

Key Dates

Wed 26th March	Year 5 - Reading workshop for parents at 2:45pm in the school hall
Thurs 27th March	World Book Day - pupils may dress up
Wed 2nd April	Mass in the school hall - all invited led by Year 5
Frid 4th April	Non-uniform day-Pledge a Pound for Father Hudson's charity, please kindly donate on ParentPay
Mon 7th April	Aspens food tasting session in the school playground at 3pm
Frid 11th April	Class Photos - all pupils to dress smartly (Y6 bring PE kit to school in a bag and Y4-swimming lesson-please wear full uniform to school)
Frid 11th April	End of term-pupils break up for school
Mon 28th April	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 bustling week we've had at our school! It's been filled with excitement, learning, and community spirit. I'm thrilled to share with you the wonderful experiences our pupils have enjoyed recently.

Science Week has been nothing short of fantastic! Our budding scientists were treated to a visit from the animal man, who brought along an array of fascinating creatures. The looks of wonder and curiosity on our pupils' faces were truly heartwarming. Additionally, forensic science workshops provided hands-on experiences that ignited their investigative skills. It's moments like these that remind us of the importance of practical, engaging learning experiences.

Some of our pupils had the opportunity to participate in music workshops courtesy of the Shakespeare Trust. These sessions not only enhanced their musical abilities but also deepened their appreciation for the arts. It's always a joy to see our children exploring different facets of creativity and expression.

We're incredibly proud of our Caritas Ambassadors who visited Tabor Living, a homeless project in Birmingham. They learned about the vital work being done to support those in need and delivered Easter eggs to spread a bit of joy. This experience undoubtedly broadened their understanding of social issues and the importance of community service.

Thank you to all the parents who attended Parents' Evening this week. Your engagement and support play a crucial role in your child's educational journey, and we truly appreciate your involvement.

We're also immensely grateful to the Children's Book Project for their generous donation of books for our pop-up bookshop. It was wonderful to see our pupils' excitement as they each got to keep two books. Fostering a love for reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children.

Lastly, we'd like to remind everyone about an important date change. World Book Day will now be celebrated on Thursday 27th March. We're looking forward to seeing our pupils dressed as their favourite book characters and sharing their love of literature.

As we continue through the school year, the staff are constantly amazed by the resilience, enthusiasm, and kindness demonstrated by our pupils and wider school community. Your support and engagement make Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School a truly special place.

This Week's Gospel



Today Jesus tells a story about a tree that did not bear any fruit and all the things that the gardener planned to try to make it grow better. People are like trees, they need certain things to grow and be healthy too.

Luke 13:1-9

At that time some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God. Jesus answered them, “Because those Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves that they were worse sinners than all the other Galileans? No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did. What about those eighteen people in Siloam who were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “There was once a man who had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. He went looking for figs on it but found none. So he said to his gardener, ‘Look, for three years I have been coming here looking for figs on this fig tree, and I haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it go on using up the soil?’ But the gardener answered, ‘Leave it alone, sir, just one more year; I will dig round it and put in some manure. Then if the tree bears figs next year, so much the better; if not, then you can have it cut down.’”



As you are aware, we had our Catholic School Inspectorate visit on the 6th and 7th of March. The entire report has been emailed out to parents and it can also be found on our website. Here are a few highlights from the report...

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



- Guardian Angels is a warm, welcoming, and fully inclusive community. Pupils flourish because they understand and embrace the school's mission statement after successfully being involved in its recent review and implementation.
- The life and mission of Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School are deeply rooted in God's word and are inspiring examples of a Catholic school community
- Staff are exemplary role models of how the mission is lived and witnessed; they work enthusiastically to achieve the best outcomes for the pupils in their care as a direct result of the modelled example of school leaders.
- This embedded culture of welcome further enhances the school's exemplary ethos of inclusivity. Staff show unwavering commitment to providing the highest levels of pastoral care through the carefully planned resource base for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



