



# St Maria Goretti Catholic Academy Newsletter

Autumn Term 2017/18  
20th October 2017



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## A Message from the Principal.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our Foundation Stage 1 pupils who have settled well into their first term in school. It is a delight to see them exploring their new learning environment and begin to build friendships with their peers. We look forward to seeing them flourish and grow as the year progresses.

In partnership with our parish community, our Year 3 pupils are preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation and will be attending Family Masses in our school Parish. Preparing for the Sacraments is an essential part of the Catholic Life of our school and it is a joy to work with you, our children and parish in partnership to secure the future of our church and parish. Please remember all pupils and their families who are preparing for this special Sacrament.

Also on the theme of Catholic Life I wish to thank our staff, governors, Szymon and Abigail who represented us at the recent Combined Schools Mass. This is a

celebration and coming together of Catholic schools across Staffordshire. The celebrant was Bishop David McGough who will be visiting our school in March to lead our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in their Confirmation.

Pupils also represented our school at the recent Local Democracy week held by Stoke-on-Trent City Council. I am told the pupils were excellent role models for our school and I'm reliably informed we could have some future political leaders in our school!

Finally, a number of children are worryingly below the expected attendance figure. Attendance is vitally important to your child's social and academic achievement. Every child has a right to a full-time education, and you, as their guardian, have a legal responsibility to ensure they arrive regularly at school, on time. We have a number of pupils whose attendance is being monitored weekly by the Education Welfare Service. May I remind you that good attendance is vital to the academic achievement of your child. Over a period of several years, your child's academic achievement could fall *well below* others in their class. With rare exceptions, every child can and should achieve good

attendance, if given encouragement and support.

Please give careful consideration to the following:

Do you keep your child at home for reasons other than medical?

Do you take your child out of school for appointments for yourself, or others in the family?

Do you keep your child at home if they frequently complain of not feeling well? Has this been investigated by a doctor?

Wishing you a restful half term.

God Bless,

Mrs Z. Cooper

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## Attendance reports

The whole school's current attendance percentage is 96.3% as at 13th October 2017.

Year 3 were last week's certificate winners for excellent attendance with 99.3% - Well done!

Congratulations to Year 5 who have the best attendance from September 2017 with 98.4%

It is essential that your child gets to school on time each day.

The school doors open at 8:45am.

Registration is taken at 8:55am prompt.

School finishes each day at 3:15pm. It is essential that your child is collected on time.

Clubs finish at 4:15pm unless otherwise stated on the letter sent out for that particular club.

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## School Building works update

The building works are progressing to plan. The temporary entrance is in operation. During half term we should see the foundation laid for the new entrance. Preparation work has started for the foundations to the new rooms.

Our children have been very excited to see the excavation work taking place and have taken notice of health and safety notices.



Please continue to remind your children of the dangers and risks of building sites.

We thank you for your patience during the works which are planned to be completed in February 2018.

## Local Democracy Event

Three children from Key Stage 2 represented St Maria Goretti at a Local Democracy Event at the Kings Hall in Stoke on 12th October 2017. There were over 300 local children at the event. The children analysed what democracy means and soon after, were discussing with local councillors what they

would like to see in Stoke-on-Trent. The children had some fantastic ideas such as an Indoor Arena, more low cost family events to engage communities and even no homework! The children had the opportunity to experience what it is like to vote and went into a voting booth to vote on what was important to them in

Stoke-on-Trent. Finally the children met the Lord Mayor Anthony Munday and had a tour of his chambers and the council offices. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event and it has built on their knowledge of Democracy and British values.

## ACADEMY COMMITTEE REPORT OCTOBER 2017

The Academy Committee has met on two occasions this half term. At our first meeting we agreed the roles that each Representative will play in monitoring the school and elected our Chair and Vice Chair. I was re-elected Chair for the next twelve months and Mike McKenna will continue to act as Vice Chair.

Although St Maria Goretti and St Gregory's no longer share an Executive Headteacher we agreed to continue the close collaboration between the two schools which began in 2010.

At our second meeting we debated and approved the School Development Plan. This is an important document that sets out how the staff intend to develop and improve the education of our pupils in the year ahead.

The Committee will meet each term to review progress against these targets. Our next meeting is set for Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

In addition to this, smaller groups of Representatives will be meeting regularly to review key areas, such as:

Finance

- Resources and Health & Safety
- Achievements & Standards
- Admissions

Throughout the year individual Representatives will visit to discuss every subject with the appropriate members of staff.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Dobromila Stencel was elected as a Parent Representative from October 2018.

May I once again encourage all parents to attend the "Watch Me Learn" days that are held throughout the year. They are a wonderful opportunity to see at first hand the outstanding teaching, which goes on, around the school.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Yates, has been appointed to serve on the West Midlands Regional Headteachers Board. As one of only four such people in the region it represents an honor for her and brings prestige to both the multi academy and our schools.

Ray Chadwick

Chair of Academy Committee

19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Dates For your Diary

Event: Parents Evening—FS to Year 5  
Day: Wednesday  
Date: 1st November  
Time: 4.00pm—6.00pm.

Event: Parents Evening—Year 6  
Day: Friday  
Date: 3rd November  
Time: 4.00pm—6.00pm.

Event: FS & KS1 Celebration Assembly  
Day: Friday  
Date: 15th December  
Time: 9.15am

Event: Parents Evening—FS to Year 6  
Day: Thursday  
Date: 2nd November  
Time: 4.00pm—6.00pm.

Event: Bonfire special lunch  
Day: Monday  
Date: 6th November  
Time: Lunch Time

Event: KS2 Celebration Assembly  
Day: Friday  
Date: 15th December  
Time: 1.45pm

Planned dates for the whole year have been emailed to you via ParentPay.

### The old £1 coins

can no longer  
be accepted in

### Breakfast club



Half term is week commencing

**23rd October**



Children are back in school on

**Tuesday 31st October**



The Parish Christmas Market will be in the School Hall on Friday 17th November at 7pm



### Autumn Term 2017/18

School opens Wednesday 6th September

#### 2017 HALF-TERM

School closes on Friday 20th October

School opens on Tuesday 31st October

#### CHRISTMAS 2017

School closes on Friday 22nd December

School opens on Monday 8th January 2018

#### SPRING 2018 HALF-TERM

School closes on Friday 16th February

School opens on Monday 26th February

#### EASTER 2018

School closes on Thursday 29th March

School opens Monday 16th April

### Contact information

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Chair of Governors:  
Mr R Chadwick

*Achieving together in love and faith*