Our Lady & St Benedict Catholic Academy

13th November 2026

St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Children have returned from half term and have settled back into the many learning opportunities here at Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy. Photographs have been taken in school today and proofs will be sent home for you to view. If you wish to purchase these please do follow the link online.

On Tuesday 3rd November we held our Reception Class Open Morning it was lovely to welcome both existing and new families into school to view our Early Years. Even if your child attends our Nursery Class you do still need to apply for a Reception Class place online.

On Thursday 5th November every class in the school got to experience a real life bonfire in our forest and enjoyed time sitting around the fire with friends, feeling the warmth and enjoying a hot chocolate and 'smores'. It was a lovely but muddy day!

The school is now part of the National Numeracy Champions 'Help My Child Love Maths' scheme and we have held two very successful Family Maths sessions . Thank you to all our families who joined us on these sessions. It was lovely to see you in school working with your children.

On the 9th November 'The Little Library Van' visited school. It was a wonderful day where parents joined their children to share stories and books inside the van. Thank you to everyone who came along to make the day such a success.

On Wednesday 11th we gathered together in prayer and remembrance and took part in 2 minutes of silence to remember all those who have lost their lives fighting for our country. During the month of November we remember those who have died: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend, With thanks Mrs Clowes

SCHOOL TIMES

Thank you for your efforts to arrive at school on time, improvements have been seen in this area but as the darker, colder mornings have set in we have noticed that we are receiving a number of late arrivals. We know that arriving late to school means that children miss out on learning time and can cause children to be unsettled in a morning. Please keep up your efforts to arrive at school on time every day. The gates will be locked promptly and should you arrive late you will need to enter school via the gated pedestrian walkway and come into the school office to sign in your child. Please don't cross the carpark as this can be busy.

Please find a reminder of our start and end times:

Nursery 8.40-3.10
Reception 8.40-3.10
Key Stage One Y1 and Y2 8.45-3.15
Key Stage Two Y3 Y4 Y5 and Y6 8.45-3.20



November is the month when we remember the dead in special ways. We offer prayers in remembrance of them, trusting that the Lord of compassion and mercy will bring them close to Him in the new life promised by Jesus Christ. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Xmas Fayre



Reception Class September 2027

You need to apply for a school place for September 2027 for your child to join the Reception Class if your child's fifth birthday is between 1 September 2027 and 31 August 2028.

If your child is currently in our Nursery Class you do still need to apply for a place in our Reception Class for September 2027. Admissions are now open please click the link below to applo on the Stoke On Trent Portal. Citizen Portal - Sign in

The Application deadline for Reception Class applications is the 15th January.

Nursery Class September 2027

Nursery portal is open on Tuesday 1st December for you to apply for your child in our Nursery class in September 2027

Join us every Thursday for our Owlets Group.

This runs from 9:15am – 10:45am.

We have a variety of themes and activities each week.

Please pass onto family and friends.

We are looking forward to welcoming new faces.



Stars of the Week

Name	Class
WEEK BEGINNING 2nd November	
Nursery	Afnan Alnour
Reception	Athena Wilson
Year 1	Adam Dindar
Year 2	Emmie Cater-Sims
Year 3	All of Class
Year 4	Maci-Mae Knapper
Year 5	Michelle Slade
Year 6	Jasper Abraham
WEEK BEGINNING 9th November	
Nursery	Indie McHugh
Reception	Tommy Thorley
Year 1	Rose Wilshaw
Year 2	Alessa Meir
Year 3	Amber Nicholson
Year 4	Izuchukwu Onubeze
Year 5	Izzie Greensmith
Year 6	Ollie Holdcroft
Each star learner has picked a book to take home out of our vending machine. Well done.	

