



**28<sup>th</sup> November 2025**





## Principal's Message

Over the last fortnight songs have been ringing out around the school as children practice and prepare for our Christmas performances. We are looking forward to welcoming you into school to see the children perform.

Our Year 5 children visited Alton Castle for a 3 day retreat where they enjoyed hiking, rock climbing, archery and a night line. They also took part in prayer and worship nurturing their personal, social and spiritual growth.

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> it was lovely to see so many children and families in church supporting our children who will receive their First Holy Communion. The sacrament of the Eucharist. Father has confirmed that this will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> some of our children sang in the Songbirds Choir Concert at the Victoria Hall in Hanley. They sang their hearts out and represented the school beautifully. Well done to them all. Today they have received their songbirds certificates.

Many of our children have visited the Cinema over the last fortnight funded by Into film. We thank them for their support in allowing our children to access this opportunity.

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> December to you all. As we enter Advent, let us prepare our hearts for Christmas by practicing hope, love, joy, and peace, and by reflecting on the true meaning of the season.

Mrs Clowes

## Reception Class September 2026

You need to apply for a school place for September 2026 for your child to join the Reception Class if your child's fifth birthday is between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027.

If your child is currently in our Nursery Class you do still need to apply for a place in our Reception Class for September 2025. Admissions open on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 and close on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The best way to apply is online via the Stoke Portal. [https://admissions.stoke.gov.uk/CitizenPortal LIVE/en](https://admissions.stoke.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

If you missed our open day and wish to tour our Outstanding school please do contact the school office who will be happy to arrange this for you.

This morning the Advent Light Journey began across Region 1 of the St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust. ✨ The flame of hope is travelling across 20 schools over the next three weeks, bringing our community together in the spirit of Advent. On Wednesday the Advent Light left St John Fisher Catholic High School and travelled to St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newcastle Under Lyme . **We are very much looking forward to Receiving the Light of the World, with St Gabriel as the messenger at OLSB on the 10<sup>th</sup> December.**

As the candles of Advent remind us, Christ is the Light of the world, a light which grows ever stronger as we draw nearer to Christmas.

Let's stand as a united community of faith, hope and love, welcoming this Light into our hearts and schools.



On Sunday we enter into the season of advent a time where we get ready and prepare to celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. Our prayer corners in school will turn to purple as we journey through advent. We stay awake, watch and wait, for we do not know the hour or the day of your arrival. Come, Lord, bringer of hope. Create in us a desire for a world transformed to reflect your glory. Come, Lord, bringer of hope. Lead us in your ways, as together we make a change, to dispel the darkness of poverty. Come, Lord, bringer of hope.





# Stars of the Week



Name	Class
<b>Week Beginning 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>	
Alaia Needs	N
Isabella Rowlands-Lee	R
Harry Billington	Y1
Jaden Fernandes	Y2
Myla-Grace Farrell	Y3
Candice Dengu	Y4
All of Class	Y5
Rebecca Mutate	Y6
<b>Week Beginning 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>	
Quinn Carter-Watson	N
Rose Wilshaw	R
Sadie-Mia Fletcher	Y1
Connor Watkiss	Y2
Iyla Ball	Y3
Layla-May Joyce	Y4
	Y5
Logan Denic-Sheldon	Y6
<b>Well done, All children have received a book from the school vending machine as a prize. Please look out for our NEW star of the week photographs on Facebook.</b>	

# Attendance awards

Name	Class
<b>Week Ending 21st November 2025</b>	
First Place	Year 6
Second Place	Year 4
Third Place	Year 5
Fourth Place	Year 3
Fifth Place	Year 2
Sixth Place	Year 1
Seventh Place	Reception
Eighth Place	Nursery
<b>Week Ending 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>	
First Place	Reception
Second Place	Year 6
Third Place	Year 5
Fourth Place	Year 4
Fifth Place	Nursery
Sixth Place	Year 1
Seventh Place	Year 2
Eighth Place	Year 3
<b>The winning classes have been awarded the attendance trophy and stickers. Well done.</b>	



## OLSB DATES



Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	9.30 Advent Liturgy (Year4) Y4 Parents Welcome
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Panto Trip (am) Reception and Year 1 (pm) year 4 and year 5
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3 Six Towns Tour
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Mass 9.15am All are welcome followed by Christmas Mince Pies and hot drinks served in the school hall.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	One Life Music Event in School
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Y1-y6 Christmas Concert @ 2pm and 4pm <i>Tickets to follow for parents - children may remain in school at the end of the day for the production at 4pm</i>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 Advent Liturgy (Year 3) Y3 Parents Welcome
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Little Mermaid Themed Lunch (Book on Arbour)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Y1-y6 visit The Little Mermaid @The New Vic Theatre The production finishes at 4.30pm. Children will need to be collected from school at 5.15pm (Text messages will be sent)
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Wear Non-Uniform or a Christmas Jumper for the Dougie Mac £1
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Christmas play at 9.30am <i>Tickets to follow for parents</i>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Y3 Visit St Margaret Ward to Watch the production of The Grinch
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Dash in School with Mr <u>Sigley</u> PE KITS needed
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30 Advent Liturgy (Year 5) Y5 Parents Welcome
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day (Non Uniform / Christmas Jumpers)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Behaviour Treat Day Breakfast with Santa and Polar Express ( <u>Non Uniform / Pyjamas</u> )
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Little Mermaid Tail Trail Nursery (am) Reception (pm)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Mass 9.15am parents welcome Mince Pies and Hot Chocolate on the playground at the end of the day.
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent Liturgy (Year6) ALL Parents Welcome School Closes for Christmas at 3.15/3.20pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	INSET school closed to all pupils
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	School Opens to all pupils Whole School Mass 9.15am All welcome- Epiphany



## OLSB 2025 -2026 Calendar

### Academic Year 2025/2026

#### AUTUMN TERM – 2025

Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

Inset Day (school closed to pupils)

School opens to pupils

3rd September

Half Term

Friday 31st October

INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

School opens to pupils

School closes

#### SPRING TERM - 2026

INSET DAY (School closed to pupils)

School opens to pupils

Half Term

Friday 20th February

School opens to all

School closes

#### SUMMER TERM – 2026

School opens to all

May Day – school closed

Half Term

Friday 29th May

School opens to all

School closes

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Wednesday

Monday 27th October-

Monday 3rd November

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 19th December

Monday 5th January 2026

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February -

Monday 23rd February

Friday 27th March

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to

Monday 1st June

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July