St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy

Autumn 1 Newsletter

St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community for such a positive and successful start to the academic year.

September is always a time of change and new beginnings, and I have been incredibly proud of how well our pupils have settled into their new classes, routines and learning opportunities. They have shown resilience, enthusiasm and a wonderful attitude towards their learning, helping to create a calm and purposeful start to the year.

As a Catholic school, our faith continues to be at the heart of all that we do. This half term, we have been inspired by a number of pupil-led Class Saint Assemblies. These celebrations have given our children the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the lives of the saints while confidently leading prayer and worship, sharing their learning with families and the wider school community.

We were also delighted to celebrate our school Feast Day on 12th October. It was a joyful occasion that allowed us to come together in prayer, reflection and celebration of our mission to *'Love One Another as I Have Loved You'*. Such moments help strengthen our sense of community and remind us of the values that underpin our school.

There have also been many sporting successes this term. We are especially proud of our Year 5 and 6 boys who represented the school brilliantly at the Region 1 St Gabriel CMAT Football Competition, where they were crowned champions. Their teamwork, determination and sportsmanship were a credit to themselves, their families and our school.

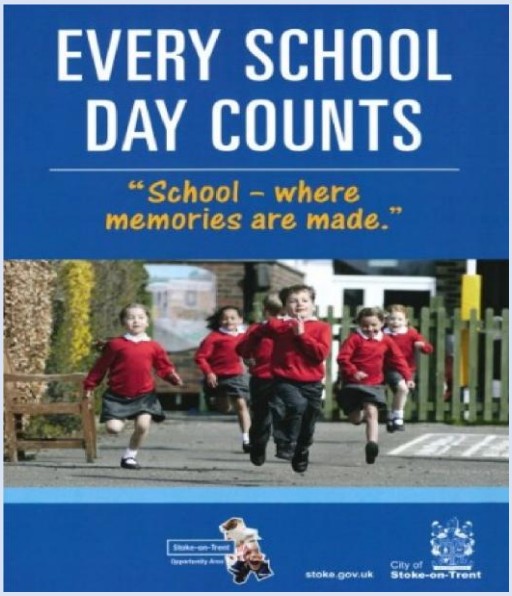
This week, we have welcomed many parents and carers into school for our Parent Consultation Evenings. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate pupils' achievements and discuss the next steps in their learning. We are grateful for the strong partnership we enjoy with our families and thank everyone who attended.

As we look ahead to the second half of the Autumn Term, I wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break. Thank you for your continued support and for all that you do to help make our school such a special community of love, learning and service.

Mr Glover
Principal

Attendance Winners

Name	Class	
Mrs Gravano	Nursery (Bumblebees)	97.9%
Mrs Marks	Nursery (Butterflies)	96.2%
Miss Franklin	Nursery (Ladybirds)	95.7%
Mrs Howard	Year 1	95.4%
Miss Bacon	Year 1-2	97.3%
Miss Brough	Year 2	98%
Miss Adams	Year 3	94%
Mrs Robson & Mr Sykes	Year 3-4	97.9%
Mr. Petrozzi	Year 4	99%
Miss Smith	Year 5	98.7%
Mr Bailey	Year 5-6	98.1%
Mrs. Mortimer	Year 6	97.9%



Spring term 1 class attendance winners are :

Year 4 – 99%

Whole school attendance for Autum Term 1

97.1%

Well Done Everyone!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A massive thank you to everyone who joined us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning! It was wonderful to see so many parents, carers and family members coming together with their children to support such a fantastic cause.

Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we've raised an amazing **£205.98!** 🧁 💚

We really appreciate everyone who came along and helped make the event such a success!



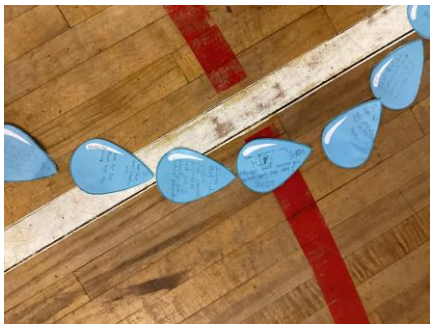






🙏 Stay and Pray – Celebrating the Season of Creation







A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our first Stay and Pray session of the year! Our gathering focused on bringing the Season of Creation to a close, reflecting on how we can all become better stewards of God's wonderful creation. Throughout the past half term, we have explored the theme "Immersion in Living Water," inspired by Ezekiel 47:1–12.

