



**Key Dates**

Mon 13th- Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Scholastics book fair - 3:20-3:45pm - please enter via the front office (fair in the library)
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 3 - Stay & Pray at 2:30pm - school hall
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents' Evening - time slots will be available soon - in order to book, you must have our MyChildAtSchool app
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Mass at 9am - led by Year 4
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Non-uniform day - please pay £1 on ParentPay
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Year 1 and Year 2 Harvest disco - 3:20-4:20pm
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> -Frid 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Year 6 Residential trip
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Pupils break up for Oct half term
Frid 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Inset day - school closed for pupils
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	School open for all
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mass at 9am - led by our staff
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 5 - Stay & Pray at 2:30pm - school hall
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	EYFS new intake for Sept 2026 meeting 9am in the school hall
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 6 Confirmation - 5-6pm in the church
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mass at 9am - led by Year 5
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Year 2 - Stay & Pray at 2:30pm - school hall
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Mass at 9am - led by Year 4



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**

**We are delighted to share some recent highlights from our school community. Our Year 5 pupils led a meaningful Mass on Wednesday, and we extend our sincere gratitude to the parents who attended and supported this important event.**

**Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) pupils recently benefited from an educational visit from a midwife, who demonstrated crucial skills in baby care and health. This practical learning experience provides valuable insights for our youngest learners.**

**We would like to draw your attention to two important matters. First, parents' evening is scheduled for next week. We strongly encourage all parents to book a slot to discuss their child's progress. Should you encounter any difficulties with booking, please contact the school office for assistance.**

**In response to community needs, we have made a strategic decision to reduce the cost of breakfast club for the upcoming half term to £1.25 per day. This represents an excellent opportunity for pupils to enjoy a nutritious breakfast, socialise with friends, and prepare positively for the school day ahead.**

**Thank you for your continued support and engagement with Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School.**

# This Week's Gospel



**Today we hear about how ten people were healed by Jesus, but only one of them said ‘thank you’.**

**Luke 17:11-19**

**As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. He was going into a village when he was met by ten men suffering from a skin disease. They stood at a distance and shouted, “Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!” Jesus saw them and said to them, “Go and let the priests examine you.”**

**On the way they were made clean. When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself to the ground at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. Jesus said, “There were ten men who were healed; where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?” And Jesus said to him, “Get up and go; your faith has made you well.”**

# You Said We Did



Thank you to all the parents who took time to answer our recent parental questionnaire. We have analysed the responses and over the forthcoming weeks want to share

4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively. (0 point)



Most parents said that their child has not been bullied. We use a curriculum and screening tool called KiVa within school.

For more information about what this is, please see here: <https://www.kivaprogram.net/what-is-kiva/>

If you would like to discuss any matters regarding bullying, please contact your child's class teacher or make an appointment to see a member of the leadership team.

5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year. (0 point)



You can find out about what your child is learning each term through the topic webs that we send home the MCAS app and our school website. The website also goes into more detail about every subject in every year group:

Topic Webs: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=Topic+Webs&pid=51>

Individual Subject areas can be found here: <https://www.grdangel.bham.sch.uk/page/?title=Subjects&pid=47>

If you need any support with the MCAS app or the school website, please do contact us. You can also ask the class teacher for a paper copy of the topic web at parents evening on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, if this would be helpful.

6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly. (0 point)



Please follow the following escalation:

1. Speak with the class teacher or staff member concerned
2. If your issue is not resolved, contact your child's Phase Leader
3. Should your issue not be resolved, arrange an appointment with the school office to speak with our Head of School, Mr Spindlow (Informal Complaint Stage)
4. Continue to follow the complaints policy process using the [OLAAS complaints](#) policy:

**Following careful consultation with local police authorities, we are pleased to confirm that the back gate will be reopened after the October half term. This decision has been made after thorough consideration of pupil and staff safety, which remains our paramount concern.**

**The reopening will be closely monitored by our Senior Leadership Team and local police to assess its effectiveness and potential for long-term implementation. This approach will allow us to evaluate the impact on pupil movement and overall school security systematically.**

**Also, we understand that a small number of parents have expressed concerns about the current entry and exit arrangements, particularly the congestion at the front gate. In response to this, we are simultaneously exploring options to increase the size of the pedestrian gate at the front of the school. These potential improvements stem directly from parental feedback about current access arrangements.**