CSI Update

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

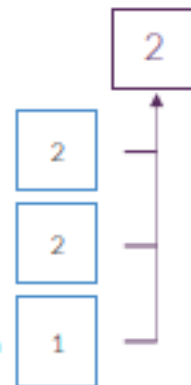
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



- Pupils are developing secure knowledge and understanding of religious education. From very low starting points, most pupils make good progress
- A shared understanding of the demands of religious education in everyday life means that pupils think ethically, spiritually, and theologically in lessons when given opportunities to answer questions of awe and wonder.
- Teachers demonstrate a deep commitment to religious education and have secure subject knowledge. They adapt teaching styles for different groups of learners and skillfully use questioning to engage pupils, resulting in purposeful learning environments
- Leaders provide a wide range of opportunities in the curriculum to increase pupils' learning and engagement in religious education



CSI Update

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

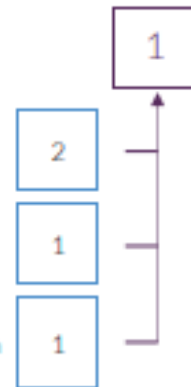
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship



- Prayer is made fully accessible to all pupils through various carefully considered adaptations, particularly for pupils with SEND, who are provided with pictures and creative ways to inspire heartfelt responses
- Prayer is central to the life of Guardian Angels. The school is a sanctuary of prayer, inclusion and devotion to the church.
- Staff are skilled in supporting pupils in planning and leading prayer and liturgy and are creative in using various resources.
- The celebration of Mass is at the heart of the school calendar, with opportunities for pupils to plan and lead ministries within Mass fortnightly, thus contributing to the priority levels always given to God's word and its presence in the school.
- Leaders and governors clearly understand how prayer and liturgy are the cornerstone of the school's mission and give it the highest priority.



THE BIG LENT WALK

WHAT IS THE BIG LENT WALK?

The Big Lent Walk is a challenge where we are asking our children to walk at least 200 miles combined over the 40 days of Lent and get sponsored to raise money to help people fighting extreme poverty globally.

WHY ARE WE WALKING THIS LENT?

Your sponsorship can and will change lives. Every £1 raised by Guardian Angels through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally.



Scan or click on the QR code to donate to to donate to our JustGiving page

£28

can buy 10 metres of shade netting to protect young plants from the scorching sun until they are strong enough to grow on their own

£148

can pay the labour costs to build a plant nursery out of anti-greenhouse netting, including installing steel beams and concrete foundations to keep crops safe for years to come.

£737

can build a 5000ltr water tank and platform to store rainwater for use in growing crops

Science Week





CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

Come join us for Mass led by Year 5. After Mass we are looking for parishioners to join some of our children on the Big Lent Walk.

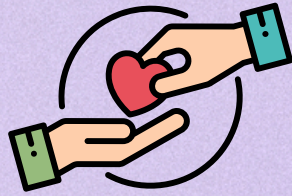


Help us reach our school target of walking over 200km together

2 APRIL 2025 | 9:00 AM

Guardian Angels School Hall

Bring your friends and family, and let's walk together in the fresh morning to raise money for CAFOD



Lenten Fundraising



Children are invited to bring in money to take part in class led Lenten fundraising activities during the school day. Fundraising activities will take place 31st March- 4th April. All profits will be shared with class chosen charities.



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION





DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR, WE WILL BE HOLDING **MONTHLY COMPETITIONS** FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN. WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE SHARED IN OUR ASSEMBLIES.

