



# SAINT GERARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT



HEADTEACHER: Mrs C Buck

Yatesbury Avenue, Castle Vale, Birmingham, B35 6LB. Tel: 0121 464 2613

St. Gerard's Mission Statement:

*With Christ at our side and St. Gerard as our guide we live, love, learn and pray together.*

18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

*'Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint.  
The Lord never lets us down.'* Pope Francis

## Christmas Wishes

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank you all for your continued support during this year.

The children have experienced many different things during the year, apart from their trips and visits, such as the disco and trips to St Chad's Cathedral.

Much of what the children experience would not be possible without the hard work of the staff and I thank them all for their continuing dedication to the school and children.

As you know, I am leaving on Friday as I am taking early retirement. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you and your children during the time I have been at St. Gerard's.

I wish you and your families a Happy and Holy Christmas, you will be in my thoughts and I know that St. Gerard's is going to continue to excel under Mr. Crehan, giving your children the best academically, spiritually and pastorally.

## Christmas Fair - Thank You



Another fantastic result, £2,338 raised at the Christmas Fair! Thank you for your support and a big thank you to all those who worked so hard to make it a great success. The money has boosted our school funds and will be used to enhance reading in the school.

## Christmas Party Day - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December

The children will have their Christmas Parties on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**This will be a non-uniform day.**

## Sun Vouchers - Books for School



We are collecting Tokens from The Sun Newspaper to help us obtain books for school. Please ask your friends and family for their tokens too. Thank You

## Apply online for Reception Class September 2020

Visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) and submit an online application by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2020** (the final closing date). It is recommended that you read 'The Primary School Admissions Criteria 2020 Information' prior to submitting your application. If you need any help, ask at the school office and we will be pleased to offer assistance. If you have any questions about your child starting school you can also contact a member of Children Services on 0121 303 1888.

## Welcome Back Mrs Jones

We would like to welcome Mrs Jones back as our Year 5 Class Teacher as she returns from maternity leave and thank Mrs Hydzik for all her hard work this year.

*If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team:  
Mrs Buck, Mr Crehan, Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Powis, Mrs Kissun.*

## New Parent Governor

We Welcome Mrs Agbajama as our newly elected Parent Governor.

## Dinner Money KS2 (Y3-Y6)

KS2 (Y3-Y6) Dinner Money is £11.75 per week or £70.50 if you wish to pay for the half term.

## Christmas Mass Times

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Eve Mass at 7 pm

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Day Mass at 10 am



## Gospel Virtues this half term - Attentive and Discerning

Pupils in St Gerard's School are growing to be: **Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **Discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.



## Online Safety Tip for this half term

Encourage your children to tell you right away if they come across anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.



## Change to Early May Bank Holiday 2020

There is a change to the early May Bank Holiday due to the commemoration of VE Day. The first May Bank Holiday will **NOT** be Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May but **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**.

## Teacher Training Day - School Closed

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020** is a Teacher Training Day and School and Nursery will be closed to pupils.



## Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	Christmas Parties - own clothes day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am	Celebration Assembly
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	3.05pm	School Closes for Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	8.50am	School Opens for the new term
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00am	Whole School Mass
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	9.00am	Whole School Mass

**Year 6 SATS Week will be Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

## Term Dates Sept 2019 - July 2020

Autumn Term 2019	Spring Term 2020	Summer Term 2020
Wednesday 4th September 2019	Tuesday 7th January 2020	<b>Monday 20th April 2020</b>
to	to	to
Friday 25th October 2019	Friday 14th February 2020	<b>Friday 22nd May 2020</b>
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>HALF TERM 2 weeks</b>
Monday 4th November 2019	Monday 24th February 2020	Monday 8th June 2020
to	to	to
Friday 20th December 2019	Thursday 9th April 2020	Friday 17th July 2020

**PLEASE NOTE: Only one week holiday for Easter and two weeks at Whitsun.**