



Key Dates

Mon 3rd Feb	Children's Mental Health Week
Wed 5th Feb	Mass in the school hall - led by Y4 all welcome - 9am
Frid 14th February	Break up for Half Term
Mon 24th February	INSET Day- School closed to all pupils
Mon 3rd March	Year 4 Trip - payable on ParentPay



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 end of another bustling week at Guardian Angels, we are delighted to share with you the vibrant tapestry of learning and community that has unfolded within our school walls.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils have had the wonderful opportunity to participate in Dogs Trust workshops, focusing on the crucial topic of dog safety. These sessions not only educate our children about responsible pet ownership but also equip them with valuable life skills for interacting safely with our four-legged friends.

Year 6 pupils were treated to an enlightening vocations talk, exploring the various callings within the church. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jithin Titto for leading this insightful session, which undoubtedly broadened our pupils' perspectives on faith-based careers and service.

The sporting spirit was alive and well as our Year 5 pupils spent an exhilarating afternoon at John Henry Newman, engaging in a football coaching session. These experiences not only hone physical skills but also foster teamwork and resilience – qualities we hold dear at our school.

A highlight of our week was undoubtedly the parishioners' tea held in the GAP room on Thursday. It was a joyous occasion that brought our school and parish communities closer together. We're particularly proud of our Year 5 pupils who showcased their impeccable hosting skills, making our guests feel truly welcome. Your support for this event was heartwarming, and we thank each one of you who contributed to its success.

Looking ahead, we must draw your attention to some important dates. Please note that 24th February is a MAC INSET day, and the school will be closed to all pupils. This day allows our dedicated staff to engage in professional development, ensuring we continue to provide the highest quality education for your children.

As always, these events and activities reflect our commitment to nurturing not just the academic growth of our pupils, but their spiritual, social, and personal development as well. Your continued support and engagement in our school community are invaluable, and we thank you for your partnership in your child's educational journey.

This Week's Gospel



Today we hear about Jesus and his family and a special trip they took to Jerusalem. We hear about the special things that happened to the baby Jesus there and all that was said about him.

Luke 2:22-40

The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every firstborn male is to be dedicated to the Lord." They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah.

Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

**"Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
and you may let your servant go in peace.
With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:
A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
and bring glory to your people Israel."**

The child's mother and father were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart."

There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now 84 years old. She never left the Temple: day and night she worshipped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that was required by the law of the Lord, they returned to their home town of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong; he was full of wisdom, and God's blessings were upon him.



Year 3 Sacramental Update

For our Year 3 families, two significant events are on the horizon. A meeting regarding reconciliation and holy communion will take place on Wednesday, 12th March at 2:45 pm. This will be an essential gathering to discuss these important sacraments. Additionally, we're pleased to announce that the Year 3 Holy Communion ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, 21st June 2025. We look forward to sharing in this special milestone with our Year 3 pupils and their families.

Uniform Reminder

Thank you to all the families that have supported our push for correct school uniform over the last few weeks. It is wonderful to see our children looking so smart in school. A brief reminder that if a child is wearing a hoody for PE this needs to be plain black with no logo if not children should be wearing their school jumper or cardigan. Staff will now be sending small slips home with children if they are not wearing correct uniform to keep you informed. Please login to ParentPay, we have a few uniform items- ties (normal and elastic), large size cardigans and a large jumper to sell. Thank you all for your continued support.

We are kindly informing you that your child's uniform is not quite in line with our policy. Please find below a checklist of the specific areas where the uniform needs adjustment. Thank you for your co-operation.

Shirt Tie Jumper Trousers

Shoes PE kit Jewellery Hair



Parent Questionnaire Response

First and foremost, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the parents who took the time to respond to our recent questionnaire. The insights we gained are truly invaluable.

We're delighted to share that 93% of parents believe their child is happy at our school, and 95% feel their child is safe. An impressive 98% of parents think that Guardian Angels enables their child to behave respectfully, and the same percentage understand the Catholic mission of our school. Moreover, 93% of children enjoy their RE lessons, and 96% of parents believe Guardian Angels supports their child's spiritual and moral development.

While these results are overwhelmingly positive, there is one area where we can improve - the understanding of how our school works with the local parish. To address this, we want to assure you that our school leaders meet with Father Paul weekly to discuss parish and school events. Sacramental preparation takes place between the school and the parish, allowing children who do not attend Guardian Angels to receive these important sacraments. As our Guardian Angels Church is currently closed, all weekend masses now take place in our school hall, further strengthening our links within the parish. During harvest and Lent, our children collect for local charities and food banks, ensuring we are supporting the most vulnerable in our parish. Finally, we host monthly parishioners' afternoon teas, as well as Easter and Christmas dinners for the parish, supported by some wonderful volunteers from within the parish.



