to describe someone aged under 18, who helps look after a relative who has a disability, illness, mental health condition or a drug or alcohol problem. Most young carers look after one of their parents or care for a brother or sister. They do extra jobs around the house such as cooking, cleaning or helping someone to get dressed or move around. The pressure of looking after a family member can affect the young carer academically and socially, as they know they have extra responsibilities. If you feel that your child is a young carer or you know of another child who may be one, please make us aware so that we can help and support. There are many organisations locally and nationally that can also provide support, for example spurgeons in Birmingham.

<https://spurgeonsyc.org/birmingham/>



## E- Safety Tip

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS**

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- QUALITY & RELIABILITY**: Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful supplement to in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute for professional help. Some of these apps in use. They may look well and make sense, but have not been designed by a mental health professional to help with their condition.
- PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN**: Some apps add the search role on children when they use or use certain tools to make them more responsible for their own wellbeing. It's not always clear if this is a good strategy initially, it's not always clear if this is a good strategy initially, it's not always clear if this is a good strategy initially.
- DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT**: Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may be encouraged to use an app to help them sleep. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not always clear if this is a good strategy initially.
- LACK OF PERSONALISATION**: Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, helping users learn helpful coping strategies and techniques. However, they aren't designed to be personalised to each user's specific needs. For example, many apps don't take into account the user's age and can offer unhelpful generic advice.
- DATA SECURITY**: As with any other app - just make sure you read the privacy policy before downloading it. Some apps for children require users to create an account for them to use. Some apps for children require users to create an account for them to use.
- IN-APP PURCHASES**: Many apps will provide their most useful features for free but require you to pay for other aspects - such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is normally required. If it isn't, it could be a sign that the app is not what you need.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP**: Before you download a mental health or wellbeing app, investigate the developer. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to ensure that research also shows whether the app is safe for children to use? Are there any reviews from mental health organisations, or those are worth indicators of quality. Reviews can also be a useful indicator of the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that make the wrong choice.
- SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT**: Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, regulated organisations can be used alongside the professional advice and support of fully qualified professionals. These can be used alongside the professional advice and support of fully qualified professionals. These can be used alongside the professional advice and support of fully qualified professionals.
- READ THE PRIVACY POLICY**: Look into the app's terms of service - especially the privacy policy. Do you feel comfortable with the app's use of your data? Do you feel comfortable with the app's use of your data?
- ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION**: Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for getting down feelings, tracking a user's health and other such products. These can help if the user is in a crisis or temporary - such as a child getting stressed without appearing to be. If you're experiencing a mental health issue, it's important to talk to a professional. If you're experiencing a mental health issue, it's important to talk to a professional.

**Meet Our Expert**

Dr. Claire Buchanan is an active safety researcher, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented cyber bullying and cyber safety policies locally. She has written reports for the government and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

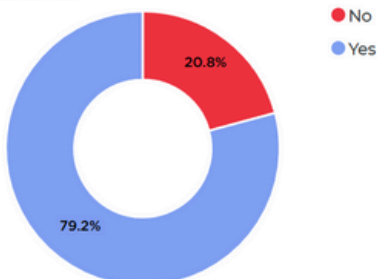
#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake\_up\_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

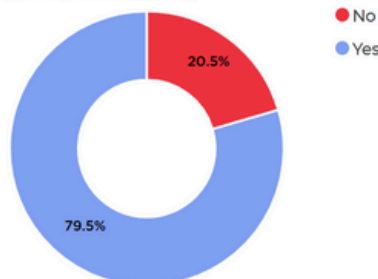
## VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

### Should we learn more about coping with extreme weather?

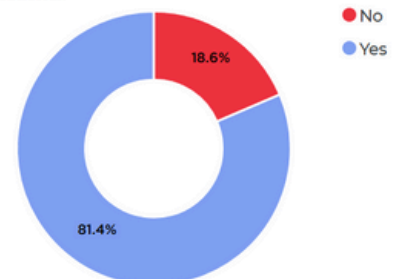
Your School



Regional (West Midlands)



National



# 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

**Jack (EYFS) Chimamanda (Year 2)  
Connor (Y4) Cassius (Y6)**

Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family



## Weekly Prayer



**Merciful God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of your Son, Jesus. Help us to get ready as well. Lead us to make positive changes in our lives and the lives of others around the world.  
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



**Born:** 29<sup>th</sup> April 1899  
**Died:** 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

