



Key Dates

Tues 21st Jan	Aspens - food testing at 3pm in this school playground for parents - front gates will open at 2:50pm
Wed 22nd Jan	Mass at 9am in the school hall - lead by Year 5
Mon 27th Jan	Holocaust Memorial Day
Frid 14th February	Break up for Half Term
Mon 24th February	INSET Day- School closed to all pupils



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

Today, our Year 1 parents had the opportunity to attend a phonics workshop. These sessions are invaluable in helping you support your child's reading journey at home, and I hope those who attended found it informative and useful. Your engagement in your child's learning is crucial, and we're always here to help you navigate this path together.

On Thursday, we enjoyed a delightful themed lunch. These special meals are always a hit with our pupils, adding a dash of excitement to their school day. It's heartening to see the children tucking into nutritious meals while chatting with their friends – a reminder of how important these social interactions are in their daily lives.

I'm thrilled to announce the winners of our 'design a window' competition. The chosen designs are now proudly displayed on the windows into school, creating a warm and welcoming entrance for all. A huge thank you goes out to our liturgy leaders, children, and parishioners who took the time to vote for the winning designs. Your participation in this process truly embodies the collaborative spirit of our school community.

While we celebrate these positive aspects of school life, I must also remind everyone about the importance of punctuality. Our school gates close at 8:45 am, and it's crucial that all pupils arrive on time. Being punctual sets a positive tone for the day and ensures that no learning time is lost. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. As we move forward, let's continue to work together to create the best possible learning environment for our children. Your ongoing support and engagement make a world of difference in the life of our school community.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education.

This Week's Gospel



In today's gospel we hear how Jesus did something very special at a wedding in Cana, changing water into wine.

John 2:1-11

Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine had given out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine left."

"You must not tell me what to do," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

Jesus' mother then told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

The Jews have rules about ritual washing, and for this purpose six stone water jars were there, each one large enough to hold about a hundred litres. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill these jars with water." They filled them to the brim, and then he told them, "Now draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast." They took him the water, which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it. He did not know where this wine had come from (but, of course, the servants who had drawn out the water knew); so he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have had plenty to drink, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!"

Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee; there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.





RE Homework

This month's RE homework focuses on celebrations in other faiths and cultures. We are asking children to create a poster, fact file, presentation or piece of artwork that shows and explains a celebration from a different faith or culture.

Homework is due in by 31st January 2025 and winners will be judged by our liturgy leaders and receive a prize.

We look forward to seeing all your creative ideas

Building the Kingdom Homework

January's Big Question - How do other faiths and cultures celebrate throughout the year?

Create a poster, presentation or information booklet about the celebrations celebrated by different faiths and cultures. E.g. Hindu - Diwali, Jewish - Passover / Yon Kippur, Muslim - Ramadan / Eid - ul - Adha, Sikh - Birthday of Guru Nanak



Jubilee Year

What is a Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years.

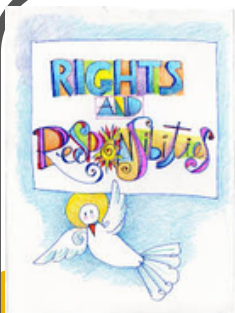
A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026.



Catholic Social Teaching

Everybody has a fundamental right to life. It is this right that makes all the other rights possible. Everyone has the right to food, health care, housing, education and employment. We all need to strive to secure and respect these rights for others both locally and globally.