<p><u>February</u> Artwork: Create a piece of artwork which represents hope to you. Entries will be sent to someone as a sign of hope afterwards (i.e. migrants, elderly, prisoners, hospitals, hospices)</p>	<p><u>March</u> Poem of Hope: Create a poem which fills you with hope, makes you think about something hopeful or explores something you hope for in the future.</p>	<p><u>April</u> Sound of Hope: could you record a sound which makes you feel hopeful, or record you singing a song which makes you full of hope? Maybe you could make up your own song?</p>	<p><u>May</u> Letters of Hope: Write a letter to Pope Francis telling him what you hope for and what change you want to see in the world. Could you tell him what you think you could do to make it happen?</p>	<p><u>June</u> People of Hope: Nominate the people of hope around you. Who makes you feel hopeful, like you can achieve what you want to achieve or makes you feel happy and loved?</p>
<p><u>July - August</u> Holiday of Hope: Can you share a photo of how you have shared hope in your community? Could you go on your pilgrimage with your family?</p>	<p><u>September</u> Story of Hope: Can you create a short story, of no longer than 400 words, which explores the theme of hope?</p>	<p><u>October</u> Scene of Hope: Could you take a photo of something which represents hope to you, or makes you feel hopeful?</p>	<p><u>November</u> Heroes of Hope: Design an icon for your favourite Saint, or Saint who represents hope to you.</p>	<p><u>December</u> Wreath of Hope: Create an Advent wreath for your classroom with messages of hope on the leaves.</p>



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This Week's Awards



Virtues Award

EYFS - Melody
Year 1 - Harry
Year 2 - Adonis
Year 3 - Brianna
Year 4 - Michalina
Year 5 - Chloe
Year 6 - Ariela



Reader of the Week

EYFS - Lucy
Year 1 - Jaxson
Year 2 - Kenzo
Year 3 - Ava N
Year 4 - Kyle
Year 5 - Mateo
Year 6 - Lexie



PE Star of the Week

EYFS - Zyon
Year 1 - Erin
Year 2 - Aminah
Year 3 - Lily
Year 4 - Delilah
Year 5 - Nadia
Year 6 - Ava B

Star Pupils

EYFS

Lily-Mae and Lilly Z

Year 3

Amelia-Lily and Reign

Year 1

Noah and Elsie-Mai

Year 4

Harry and Eva

Year 2

Emily and Isla

Year 5

Oliver and Ogooluwa

Year 6

Dolce and Beau

This Week's Attendance



Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	87.9
Year 1	87.8
Year 2	96.0
Year 3	91.2
Year 4	95.3
Year 5	97.6
Year 6	93.3

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 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

Bring it on Brum

Bookings for Bring it on Brum! spring holiday clubs officially open on Monday 24th March. Check your email for guidance on how to book. A booking code has been provide on the letter email to FSM eligible pupils and a letter emails to parents who can pay for these clubs too.

Holiday clubs will run from Monday 14th–Friday 28th April 2025. Excluding bank holidays and weekends.

<https://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk/>

Bring it on Brum HOW TO BOOK

- GET YOUR CODE**
1 Get your BIOB code from your child's school.
If you haven't received your code, but believe you are eligible for the programme, please contact your child's school.
- CHOOSE YOUR CLUBS**
2 Go to bringitonbrum.co.uk and click **BOOK NOW**
- SEARCH**
3 Enter your criteria E.g Location, participant age, date and click **SEARCH**
To view the session details click **MORE INFORMATION**
- BOOK NOW**
4 Once you've found a holiday club you like, click **BOOK NOW** and choose a date and time that works for you.
- MORE INFORMATION:**
5 Enter your child's details- you can add more than once child.
You may need to add 'Supplementary Information' Please write 'book' in any fields that do not apply.
- REPEAT**
6 Repeat to add more sessions.
- CREATE A LOG-IN**
7 Once you have chosen all your sessions, go to your cart and click **CHECKOUT**
- CREATE A LOG-IN**
8 To complete your booking, you will need to create a log-in. You can then view/ edit/ add any additional bookings at any time by logging in.
Create a Log-in
 - ✓ Add your details
 - ✓ Sign up for session reminders
 - ✓ Enter your child/ children's details
 - ✓ Sign up for the Bring it on Brum! newsletter
- COMPLETE BOOKING**
9 Click **COMPLETE BOOKING**

Why not take a photo of these instructions?

