

Key Dates

Mon 16th Dec	Carol Concert at 2:15pm - Y4, Y5 and Y6 parents invited
Tues 17th Dec	Christmas Jumper day 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-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

As we approach the festive season, I'm delighted to share the wonderful activities and achievements that have been taking place in our school community.

This week, we encouraged our pupils to reflect on an important question from the gospel: "How can you make steps to put things right with others today?" This thoughtful exercise aimed to nurture forgiveness, empathy and understanding among our community and consider 'what would Jesus do?'

The excitement of Christmas was truly felt throughout school as our children participated in a delightful pantomime workshops. It was heart-warming to see their enthusiasm and creativity shine through during this festive activity.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who attended the Early Years and Year 1 nativity on Thursday. Your presence and support meant a great deal to our little performers and staff alike. A wonderful performance that reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday evening saw our Parish feast day mass, followed by refreshments and a celebration. It was a joyous occasion that brought our school and parish communities together, and I'm pleased to report it was a resounding success and joyful time.

As we continue our journey through Advent, I'd like to remind you about the RE Christmas Homework. Please take some time to complete this with your child and engage in meaningful conversations about its content. These discussions can deepen your child's understanding and create lasting family memories.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our school community. Your partnership is invaluable as we nurture and guide our pupils through their educational journey.

Please see the Mass times for over Christmas within our 5 most local parishes at the end of this newsletter.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyous lead-up to Christmas.

**Holy Mass Times at Christmas 2024
Mother of God and Guardian Angel Parish**

**Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve
Christmas Vigil
5pm Christmas Vigil Mass at Guardian Angels primary
school (with carols before)**

**Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day
11am Mass at Guardian Angels primary school**

**Thursday 26th December - Feast of St Stephen, Martyr
10am Mass at Mother of God and Guardian Angels church**

This Week's Gospel



Today we hear John the Baptist preparing people for the coming of Jesus. The people were very excited. John told them they had to change their lives for the better and share what they had with others.

Luke 3:10-18

The people asked [John the Baptist], "What are we to do, then?" He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it."

Some tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what are we to do?"

"Don't collect more than is legal," he told them.

Some soldiers also asked him, "What about us? What are we to do?" He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay."

People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He has his winnowing shovel with him, to thresh out all the grain and gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and urged them to change their ways.





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.

Panto Workshop

This week, the children took part in a panto workshop led by West End in Schools. They listened to and recreated the stories of *The Night Before Christmas* and *A Christmas Carol* taking on the roles of the characters in true panto style.



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 Awards



Virtues Award

EYFS - Luna
Year 1 - Gracie-Mai
Year 2 - Natalia
Year 3 - Lily McN
Year 4 - Ella L
Year 5 - Layla-Rose
Year 6 - Jan



Reader of the Week

EYFS - Arlo-Jay
Year 1 - Erin F
Year 2 - Jaymin
Year 3 - Aoife
Year 4 - Eden
Year 5 - Lola
Year 6 - Emily S



PE Star of the Week

EYFS - Za'rae
Year 1 - Noah
Year 2 - Sidney
Year 3 - Anada
Year 4 - Jacob W
Year 5 - Jacob C
Year 6 - Lucas

Star Pupils

EYFS

Amelia G and Arthur

Year 3

Lexi and Nellie

Year 1

All of Year 1

Year 4

Delilah and Mylo

Year 2

Adonis and Marnie

Year 5

Chloe and Parker

Year 6

Blake and Cassius

This Week's Attendance



Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	90.7
Year 1	88.7
Year 2	91.2
Year 3	91.6
Year 4	92.7
Year 5	89.7
Year 6	85.3

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, both 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 parents.

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

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND - ROUND 6

The Hardship Grant Community Fund scheme is now open for enquiries and applications. The scheme is expected to support eligible households with grant award payments through to the end of March 2025.