This Week's Awards



Virtues Award

EYFS - Ka'Oir
Year 1 - Noah
Year 2 - Chimamanda
Year 3 - Darius
Year 4 - Blake
Year 5 - Mason
Year 6 - Corey-James



Reader of the Week

EYFS - Michael
Year 1 - Graciemae
Year 2 - Emily
Year 3 - Millie-Mae
Year 4 - Summer
Year 5 - Joshua
Year 6 - Francesca



PE Star of the Week

EYFS - Jaxon
Year 1 - Joshua
Year 2 - Billy
Year 3 - Levi
Year 4 - Connor
Year 5 - Ogooluwa
Year 6 - Blake

Star Pupils

EYFS

Za'rae and Arlo-Jay

Year 3

Lily and Elsie

Year 1

Paisley-Jane and Charlie

Year 4

Bonnie and Jude O

Year 2

Jaymin and Lilly

Year 5

Nadia and Davian

Year 6

Emily and Nicola

This Week's Attendance



Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	93.0
Year 1	88.3
Year 2	91.9
Year 3	90.6
Year 4	95.3
Year 5	90.3
Year 6	86.0

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 24 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

Winter Water Safety

Winter can be dangerous because of the temptation to play on ice formed over open water, rivers or canals. It's risky for everyone, but both children and pets are especially at risk, as well as adults who might attempt to rescue them.

How to stay safe in winter: the dangers of frozen or icy cold water

<https://www.wmfs.net/safety/winter-water-safety/>

E- Safety Tip

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube - but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok is following best-practice guidelines, it is not immune to age-inappropriate content. The app's algorithm is designed to show content that is relevant to the user's interests, but it can also show content that is inappropriate for children. The app's algorithm is designed to show content that is relevant to the user's interests, but it can also show content that is inappropriate for children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.8 billion users globally, the app's user base is vast and diverse. This means that children can easily come into contact with strangers, who may attempt to groom or exploit them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

The app's algorithm is designed to show content that is relevant to the user's interests, but it can also show content that is inappropriate for children. This includes content that is misleading or harmful, such as misinformation and radicalisation.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

The app's design is highly addictive, with features such as infinite scrolling and autoplay. This can lead to excessive use of the app, which can have negative impacts on children's mental health and well-being.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode, which limits the content that a child sees to age-appropriate content, and can also limit the amount of time that a child can spend on the app.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can offer their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. This is done by going to the app's settings and turning on 'Block in-app purchases'.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Discuss that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they have to look at a report about if they're worried by inappropriate content on the app. Also, discuss using TikTok for news, as it's a good way to keep up-to-date with current events, and how to identify if a post is fake.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been negatively affected by something they've seen, it's important to look for signs of excessive use. These include: a child who is unable to stop using the app, a child who is spending more time on the app than they should, a child who is spending more time on the app than they should, a child who is spending more time on the app than they should.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of BBC, The Guardian, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

Wake Up Wednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

15.01.2025

Meet the Caterers

Next Tuesday at 3pm, we're inviting parents to sample some of our new school meals in the playground. It's a fantastic chance for you to taste what your children enjoy daily and perhaps pick up some menu ideas for home cooking too!



Virtues of the Half Term

Grateful and Generous



Pupils in our school are Grateful: We are grateful for the gifts God has given to us, for the gifts of other people and the blessings of each new day. We are thankful for what we have and for the people around us.

Generous: We are generous with our gifts and use them in the service of others. We are generous with our time and give of ourselves to serve others as God wants us to. We are generous with our actions, doing things to help other people and make a difference in the world.

Birthday Celebrations

**Amelia G (EYFS), Sophie (Year 3)
Mason and Joshua (Year 5)**

Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family



God of life, may we be inspired by the miracles that your Son Jesus performed to do our best to make a real difference to 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

Mussorgsky



- Mussorgsky was considered one of music's great originals.
- Everything he composed was conceived in terms of natural rhythms, melodies and harmonies of Slavonic folk music.
- Mussorgsky's natural talent was obvious from the start.
- Initially he was taught by his mother and he became a pianist prodigy, making his debut at nine years old
- Four years later, in 1852, he enrolled at the Imperial Guard's cadet school and composed the *Porte-en-seigne* polka, a surprisingly cheery piano miniature.
- In 1863, a shortage of funds forced Mussorgsky to take a job as a clerk in the civil service though he continued to compose in his spare time
- Mussorgsky began composing six operas, but completed only one, *Boris Godunov*.



The Jubilee Prayer

**Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole
cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.**

**May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.**

**To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.**

Amen