**We appreciate the constructive dialogue from parents who have raised these important considerations about school access. Your ongoing engagement helps us continually refine our operational procedures to best serve our pupils and staff.**

# This Week's Attendance



## Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	92.9%
Year 1	96.4%
Year 2	90.0%
Year 3	92.1%
Year 4	94.6%
Year 5	91.6%
Year 6	94.8%

**Our school attendance target is 95%. The overall attendance for last year was 92.4%.**

**It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school.**

### 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**

### SPOTLIGHT ON PERSISTENT ABSENCE

**What is persistent absence?**

**If your child takes too much time off school they will become categorised as PA or persistently absent. (Attendance below 90% = persistent absence).**

**Missing school will make your child fall behind in lessons and will impact on their academic progress and achievement.  
Don't allow your child to become a PA student.**

**This table shows how many days missed each half-term will make your child a PA student:**

How many days will make my child a persistent absent student?	
Half-term 1	3 ½ days off school from September until October half-term holiday will make your child a PA student.
Half-term 1-2	7 days off school from September until the Christmas holiday will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-3	10 days of absence from September until February half-term will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-4	12 ½ days of absence from September until the Easter holidays will make your child a PA student.
Half-term 1-5	15 ½ days of absence from September until May half-term will make your child a PA student.
Half-term 1-6	19 days of absence for the full academic year (September to end of summer term in July) will make your child a PA student.



## Safeguarding Tip of the Week

At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

### 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

- 1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT**  
Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This gives children self-reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.
- 2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE**  
Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid over-reliance on words with too much information or shock. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.
- 3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY**  
Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or physical aches and pains. Consider this before talking with children about school or home. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more hyperactive and restless. Remember there's no 'one size' children's right.
- 4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA**  
Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Finding a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatization. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.
- 5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS**  
Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.
- 6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING**  
Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or story-telling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.
- 7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES**  
Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and empower children to do the same.
- 8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT**  
While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, contact with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.
- 9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION**  
Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connections with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.
- 10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME**  
There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

**Meet Our Expert**  
This guide has been written by Anna Boteman, Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.

**WakeUpWednesday** The National College

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[www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com)
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We understand that life can present unexpected challenges, and sometimes these can be traumatic or difficult for both children and adults. Our school is committed to providing a supportive and safe environment for all members of our community.

If you or your child are dealing with a traumatic or challenging event and would like some help, advice, or signposting to further support, please do not hesitate to come and speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). They are trained professionals who are available to offer confidential advice and guidance during these times.

You can reach out to our DSLs by contacting the school office.

Please remember, you are not alone, and we are here to help.

## E- Safety Tip

### Keeping children safe online

From understanding apps to setting parental controls, we've got information and resources to help you understand online safety and talk about it with children and young people.

A crucial online safety tip for parents is to foster open communication by regularly discussing online activities and potential risks, ensuring children feel comfortable coming to a trusted adult with any concerns without fear of judgment. Supplement this by using technological tools like parental controls on devices and home broadband, which can filter harmful content and help manage screen time.

The NSPCC offers valuable resources and tips on its webpages to assist parents in enhancing their understanding of online safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



# This Week's Awards



## Virtues Award

EYFS - Carter  
Year 1 - Zyon  
Year 2 - Arlena  
Year 3 - Alicja  
Year 4 - Ayanne  
Year 5 - Toby  
Year 6 - Amelia B



## Reader of the Week

EYFS - Emani  
Year 1 - Za'rae  
Year 2 - Lidya  
Year 3 - Chimamanda  
Year 4 - Joe  
Year 5 - Oscar  
Year 6 - Oliver



## PE Star of the Week

EYFS - Tiarah  
Year 1 - Lilly Z  
Year 2 - Elsie-Mai  
Year 3 - Jaymin  
Year 4 - Sophie  
Year 5 - Mason  
Year 6 - Jessica

## Star Pupils

EYFS

Roman and Ilerioluwa

Year 3

Jack and Marnie

Year 1

Penelope Lexie

Year 4

Harry and Darcie

Year 2

Millie and Charlie

Year 5

Herani and Ella

Year 6

Amelia N and Alexia



## Virtues this Half Term

### Eloquent and Truthful



**Eloquent:** the ability to speak or write fluently, persuasively and appropriately. We are eloquent when we use language to express our ideas or opinions clearly and with conviction. When we choose our words, we should do so carefully so they are kind and compassionate, and don't hurt others. Eloquence isn't limited to speaking and writing. We can express ourselves in other ways like music, drama, painting or dance. We should use our creative gifts to say things in a way that is interesting, truthful, memorable and faithful.