To apply, potential applicants will be required to complete the enquiry form, located on the website below, answering questions aimed at determining your eligibility for a grant payment. All applicants will be contacted via email on the outcome of their enquiry and next steps.

<https://www.bvsc.org/hsf>

Alternatively, please scan the QR code, with your mobile phone or tablet camera to open the link.



E- Safety Tip

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, travelling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

- 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY**
Children spend more time online during school holidays, particularly on mobile devices and social media. Educators should consider digital safety during school breaks, including monitoring digital activity and ensuring children understand online safety and digital citizenship. Educators should also consider digital safety during school breaks, including monitoring digital activity and ensuring children understand online safety and digital citizenship.
- 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS**
The presence of festive lights, candles and other decorations in homes and public spaces during Christmas and New Year increases the risk of fire. Educators should ensure that children understand fire safety protocols, including how to use fire extinguishers and how to evacuate a building in an emergency. Educators should also ensure that children understand fire safety protocols, including how to use fire extinguishers and how to evacuate a building in an emergency.
- 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS**
Many families need to travel during the holidays, including to family events, religious services and shopping. Educators should ensure that children understand travel safety plans, including how to use public transport and how to travel safely. Educators should also ensure that children understand travel safety plans, including how to use public transport and how to travel safely.
- 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES**
Festive meals often contain many foods that can trigger allergies. Educators should ensure that children understand food allergies and how to avoid them. Educators should also ensure that children understand food allergies and how to avoid them.
- 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**
Cold weather and indoor gatherings can increase the spread of viruses like the flu and COVID-19. Educators should ensure that children understand how to prevent the spread of illness, including how to wash their hands and how to wear a mask. Educators should also ensure that children understand how to prevent the spread of illness, including how to wash their hands and how to wear a mask.
- 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD**
The festive season is a busy time for many families, and the risk of accidents on the road is higher. Educators should ensure that children understand road safety, including how to use pedestrian crossings and how to use public transport. Educators should also ensure that children understand road safety, including how to use pedestrian crossings and how to use public transport.
- 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS**
Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can be a fire hazard if not used safely. Educators should ensure that children understand how to use decorations safely, including how to use outdoor lighting and how to use candles. Educators should also ensure that children understand how to use decorations safely, including how to use outdoor lighting and how to use candles.
- 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS**
Some toys and gifts can present choking hazards or other safety risks. Educators should ensure that children understand how to set boundaries for gifts, including how to check for safety warnings and how to avoid unsafe toys. Educators should also ensure that children understand how to set boundaries for gifts, including how to check for safety warnings and how to avoid unsafe toys.
- 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE**
The festive season can be a busy and stressful time for many families. Educators should ensure that children understand how to address stress and fatigue, including how to take breaks and how to ask for help. Educators should also ensure that children understand how to address stress and fatigue, including how to take breaks and how to ask for help.
- 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY**
Alcohol is commonly present at festive events, and excessive drinking can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and other safety risks. Educators should ensure that children understand how to drink responsibly, including how to avoid alcohol and how to ask for help. Educators should also ensure that children understand how to drink responsibly, including how to avoid alcohol and how to ask for help.

Meet Our Expert
James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in providing health and safety advice. Specialising in risk assessment and prevention strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page of <https://nationalcollege.org.uk/resources/safeguarding> over the festive season.

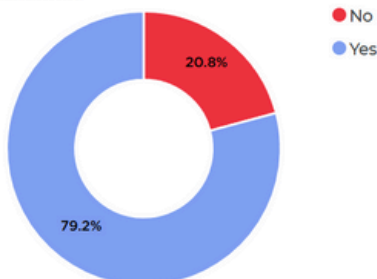
Twitter: @wake_up_weds Facebook: /www.thenationalcollege Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday TikTok: @wake.up.weds

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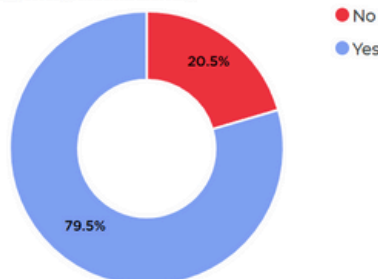
VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

Should we learn more about coping with extreme weather?

