



## St. Gerard's Primary School

### A New Year

Welcome to 2026!

We look forward to all the new learning to come over this year. We hope it brings health and happiness to all our families. We greatly appreciate the support shown to the school throughout the temporary changes in our staffing. Our priority, as always, is the learning, care and wellbeing of our children.

We have a busy but exciting term ahead with our Lenten Fundraising activities round the corner, sacramental preparation underway, and rehearsals beginning for our highly anticipated P4-7 school show. Please ensure you take note of all the dates for your diary.

### Attendance and Latecoming

We are continuing to review our practice around attendance. We would like to remind all parents that, unless there is a valid reason for being absent, it is vital that all children attend school every day. If your child is absent for any reason, including sickness or an appointment, please contact the school to ensure the absence is authorized. Please note that term-time holidays will not be authorized.

Due to the high volume of phone calls to our office and the demands on our clerical staff, we ask that you email details of your child's absence to [enquiries-at-st-gerards.northlan.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-at-st-gerards.northlan.org.uk) rather than phone. This should be done before **9:20am** on the first morning of the absence. Emails will be checked daily, and in the event of an unexplained absence, you will receive an email asking you to contact us.

We are noticing a concerning number of pupils arriving at school late every day. Please be reminded that school starts promptly at 8:55am. Unless your child attends Breakfast Club, they should be present in the lines at their allocated door for the school bell ringing at 8:55am. P1-3 can go directly into their classrooms for a 'soft start'. After the morning bell, the gates will be locked for safety reasons by our janitorial staff. Any child arriving after this should go to the front entrance and will be recorded as late. While we completely understand that unforeseen and unavoidable things can happen in a morning, we would appreciate that parents make every effort to ensure all children are on time for school.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

We are very proud of our Primary 3 children for their hard work as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Thank you to all parents for supporting their children during this time, and for attending their prayer service. We ask for your prayers for our children in the lead up to the sacrament. The service will take place at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of February at 6.30pm.



### Dates For Your Diary

**First Reconciliation Service for Primary 3**  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm

**February Break**  
School closed Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Pupils return Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Crazy Hair Day – Lenten Fundraiser**  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February

**World Book Day – Pyjama Day**  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

**Parent's Evening**  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Primary 4 – 7 School Show**  
Dress rehearsal:  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
(1 free ticket to pensioner family member)

Show performances:  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 11am  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 6.30pm

**End of term**  
School closes at **2:30pm** on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

**School Reopens**  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 8:55am

## School Fundraising

As we move into February, we will begin to prepare for our Lenten fundraising activities and the celebration of Easter. Each class will decide on their own Lenten fundraiser and will plan this with their teacher. A separate letter will be sent out with more details soon. We also have some whole school fundraisers in the diary, starting with Crazy Hair Day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Children can dress down on this day and a donation of £1 per family is suggested. All money raised will go to our chosen Lenten charities.

## World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day in school on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Our theme this year is 'curl up with your favourite story'. On this day, all children are welcome to come to school wearing pyjamas or a onesie and are asked to bring their favourite book. Should the weather be extra chilly, you may wish for your child to wear an extra layer under pyjama bottoms for outside play. A donation of £1 per family to participate is suggested. All money raised will go to our chosen Lenten charities.

## Easter Show

Our Primary 4 to 7 children and teachers are beginning to rehearse for our show 'Dreams Come Alive', taking place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March (dress rehearsal – one free ticket given to each family for this performance), Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> of March at 11am and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of April at 7pm. Tickets will be available after the February break at Breakfast Club. More information to follow!

## Access to Glow

All children will be receiving their glow log in information over the next few weeks with some further information on how Glow can be used. Look out for this in the school bags. Please take some time to log in and browse around. We are planning to relaunch our school website soon and will be using it to share updates for each class.

## Temporary Staffing Changes

You will be aware that Mr. Conaghan is still currently absent. During this absence, the senior management arrangements currently in place will remain.

Mrs. Reilly - Acting Head Teacher on Mondays  
Mrs. McMahon - Acting Head Teacher on Tuesday-Fridays  
Mrs. McLoney - Acting Principal Teacher

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs. McCallum, Principal Teacher, back to St. Gerard's following a period of secondment. She will return to the school after the February Weekend break.

Mrs. Balmer will be off for a number of weeks for a planned absence. Mrs. Reilly will take her place as the Primary 3 teacher on Thursdays and Fridays until further notice. We wish Mrs. Balmer well and look forward to seeing her return fit and back to full health in the summer term.

## Upcoming Holidays

School will be closed for the February Weekend break from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Pupils will return on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

The school will close for the Easter Holidays on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.30pm**. Please ensure you make arrangements for your child to be collected at this earlier time. Schools will re-open for the new term on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 8.55am.