**Truthful:** God wants us to be truthful in all we do. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life', so being honest and truthful means we are following in his footsteps and living life the way God wants us to. Being truthful is being faithful to ourselves and to Jesus. We should stand up for the truth.

## Birthday Celebrations

Alicja (Year 3)  
Ava & Joe (Year 4)  
Ella (Year 5)



Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family



Loving Lord, help us to remember all the good things we have which come from you. Fill our hearts with thanks and praise. Help us to make sure all your people have their fair share of the gifts you give for us all.  
Amen.

During the month of October, we ask for donations of tinned food and snacks. All donations are greatly received and will be sent to our local food bank to help those in the community who need it most. If you are able to donate, please send items into school with your child. We thank you in advance for your generous contributions.

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





## Scholastic Book Fair

We are excited to welcome back Scholastic Book Fair on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct–Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 3:20–3:45 in the school library. This year, all sales will be cashless via a QR code that we will display in the library during Book Fair opening times.

**SCHOLASTIC**

**COME TO THE**

**BOOK FAIR**

FILL YOUR SCHOOL WITH FREE BOOKS WHEN YOU BUY FROM THE BOOK FAIR\*

READING GIVES YOU SUPERPOWERS!

LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE OVER **£5.3M** IN BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

Art © Doug Pilkey



We are looking for enthusiastic parent helpers to support setting up and running stalls during our Christmas fair this year.

If you have your own Christmas crafts to sell, we are also offering stall spaces for just £5 each.

If you would like to volunteer your time (and festive cheer) please speak to your child's class teacher or the office to express your interest.



**13TH**

**OCTOBER AT  
2.30PM**

*Parent and  
friends*

**OF GUARDIAN ANGELS**

**MEETING**

We are inviting all parents to join us and learn how you can make a difference to your child's school. Connect with other parents and create a community that supports and inspires others.



**COME ALONG FOR  
A CUPPA AND A  
CHAT!**



Funded by  
UK Government



# FREE bus travel for parents this October half term

All day, unlimited travel from  
27 October until 2 November

Parents, guardians and carers can enjoy  
unlimited free bus travel across the  
West Midlands during these dates.

## How to claim

Applications are open from Monday 6  
October until Wednesday 15 October.  
Just scan the QR code (or visit [tfwm.org.uk/october](https://tfwm.org.uk/october)) to apply!



Once applications close, we'll email you  
with instructions on how to redeem your  
free travel through your Swift account.

You're Bussing It



West  
Midlands  
Bus



**Our Lady and All Saints**  
Catholic Multi Academy Company  
Strong in Faith

7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents & Carers

### **Aspens Catering Services in our Schools**

We are nearing the end of the current cycle of school meal menus as we approach half term, after which you will see a new, exciting set of 3 weekly cycle menus starting from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

We have listened to the views of pupils and parents and have ensured the new menus consist of some of the old favourites, with a wider variety of desserts. We have simplified the meal names and widened the choice of meals to create more exciting menus. The vegetarian/non-meat meals will be more closely aligned to the main meals, so all pupils can enjoy school dinners. We will continue to offer pasta and jacket potatoes with a choice of toppings, home baked bread and unlimited salad. There will also be regular Theme Days throughout this academic year, featuring fun menus, so do look out for these, as I know the pupils really enjoy these days.

You will all know that the cost of living rises have meant that food costs generally have risen this year. It is a natural process for school meals to increase each year in line with these rising costs. However, this year we have held the increase to the very minimum that we could, with a price rise from 1<sup>st</sup> November of 5p, taking the paid meal price to £2.75 (from last year's £2.70). We have also delayed this price increase until 1<sup>st</sup> November, so pupils have benefitted from the £2.70 prices from September up to October half term.

**If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please do ensure your pupil is registered for these, otherwise they are missing out. If you have any questions about Free School meals, please speak to your School Office staff who are happy to support you.**

If your child generally brings in a packed lunch, please do share the new menu's with them and see if they would like to switch to school meals, where they will benefit from a hot meal each day, particularly as we are now entering into the colder Winter months.

Yours faithfully and God Bless

Peter Davis

Catholic Senior Executive Leader and CEO  
Our Lady & All Saints Multi-Academy Company