During our time together, we created a River of Hopes, spent time at our Living Water Station, offered prayers for our homes and made a Laudato Si' Promise, committing ourselves to caring for our common home.

It was a beautiful opportunity to come together in prayer and reflection, sharing hope and strengthening our sense of community.

A special thank you to our Catholic Life Leaders for helping to lead the session, and to everyone who contributed to making the morning so meaningful.

What a wonderful way to celebrate the Season of Creation and remind ourselves of our shared responsibility to care for the world God has given us! 🌍 💧 💙

Harvest Festival
A Celebration of Gratitude and Service



Our Catholic Life Leaders and Helping Hands groups led a beautiful Harvest Festival prayer service, bringing our school community together in a spirit of gratitude, prayer and service. We spent time saying thank you for all that we have been blessed with and reflecting on the importance of sharing what we have with others. We were especially grateful to be joined by Fr George, who blessed our food donations and gave us a final blessing as we thought about how we can continue to care for and support those in our wider community.

A huge thank you to all our families for their incredible generosity. Your kind donations have made a real difference and, following our prayer service, the children worked together to carefully pack the food donations ready to be sent to Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank, where they will support local people and families who are in need.

Our Harvest Festival is a wonderful expression of the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Solidarity – recognising that we are all connected and called to stand alongside one another, particularly those who may be experiencing difficult times.
A special thank you to our Catholic Life Leaders and Helping Hands for leading us so prayerfully and thoughtfully. Through their example, they are helping us to live out our school mission: to serve and to build a community of love and service.

News from Our School Community

We have some lovely news to share with our school community this term! Firstly, we are delighted to announce that Mrs Spencer has welcomed a beautiful baby boy! We send our warmest congratulations to Mrs Spencer and her family on this very special occasion. We wish them lots of happiness as they enjoy this precious time together and begin their exciting new chapter as a family.

We also have a fond farewell to share as Mrs Wright has retired after many years of dedicated service to our school. As one of our longest-standing member of staff, Mrs Wright has been a much-valued part of our school community. We would like to thank Mrs Wright for everything she has given to the school and wish her a long, happy and fulfilling retirement. She will be greatly missed by the whole St Wilfrid's community.

As a school community, we will keep Mrs Spencer, her new baby boy and their family, along with Mrs Wright, in our thoughts and prayers as they begin these special new chapters in their lives.

Father Hudson Caritas Assembly

We were delighted to welcome Kevin from Father Hudson Caritas this half term. Kevin delivered an inspiring assembly and workshops, giving us an insight into the important work Father Hudson's do to support and care for people in our communities.

It was wonderful to learn more about the difference their work makes and, importantly, to see the real impact of the support we are able to give. It reminded us that even the smallest acts of kindness and generosity can make a meaningful difference to the lives of others.

Our time with Kevin connected beautifully with our Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity of the Human Person — recognising that every person is precious, valued and deserving of love, care and respect.

As a Catholic school, our mission calls us to serve others and put our faith into action. We are proud to support the work of Father Hudson's and grateful to Kevin for helping our pupils understand how we can all play our part in building a kinder, more compassionate community.



🙏 United in Prayer for Peace 🌍

We are incredibly proud to have joined 1,027,337 children from across the world in praying the Rosary together for peace.
It was a beautiful and powerful reminder that, through faith and prayer, we can unite with others across the globe, sharing a common hope for peace in our world.
What a wonderful example of our children putting their faith into action and showing that, when we come together in prayer, our voices and intentions can reach far beyond our own community. 💙🕊️

🏰 Year 5's Amazing Alton Castle Residential!

Our Year 5 children had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Alton Castle, creating wonderful memories and enjoying a few days full of fun, adventure and new experiences!