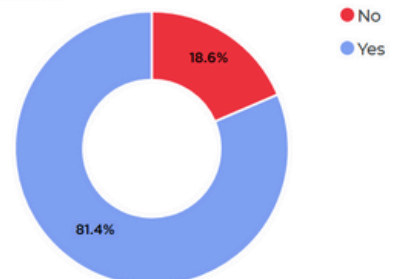
Your School



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

**Jaxon (EYFS) Holly-Bee (Year 1) Oscar (Year 3)
Jude O (Y4) Frankie (Y5)**



Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family

Weekly Prayer



Christ Jesus, as Christmas approaches, we look forward joyfully to your coming. Help us to share what we can so all people may have what they need.

Amen

Composer of the Week

Mozart



- Mozart is widely recognized as one of the greatest composers in the history of Western music
- Mozart's father, Leopold, was an ambitious composer and violinist
- Mozart was and still is considered a genius
- Mozart composed his first opera, Apollo et Hyacinthus when he was only 11
- In August 1782 he married Constanze Weber; their marriage seemed to be a happy one however, only two of their six children survived
- Between 1784 and 1786, he composed nine piano concertos
- His health began to fail and his work rate slowed in 1790. He got better, though, and in 1791 alone composed the most famous The Magic Flute, the Requiem (unfinished), and the Clarinet Concerto 7
- Mozart did not live long enough to complete his Requiem. He died in Vienna, in 1791, before his 36th birthday

Have a lovely weekend and God Bless,

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



Parish Cluster Christmas Masses 2024

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4.30 pm: First Mass of Christmas Mass at St. Anthony's, Kingshurst

5pm: First Mass of Christmas Mass at Guardian Angels Primary School, Shard End

6pm: First Mass of Christmas for Children at Sacred Heart and St Teresa's, Coleshill

6pm: First Mass of Christmas for Children at Our Lady's, Kitts Green

6.30 pm: First Mass of Christmas at St. Anne's, Chelmsley Wood

8.30pm: Christmas Carols at Sacred Heart and St Teresa's, Coleshill

9pm: Christmas Night Mass at Sacred Heart and St Teresa's, Coleshill

9pm: Christmas Night Mass at Our Lady's, Kitts Green

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

9am: Mass at St John the Baptist, Smith's Wood

9.30am: Mass at Our Lady's, Kitts Green

10.45am: Mass at Sacred Heart and St Teresa's, Coleshill

11 am: Mass at St. Anne's, Chelmsley Wood

11am: Mass at Guardian Angels Primary School, Shard End

Holy Mass Times at Christmas 2024

Mother of God and Guardian Angel Parish
serving St John the Baptist church and school

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Christmas Vigil

5pm Christmas Vigil Mass at Guardian Angels primary school
(with carols before)

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

9am Mass at St John the Baptist church

11am Mass at Guardian Angels primary school

Thursday 26th December – Feast of St Stephen, Martyr

10am Mass at Mother of God and Guardian Angels church

Saturday 28th December

5pm Vigil Mass at Guardian Angels primary school (for
Sunday - Feast of the Holy Family)

Sunday 29th December – Feast of the Holy Family

9am Mass at St John the Baptist church

11am Mass at Guardian Angels primary school

Addresses where Masses will be celebrated:

- ✚ Guardian Angels primary school, Hurst Lane, Shard End, Birmingham B34 7HN
- ✚ St John the Baptist church, Arran Way, Smith's Wood, Birmingham B36 0QE
- ✚ Mother of God and Guardian Angels church, Kitsland Road, Shard End B34 7NA (Access side door of church, through front of Guardian Angel House)



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

