

## St. Gerard's Primary School

### Attendance and timekeeping

As you will be aware attendance at school is a major area of concern across the country and indeed across the UK. At St. Gerard's we have maintained 91% for the last 2 years but we need to move towards 95% attendance which reflects a normal amount of school sickness within a given academic year. So far, our average attendance is displayed below. Many thanks for all your efforts.

Attendance from August 2024	%
P1	94.71%
P2	98.35%
P2/3	94.97%
P3/4	92.24%
P4	92.8%
P5	93.37%
P5/6	92.18%
P6/7	92.48%
P7	89.92%
Whole School	93.34%

### Lateness and Timekeeping

Children who are late for school can experience anxiety and get a bit nervous on entering their classroom. While their teacher will welcome them accordingly, it is in their best interests that they are on time.

#### Our school day

- **Prayer which settles and helps us begin our day as a class**

(Late arrivals miss out of this important part of the day and disrupt the prayerful harmony of the moment).

- **Register for attendance is taken and children have a little news check in with their teacher.**

(Late arrivals have to report to office to be registered which adds to disruption).

- **Register for school lunches which is online and helps catering staff get organised for lunch.**

(Late arrivals must report to catering staff or the office to have their lunch request recorded which again adds to the morning routine being disrupted).

- **Children set to task**

(Late arrivals necessitate the teachers need to repeat learning and again disrupt the class routine).

### End of day attendance

We have also noticed an increase in children being collected early from class in the afternoon. Again, while this may be occasionally required for family or health reasons, it disrupts the learning of the child, and they can miss out in news for the following day. They also miss out in the routine of final prayer that closes the circle of the day.

These daily transitions are well planned and organized by staff and help your child to belong and settle into the rhythm of school life. While we understand that emergencies and events occur it would be great if, when we do not have emergencies, we could support our children to be present in line at the beginning and end of the day. Your help with all of the above is genuinely appreciated and where we know of particular issues with children and families, we ask that you do not allow the above information to add further stress or anxiety.

"Here, The Will of God is Done" St. Gerard Majella



### St. Gerard Majella



Feast Day 16<sup>th</sup> October

### MacMillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who supported our MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October after our Feast Day Mass 10am Mass. A big thanks to Mrs. Barr for coordinating the event and to all those volunteers who helped on

Pilgrims of Hope,  
The Holy  
Jubilee Year



2025 will be a Jubilee year with the theme of Pilgrimage. Above is the church logo celebrating the year. We will be asking, after the October break, how we as a school should mark this great occasion. Please have a think and we will get in touch to plan our year ahead.

### October Holiday

I hope everyone has a great holiday and gets a lovely opportunity for some family time. If you are heading to sunny climes, enjoy that strange ball in the sky. If, like me, you are remaining at home, remember your brolly. Hopefully see everyone again, ready for the new term on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October

### Preparing for Confirmation

Our P7 children are working hard in preparation for their confirmation. They have a few dates to look forward to after the October break

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October:** Children will celebrate Mass with their P7 counterparts from Sacred Heart followed by a rehearsal practice for their Confirmation.

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October :**Bishop Toal will be visiting St. Gerard's to talk with the confirmandi.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm:** Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please remember all of our P7 children in your prayers as they approach this sacrament.

### St. Gerard's Day

We celebrated our school patron, St. Gerard Majella's feast day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the church. As you may know St. Gerard's feast day is the 16<sup>th</sup> October. I have asked all the staff and pupils to stop at 12 noon on the 16<sup>th</sup> October and say a prayer for our school community. Please join us in this venture. Knowing that so many of us have taken a few moments on the 16<sup>th</sup> will be a blessing for us all.

### Jewelry In School

Can you please minimize the chains and earrings that children wear to school. All classes have at least 3 periods of PE per week. We do not have enough plasters to cover earrings as required. It would be helpful if on PE days earrings were removed and kept at home for that day. It would also be helpful if chains and necklaces were kept at home. This helps with health and safety issues throughout the day but particularly during PE.

### St. Gerard's Church Update

Fr. Parkes has informed us that St. Gerard's Church will close after the final mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024. You are invited to attend this final celebration of thanksgiving for the 50+ years of St. Gerard's parish church. This first mass of the joint parish of St. Gerard's & Sacred Heart will be on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm and again you are all warmly invited to attend. I will send out further details in due course.

### Halloween

#### School Halloween Parade

Our school Halloween Party will be on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Children should come to school dressed up for the day. They should also come with their Halloween joke ready to share at our parade. Please keep appendages and attachments to a minimum to ensure good movement in class and around the school. Our Halloween school parade is a highlight of our year, so we look forward to a great day. I will be in usual attire with the funniest of Halloween jokes ready to share.

#### Halloween Part Night

Our Halloween Party Night is also on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October and tickets are now on sale from the PTA and can be purchased from the school breakfast club and school office.