Throughout the trip, the children challenged themselves, tried new activities and supported one another, showing fantastic courage, resilience, teamwork and independence. They enjoyed a range of exciting adventures, shared plenty of laughter and strengthened friendships along the way.

After a busy day of activities, the children rounded off their evening with a disco and some quiet prayer time before heading to bed, ready for another day of fun before returning home.

We are incredibly proud of all our Year 5 children and the positive attitudes they demonstrated throughout the residential. We hope they have returned home with lots of happy memories and exciting stories to share with their families!

A huge well done to Year 5 for being amazing, and a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful staff for giving up their time and making this special experience possible. ❤️ 🌟









🙏 Celebrating the Feast Day of St Wilfrid

Our school family came together in prayer and reflection last week to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint, St Wilfrid.

During our special prayer service, we reflected on St Wilfrid's dedication to God and his commitment to serving others. Each class shared their ideas about what it means to be a St Wilfrid's child, highlighting the importance of living out our school values of courage, determination, respect, kindness and belonging in our everyday lives.

We were reminded that saints are shining examples for us to follow. Inspired by St Wilfrid, we thought about how we can let our own light shine through our actions, our learning and the way we care for those around us.

A huge thank you to all our pupils for their thoughtful contributions and respectful participation in this special celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community and reflect on how we can continue to live out our faith and values each day. ✨





Bringing the Stone Age to Life!

Year 3 & Year 3/4

Year 3/4 and Year 3 took their learning outdoors as part of our Autumn History topic! Working with Mr Quinn, the children explored what life was like during the Stone Age and discovered just how different life was for Stone Age families.

They learned about the tools people used, the food they ate and the many challenges they faced in their everyday lives. The outdoor activities gave the children a fantastic opportunity to bring their history learning to life and develop a deeper understanding of how people lived thousands of years ago.

It was a fun and engaging experience, and the children thoroughly enjoyed stepping back in time to discover the world of the Stone Age!









🎭 Year 6 Shine in Drama!

Year 6 certainly got into the spirit of drama during their lesson at St Margaret Ward today!

Working in small groups, the children brought spooky scenes from a play script to life before performing them to the rest of the class. They showed fantastic creativity, confidence and teamwork, with plenty of dramatic flair and wonderfully exaggerated performances!

Miss O'Neil was thoroughly impressed by the children's enthusiasm, imaginative ideas and 'over-the-top' acting. She was delighted by their performances and is already looking forward to welcoming so many talented young actors next year!

🦒 Year 1 and Year 1/2 Visit Twycross Zoo!

Year 1 and Year 1/2 had a fantastic day exploring Twycross Zoo! The children enjoyed seeing lots of different animals and learning more about the various animal groups during an engaging session with Jess in the education classroom.

It was a wonderful opportunity to bring their learning to life, and the children thoroughly enjoyed their zoo adventure.





⚽ Year 3 and 4 Football Success!



Year 3 and 4 footballers showed great determination and teamwork as they took on other schools from the former Newman Collegiate at Dimensions.

The boys played some fantastic football, demonstrating their skills and scoring some brilliant goals along the way. Their hard work paid off as they secured an impressive 4th-place finish!

The team will now progress to compete against other schools from across our Trust, and we wish them the very best of luck in the next stage of the competition.

Well done, boys!

🚔 A Step Back in Time at Manchester Police Museum









Year 5/6 and Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Manchester Police Museum as part of their History topic, Crime and Punishment.

During their visit, the children explored the history of the police force and discovered how policing has changed over the years. They had the opportunity to examine and handle historical artefacts, including truncheons and handcuffs, visit the old police cells and try on police uniforms dating from Victorian times to the present day.

One of the highlights of the trip was stepping into the courtroom to act out the trial of an 11-year-old Victorian girl accused of theft. Every child took on a role, from the judge to the defendant, bringing history to life and helping them understand how the justice system operated in the past.

It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to deepen their historical knowledge through hands-on experiences and role-play.

Well done to Year 5/6 and Year 6 for being such fantastic ambassadors for our school! 👏 🚔

St Gabriel the Archangel
Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy

EYFS Open Morning

Wednesday 4th November 2026

9:00am - 11.30am

Please contact the school office to book your place:

office@stwilfridsnewman.co.uk **01782 235676**

What do we offer?