Attendance awards

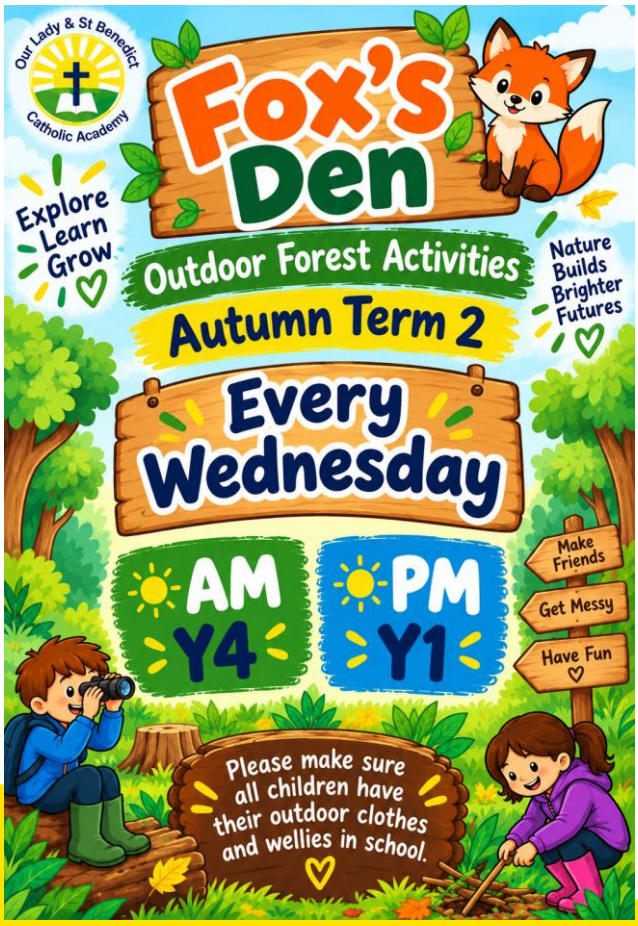
Name	Class
Week Ending 6th November 2026	
First Place	Year 5
Second Place	Year 3
Third Place	Year 1
Fourth Place	Year 6
Fifth Place	Reception
Sixth Place	Year 2
Seventh Place	Year 4
Eighth Place	Nursery
Week Ending 13th November 2026	
First Place	Reception
Second Place	Year 4
Third Place	Year 5
Fourth Place	Year 1
Fifth Place	Year 6
Sixth Place	Year 2
Seventh Place	Nursery
Eighth Place	Year 3
The winning classes have been awarded the attendance trophy and stickers. Well done.	



PE

All children will require a Navy polo shirt (With logo or plain Navy), Black shorts/joggers and Plain black pumps/trainers - suitable for running & outdoor activities for their PE lessons.

All children will now be required to keep their PE kits within school, and they will be returned home each half term for washing, if they are dirty etc these will be sent home.



Forest School

Children who have Fox's Den this term need to make sure they bring into school old clothes they don't mind getting muddy, wellies and a waterproof coat.

AM – children can come to school in Fox's Den kit and bring their uniform in their bags.

PM – Children need to come into school in their uniform and bring their Fox's Den clothes in their bags.

Please make sure you bring a spare bag for wellies.

OLSB Dates

PICTURE

16/11/26	Y2 Fire Engine Visit
17/11/26	Y2 Cinema Trip
19/11/26	9.15 AM Mass at Church ALL WELCOME
21/11/26	Christmas Fayre 2-4pm and Family Mass 5.30pm
23/11/26	Y3 Cinema Trip
24/11/26	Y4 Cinema Trip
25/11/26	Y3 Six Towns Tour
26/11/26	Y4 River Trip
1/12/26	Nursery Post Box Visit

1/12/26	Y3 Advent Liturgy 2.15pm
2/12/26	Y1 Sudbury Museum of Childhood Trip
2/12/26	Songbirds Concert
3/12/26	Y4 Wedgwood Trip
3/12/26	9.15 AM Mass at Church ALL WELCOME - Confessions
4/12/26	One Life Music Advent / Y4 Advent Liturgy 2.15pm
7/12/26	City Voices Concert
8/12/26	Christmas Performance Y1-Y6 2PM and 4PM
9/12/26	EYFS Christmas Performance 2pm
10/12/26	Christmas Dinner Day Christmas Jumpers / Home Clothes
11/12/26	Christmas Jumpers /Home Clothes / Y5 Advent Liturgy 2.15PM
14/12/26	Tale Trail at the New Vic Theatre Am Reception Pm Nursery
15/12/26	Borrowers Theatre Trip Y1-Y6
16/12/26	Christmas Treat Day
17/12/26	9.15 AM Mass at Church ALL WELCOME - Confessions
18/12/26	Y6 Advent Liturgy
18/12/26	School Closes for Christmas Holidays at 3.20pm

OLSB 2026 -2027 Calendar

Term Dates
Academic Year 2026/2027
AUTUMN TERM – 2026

School opens to pupils	Monday 2nd November
School closes	Friday 18th December

Holiday: Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January

SPRING TERM - 2027

INSET DAY **(School closed to pupils)**	Monday 4th January 2027*
School opens to pupils	Tuesday 5th January 2027

Half Term: Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

School opens to all	Monday 22nd February
School closes	Thursday 25th March

Holiday: Friday 26th March - Friday 9th April

SUMMER TERM – 2027

School opens to all	Monday 12th April
May Day – **school closed**	Monday 3rd May

Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

School opens to all	Monday 7th June
School closes	Wednesday 21st July

Holiday: Thursday 22nd July to Friday 3rd September