Charity Boot Campaign

Our MAC are currently collecting for a charity boot campaign. If you have any old football boots or football boots that no longer fit, please consider sending them into school to support this initiative.



SEND Mass

A quick reminder that the next SEND Mass will be at St Thomas More Church in Sheldon on 1st March at 11am

February RE Homework

Thank you for all the wonderful homework sent in during January looking at celebrations in other faiths. Our Liturgy Leaders will select the best pieces next week to receive a prize. Next month's homework is all about hope as we continue our celebrations in school for the Year of Jubilee

Building the Kingdom Homework

February's Big Question - Is being a messenger of hope Easy?

Design your own cross of hope to share with the school.

Pope Francis has decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope".

This Week's Awards



Virtues Award

EYFS - Joshua
Year 1 - Erin
Year 2 - Ameer
Year 3 - Harry
Year 4 - Mylo
Year 5 - Ogooluwa
Year 6 - Ava B



Reader of the Week

EYFS - Lexie
Year 1 - Graciemae
Year 2 - Chimamanda
Year 3 - Frankie
Year 4 - Frankie
Year 5 - Mila'rai
Year 6 - Jacob F



PE Star of the Week

EYFS - Lucy
Year 1 - Baby-Queenie
Year 2 - Marnie
Year 3 - Abigail
Year 4 - Saoirse
Year 5 - Jacob C
Year 6 - Ava-Tia

Star Pupils

EYFS

Zyon and Lily-Mae

Year 3

Luna and Brianna

Year 1

Sophia and Koa

Year 4

Jack and Oscar

Year 2

Layla and Jarvis

Year 5

Mylah and Toby

Year 6

Dolce and Lexie

This Week's Attendance



Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	90.0
Year 1	93.0
Year 2	87.4
Year 3	93.3
Year 4	94.0
Year 5	94.4
Year 6	88.9

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 25 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

Family Bereavement: How to support children through grief and loss

There's no right way to grieve. Feeling sad, angry, or confused, laughing about a memory, and having lots of questions are some of the ways a child might cope with the loss of someone they loved. If you're an adult who's helping them understand what's happening and how they're feeling, the below page is for you.

Losing a loved one is incredibly hard, especially for children. In the below article, we share advice and guidance from experts to help you support child through the journey of grief and loss.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/family-bereavement-how-to-support-children-through-grief-and-loss/>

E- Safety Tip

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Emotional literacy refers to the ability to recognise, understand and express our feelings effectively. It plays a crucial role in strengthening a child's resilience by enhancing their relationships and resilience. However, emotional literacy is not necessarily an innate talent, and its development may present challenges. This guide gives parents and educators practical tips on supporting children to cultivate this essential skill.

- 1 NAME THE EMOTION**
Encourage children to identify and name the emotions they're feeling and why. Use simple language and encourage them to describe their feelings to others through their actions. This builds a personal emotional literacy and helps them to understand their own feelings.
- 2 MODEL EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION**
Demonstrate healthy emotional expression by using your own words to describe how you're feeling and why. Encourage children to do the same. This helps them to understand their own feelings and how to express them.
- 3 MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES**
Teach children mindfulness practices to help them stay present and manage their emotions. This can be done through simple activities like breathing exercises, meditation or yoga.
- 4 USE STORYTELLING**
Encourage your child to use stories to help them understand and express their feelings. This can be done through reading books, watching films, or creating their own stories.
- 5 PRACTISE EMPATHY**
Teach children to consider others' feelings and how they might feel in different situations. This can be done through role-play, reading books, or watching films.
- 6 ENCOURAGE JOURNALING**
Encourage children to journal their feelings and thoughts. This can be done through simple activities like drawing, writing, or using a journal.
- 7 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING**
Teach children how to solve problems and manage their emotions. This can be done through simple activities like role-play, reading books, or watching films.
- 8 CREATE A SAFE SPACE**
Establish an environment where children feel safe to express their emotions. This can be done through simple activities like creating a safe space, using visual aids, or using stories.
- 9 USE VISUAL AIDS**
Take advantage of visual aids like emotion cards or mood meters to help children identify and express their feelings. This can be done through simple activities like using emotion cards, using mood meters, or using visual aids.
- 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL GROWTH**
Acknowledge and celebrate progress in emotional literacy and resilience. This can be done through simple activities like using stickers, using certificates, or using visual aids.