✨ A caring education rooted in faith, helping every child to learn, grow and thrive

✨ Strong partnerships with families

✨ Play-based learning and structured teaching

✨ Encouragement of creativity, exploration and independence

✨ A foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth



Key Dates – Autumn 2

Monday 2nd November	Staff Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 3rd November	School open to all
Tuesday 3rd November	Year 4 Etruria Industrial Museum
Tuesday 3rd November	SEND Review Meetings with Class Teachers
Wednesday 4th November	Year 2 Hoo Zoo trip
Wednesday 4th November	Year 3 & Year 3/4 trip to Conkers Discovery Centre
Wednesday 4th November	EYFS Open Day 9:00-11:30am
Friday 6th November	KS2 Achievement Assembly
Monday 9th November	Year 4 Swimming (AM)
Wednesday 11th November	Pupil Individual Photos
Thursday 12th November	Year 5/6 Survival School (AM)
Thursday 12th November	Year 4 Survival School (PM)
Friday 13th November	World Kindness Day
Friday 13th November	Year 5 trip to Llandudno
Friday 13th November	EYFS & KS1 Achievement Assembly (invite only)
Monday 16th November	Odd Sock Day
Monday 16th November	Year 4 Swimming (AM)
Monday 16th November	Year 5 Author Visit in school

Key Dates – Autumn 2

Monday 16th to Friday 20th November	Road Safety Week
Monday 16th to Friday 20th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 18th November	Year 1 Phonics Morning
Thursday 19th November	Whole School Mass
Friday 20th November	KS2 Achievement Assembly (invite only)
Monday 23rd November	Year 4 Swimming (AM)
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th November	UK Parliament Week
Thursday 26th November	Reception Trip to Manchester Airport
Thursday 26th November	Year 3/4 Survival School (AM)
Thursday 26th November	Year 2 Survival School (PM)
Friday 27th November	EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly (invite only)
Sunday 29th November	Family Mass at Sacred Heart, Tunstall
Sunday 29th November	First Sunday of Advent
Monday 30th November	Year 4 Swimming (AM)
Tuesday 1st December	Year 3 Class visit to SMWCA
Tuesday 1st December	Y4 Confession with Fr George (PM)
Friday 4th December	Non-Uniform Day –Chocolate Donations
Friday 4th December	KS2 Celebration Assembly (invite only)

Key Dates – Autumn 2

Sunday 6th December	Second Sunday of Advent
Monday 7th December	Christmas Film Night KS1
Monday 7th December	KS1 DT Day
Tuesday 8th December	Whole School Mass
Tuesday 8th December	Christmas Film Night KS2
Wednesday 9th December	LKS2 DT Day
Wednesday 9th December	Year 3 Confessions with Fr George (PM)
Thursday 10th December	UKS2 DT Day
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Fayre
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 11 December	Year 3 at SMWCA for the Christmas Drama Show
Friday 11 December	EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly (invite only)
Sunday 13th December	Third Sunday of Advent
Monday 14th December	EYFS Nativity 9:00am
Monday 14th December	KS1 Nativity 5:00pm
Tuesday 15th December	Year 3 Carols at Haywood Hospital (PM)
Tuesday 15th December	Carols & Mince Pies for Parishioners 9:00am
Tuesday 15th December	KS1 Nativity 2:00pm

Key Dates – Autumn 2

Wednesday 16th December	Rock Steady Concert (AM)
Wednesday 16th December	Year 6 Confessions with Fr George
Wednesday 16th December	EYFS Nativity 2:00pm
Thursday 17th December	Non-Uniform & Party Day
Thursday 17th December	Year 1/2 Survival School (AM)
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Discos (PM)
Friday 18th December	Christmas Raffle Draw
Friday 18th December	KS2 Carol Concert at Sacred Heart
Friday 18th December	KS2 Celebration Assembly (invite only)
Friday 18th December	School closes to all
Sunday 20th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday 4th January	Staff Inset Day – school closed for pupils
Tuesday 5th January	Staff Inset Day – School closed for pupils
Wednesday 6th January	School open to all