



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.

**Important dates below  
and Christmas events  
on the next page**

Tues 9th Dec	EYFS and Year 6 Height and Weight - Please inform the office to opt out
Wed 17th Dec	Mass at 9am - led by Year 6
Frid 19th Dec	Last day of term Merry Christmas to all
Mon 5th Jan	Happy New Year! We welcome all pupils back to school

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

**We are pleased to share several updates from Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School this week. Our Year 2 pupils enjoyed a wonderful Stay and Pray session, and we extend our sincere gratitude to all parents who attended and spent time in prayer with their children.**

**The school council demonstrated remarkable initiative by meeting with our school meal providers on Monday. They engaged in constructive discussions about potential changes to our food offerings and menu choices, with the primary aim of ensuring all our pupils enjoy their school dinners.**

**We were delighted to host a governor monitoring day on Thursday. Our governors were exceptionally impressed by the children and the dedicated work taking place throughout our school.**

**We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the tremendous efforts of our parent community. Particular thanks go to Mrs Potter and all parents working diligently to organise our upcoming Christmas Fayre. Your support and input are crucial to the success of such events. Please note that school will finish at 3pm on Wednesday 17th December in preparation for the Christmas Fayre.**

**As we continue our journey through Advent, we encourage all families to take time to reflect and prepare for the coming of Jesus. This is a period of spiritual preparation and anticipation that offers us an opportunity for meaningful contemplation.**

# Christmas School Events

Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec- Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fr Hudson's donations-Pupils can donate a full cereal box- please see attached flyer
Frid 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Non-Uniform day - please donate a chocolate/sweets gift - one per family
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper day - order on ParentPay
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 - Christmas Carol Concert at 2:30pm - parents invited
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fr Hudson's donations-please send a full box of cereal between Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec-Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec - please see attached flyer
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Panto during school time - £2 on ParentPay to watch
Frid 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PJ and Christmas Film day - please donate a bottle gift - one per family
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS and KS1 - Nativity at 9am - parents invited
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Mass at 9am - led by Year 6
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Fayre at 3:15pm (school finishes at 3pm)-non- uniform day-please donate cakes
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Brunch with Santa - Please pay £1 on ParentPay to join in
Frid 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Party Day - all pupils may wear their party clothes

# This Week's Gospel



**Today we are going to look at our lives and try to change them for the better, so that we are ready.**

## **Matthew 3:1-12**

**At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judah and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said:**

**"Someone is shouting in the desert,  
'Prepare a way for the Lord;  
make a straight path for him to travel!'"**

**John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all the country near the River Jordan. They confessed their sins, and he baptised them in the Jordan.**

**When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be baptised, he said to them, "You snakes – who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. And don't think that you can escape punishment by saying that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these stones and make descendants for Abraham! The axe is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire. I baptise you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."**



On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, pupils are invited to take part in a very special challenge in school.

As part of our work with Fr Hudsons Caritas and our reverse Advent calendar, we ask that each child kindly donates a full-sized, unopened box of cereal between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The boxes will be used to create a whole school dominos run before being donated to Fr Hudsons.



# This Week's Attendance



## Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	93.3
Year 1	89.6
Year 2	95.5
Year 3	90.0
Year 4	95.5
Year 5	97.4
Year 6	98.4

**Our school attendance target is 95%. The overall attendance for last week was 94.4%.**

**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

### THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50% of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

#### TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

**NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

**ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS**

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

**KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER**

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may over balance or trip and fall in.

**ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS**

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help.

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help!'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank, you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot roll out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up

#### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for 'HELP' and dial **999** or **112** if you can



**DO NOT** walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to 'KEEP STILL' and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

1. Teach children not to go on to frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs under any circumstances. Children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water during cold weather.
2. Pets should be kept on leads when near frozen water and owners should refrain from throwing objects onto ice for them to retrieve.
3. Bystanders should shout reassurance to casualties without endangering themselves. Make sure help is on the way by phoning the emergency services (call 999).
4. Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue and certainly don't get into the water, you may become the next casualty.
5. If someone can't climb out of the water, it is not advisable, as many people think, to move about in the water to keep warm while waiting for help. Instead they should conserve their energy by keeping as still as possible.

## E- Safety Tip

### What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

Back to school time check: hundreds of millions of your children and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world in today's digital age. Sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace and while that's obviously fun to do, it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help you and your carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**INVASIONS OF PRIVACY**  
Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important though, so it's worth being in mind that your social media accounts have their set up just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

**REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS**  
Smart devices in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches, information like this could easily be misused by someone with malicious intentions.

**MISUSE OF IMAGES**  
Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it removed. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, misinterpreted, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

#### ONLINE GROOMING

Messages that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could aim to online predator with the goal of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the parent or a friend of a young person, the easier it is for them to build some rapport.

#### PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers have unrealistic expectations and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel unmet certain standards, to achieve things, or to believe in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

#### IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up - in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

#### Advice for Parents & Carers

**REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY**  
Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

**CHECK YOUR PHOTOS**  
Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school; even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up on blur out school logos, too. If you really want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermark or lower res version, which can help to discourage misuse as these images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

**CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN**  
When taking group photos, make sure you get parents or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important and genuine reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

**THINK AHEAD**  
Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting. It respects their privacy, they're just old enough to understand, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Danielle Burt is a leading expert in working with more than 20 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, social inclusion, and mental health settings across the UK. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and family care agencies across Europe and is a leading online safety expert for the media.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonlinesafety | NationalOnlineSafety | @nationalonlinesafety | @national\_online\_safety

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- Tell them: "Before you hit send, imagine that image is blown up on a billboard across the street from your school. Would you be okay with your teachers, your grandmother, and your future boss seeing it? If the answer is 'no' or 'maybe,' keep it on your camera roll, not the cloud."
- The Key Lesson: Once you press send, you lose ownership of that photo. It now belongs to the internet

# This Week's Awards



## Virtues Award

EYFS - Roman  
Year 1 - Matilda  
Year 2 - Lidya  
Year 3 - Jaymin  
Year 4 - Alliana  
Year 5 - Summer  
Year 6 - Jacob M



## Reader of the Week

EYFS - Jake  
Year 1 - Michael  
Year 2 - Graciemae  
Year 3 - Alicja  
Year 4 - Anniyah  
Year 5 - Jenson-River  
Year 6 - Amelia B



## PE Star of the Week

EYFS - Miley Mae  
Year 1 - Amelia G  
Year 2 - Larna  
Year 3 - Natalia  
Year 4 - Oscar  
Year 5 - Jacob  
Year 6 - Olivia

## Star Pupils

EYFS

Melvin and Chloe

Year 3

Qudamah and Zane

Year 1

Ka'Oir and Melody

Year 4

Frankie and Edie-Rose

Year 2

Elsie-Mai and Muhammad

Year 5

Mylo and Toby

Year 6

Evan and Leo



## Virtues this Half Term

### Learned and Wise

**Learned:** learning how God wants us to live our lives Whether we are young or old, we should never stop learning about what God wants of us. We learn many new things each day. By reading the Bible, listening to our teachers and listening to our hearts, we learn more of what God wants.

**Wise:** knowing how God wants us to live our lives and putting it into practice. God is always with us and hoping that we will live our lives in the right way, following the teachings of Jesus.

## Birthday Celebrations

Jack (Year 1)

Chimamanda (Year 3)

Connor (Year 5)

Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family



## Neurodiversity Survey

Our Bishops' Conference and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into neurodiversity and faith experience. If you are a Catholic neurodivergent adult or a caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic (aged 2+), they would like to hear from you. Project organisers are collecting information through two short (10-20 minute) anonymous online surveys, which are available to complete until 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

You can find links for the survey at:

[www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/new-survey-on-neurodiversity-and-the-catholic-faith](http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/new-survey-on-neurodiversity-and-the-catholic-faith)



God of life, we give thanks for all those people who are kind to us. Help us to be the best people that we can be as we wait for the coming of your Son Jesus. Amen.

Have a lovely weekend and God Bless

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



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

**We are delighted to share that Guardian Angels Primary School is launching a new, Parents and Friends Group, to strengthen our school community and to support opportunities for all pupils to engage, enjoy, and thrive.**

**Thank you to everyone who has already expressed interest—your response has been incredibly positive. We are pleased to say that we now have at least one volunteer representative for almost every class. At this time, we are still seeking:**

- \* Two representatives for Year 6**
- \* A representative for the Resource Base**
- \* One additional representative for Year 5**

**If you are willing to support your child's year group or would like to learn more about what the role involves, we would be delighted to hear from you. No prior experience is necessary—just enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute. The group will work alongside the school to:**

- \* Help plan and support pupil and community social events**
- \* Strengthen our sense of community**
- \* Create opportunities for children to feel connected, confident, and celebrated**
- \* Encourage positive parent involvement across the school**

**Your participation—big or small—makes a meaningful difference.**

**If you would like to volunteer or ask a question, please contact the school office or speak with Mrs Potter.**

**Thank you for your continued support of our school. We look forward to building this exciting new initiative together.**

**Warm regards,  
Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School**



# ADVENT

As we celebrate the first coming of Jesus, with our different traditions, cultures, and beliefs, we must respect each other. As we celebrate the first coming of Jesus (Christmas) we must remember it's not all about the presents. It's about the first coming of Jesus.

1st coming

We have to prepare ourselves for the second coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. When he does come, we must love Him, adore Him, and the most importantly we must not be afraid of Him. Praying is very important, too. Remember, God loves you just as you are, He made you, after all.

2nd coming



# Christmas card post box



Open from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December to  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Class and pupils name labelled on  
envelope.





JOIN US FOR

# CAROLS WITH THE CHOIR

MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT  
2.45PM IN SCHOOL  
PLAYGROUND

NON ALCOHOLIC MULLED WINE AND A MINCE  
PIE FOR £1



# Our Christmas Memory tree



A place to reflect and be still. Write the name of your loved one on a ribbon and place it on our memory tree

We ask for a donation of £1 to support our school.