Meet Our Expert
Adam Gillis is Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at The National College. He is also an expert in emotional literacy and resilience. He is the author of the book 'Emotional Literacy: A Guide for Parents and Educators'.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

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

MyChildAtSchool APP

We'd like to remind you that Parents' Evening is scheduled for March 19th, this will shortly be available on the MyChildAtSchool APP, thank you to all the parents that have already downloaded this app but if you haven't you may not be able to view the many features that this app provides. If you have not yet activated the app, you will require the 'school ID' number which is: 14442 and then use your email address that you have provided the school along with a password that you can remember. You will then be asked to choose a 5 digit code that you may need to use each time you login. Once you have logged into your child's account, please check that your personal details are correct and we ask that you add your work phone numbers in case of emergencies. If your child's medical details have changed - please inform the office as soon as possible in writing.





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

Elsie and Lily (Year 3)

Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family



**God of life, help us to see how important and special all your children are – no matter who they are, or what they look like. Teach us to treat all members of our global family with love and respect.
Amen**

Have a lovely weekend and God Bless,

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

Composer of the Week

Ma Rainey



Ma Rainey was an American singer who was known as the "mother of the blues" and who was recognized as the first great professional blues vocalist.

She made her first public appearance about the age of 14 in a local talent show called "Bunch of Blackberries" at the Springer Opera House in Columbus

In 1902, in a small Missouri town, she first heard the sort of music that was to become known as the blues.

In her travels she appeared with jazz and jug bands throughout the South



Communication and Autism



Access to
Education

Primary Age - Spring Term 2025 CAT PAC – Thornton Primary School Birmingham B8 2LQ

We would like to invite you to a CAT PAC course, our parent awareness course designed to support parent carers of children with a diagnosis of autism or children who are on the neurodevelopmental pathway for assessment.

- The course has been designed for parents who want to increase their understanding of autism.
 - The sessions will take place at Thornton Primary School B8 2LQ

SPRING TERM 2025

Session1 – An introduction to Autism	27 th January 2025: 9.30-11.30am
Session 2 – Communication and Interaction	3 rd February 2025: 9.30-11.30am
Session 3 – Sensory differences	10 th February 2025: 9.30-11.30am
HALF TERM	
Session 4 – Eating, sleeping, personal care	24 th February 2025: 9.30-11.30am
Session 5 – Autism and Anxiety	3 rd March 2025: 9.30-11.30am
Session 6 – Parent/ carer choice & signposting services	10 th March 2025: 9.30-11.30am

The subject or title of your email needs to state that it is for the :

Spring 2025 Primary CAT PAC – Thornton Primary School.

In your email please include:

- Your name – Parent carer
- Your Child's name
- Your Child's school (Add your child's CAT worker if known)
- *Due to limited places, the course will be offered to the first families to contact us.*
- *There is an expectation that parents try to attend all sessions if possible.*
- *There are no childcare facilities at the venue.*
- Please email A2EGeneral@birmingham.gov.uk to reserve a place.

You will receive an email response to confirm your place or to tell you that the course is full.

Yours sincerely, Julie Watchorn Brennan and Dawn fisher



 **Communication and Autism**



**Access to
Education**

**Spring Term 2025 CAT PAC – Early Years
To be delivered Online via Microsoft TEAM's**

We would like to invite you to a CAT PAC awareness course, course for parent carers of autistic children or of children on the Neurodevelopmental pathway.

- The course has been designed for parents who want to increase their understanding of autism.
- The sessions will be delivered virtually via Microsoft TEAMS, a link will be sent to you a few days before each session.
 - Each session will last for 2 hours

SPRING TERM 2025

Session1 – An introduction to Autism	28 th January 2025: 9.30-11.15am
Session 2 – Communication and Interaction	4 th February 2025: 9.30-11.15am
Session 3 – Sensory differences	11 th February 2025: 9.30-11.15am
HALF TERM	
Session 4 – Eating, sleeping and toileting	25 th February 2025: 9.30-11.15am
Session 5 – Emotional regulation	4 th March 2025: 9.30-11.15am
Session 6 – Parental choice & Signposting services	11 th March 2025: 9.30-11.15am

The subject or title of your email needs to state that it is for the:

Spring 2025 Early Years Online CAT PAC

In your email please include:

- Your name and email address
- Your Child / young person's name and school
- Your child / young person's CAT worker (*if known*)
- Due to limited places, the course will be offered to the first families to contact us.
- *There is an expectation that parents endeavour to attend all sessions if possible.*
- **Please email A2EGeneral@birmingham.gov.uk** to reserve a place. You will receive an email response to confirm your place or to tell you that the course is full.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Fisher and Julie Watchorn Brennan