E- Safety Tip

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

97 DAYS

13+

SNAPCHAT is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that everything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed. However, users are known to take screenshots or use third-party devices to obtain photos of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant limitations. There have already been numerous reports of users being misled by 'Snapchat AI' in a variety of ways, including providing false information, which could be harmful and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREYATORS AND SCAMS
Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have shared photos of them and will email them when they've paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced a scam on the app or others. This scam is triggered by 'Snapchat AI' in a message which highlights your recent profile in real time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY
Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Users can upload sensitive photos and videos from parents and others in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION
Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like stories (posting the same content every day to feed up a high score). The app also has creative filters, 'Discover' and 'Spooky', which can be addictive to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching content endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used in group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'Disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or language - so sending continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES
Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'Beauty' filters can affect self-image and unrealistic body image expectations. Creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'parental' notifications (which will get triggered even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS
Snapchat's 'Family Center' lets you view the details of the child's account, their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week - and report any concerns. You must be a parent or guardian for them to join. In the child's location folder on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Family Center' and 'Show location', and ensure they have not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT
If a stranger does contact with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or to be sexually explicit, block them. This will cut off the person and set a profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting their user - such as bullying or malicious messages, sexting or inappropriate behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF
Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parental guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any potential risks they have in phone. A link for this can be found in the resource below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS
Snapchat is not to be used to handle if you have an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how sensitive they are. Talk about reports and blocked content settings, children sign up. If there is any concern, encourage them to help you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, understanding the impact risks. Furthermore, appropriate parental challenges in the profile can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Southwell is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has delivered and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various educational papers and worked and researched for the National Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://thenationalcollege.com/parents/snapchat-2023>

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Virtues of the Half Term

Attentive and Discerning



Pupils in our school are Attentive: We are attentive when we listen to our calling from God to love and serve one another in all that we do. We are attentive to our experiences and can see where they will take us in our future vocations.

Discerning: We are discerning when we decide to do the right thing in the interest of the needs of others because we know the positive impact that will have on their lives.

Birthday Celebrations

**Kenzo (Year 2) Darius (Year 3)
Bonnie (Year 4) Jacob C (Year 5)**

Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family



Creator God, you gave us a world full of wonderful things. May we share these fairly with each other so all people have the chance to grow and live happy lives. Amen.

Composer of the Week Destiny's Child



Listen here:



**Have a lovely weekend and God Bless,
Mrs Helen Milligan, Mr Spindlow and
all the staff at Guardian Angels**



WORLD BOOK DAY

We will now be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 27th March 2025. This years theme is a World of Stories.



On the day, pupils and staff will be whisked off to the world of reading with a host of fun activities. Children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Pupils will also have the opportunity to take part in a book swap - bring a book from home and swap it for a friends or for a book in our swap shop.

Story in a Jar competition is back this year! A winner will be chosen from each class to win a prize. Year 2 - 6 pupils will also have the chance to win their very own Amazon Fire7. All they need to do is read as many books as they can over half term and complete the book's Accelerated Reader quizzes. (A pass rate of 85% or more is required). The class with the highest reads will also win a set of new books to enjoy in class.

In past years, this has been a truly memorable day for our Guardian Angels family. We look forward to seeing all your efforts again this year!



10 ways to stay safe online!

K

Do

- ✓ Set your profiles to private
- ✓ Share what you do online with adults you trust
- ✓ Tell an adult if anything worries, upsets or frightens you
- ✓ Be kind to others
- ✓ Spend time with friends and family offline

Don't

- ✗ Believe everything you see
- ✗ Trust strangers
- ✗ Give anyone your name, age or address
- ✗ Share pictures or videos of yourself
- ✗ Spend any money without checking with an adult

