

Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

w.e. 7th November 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 11th November - Ski Trip Information Evening

Friday 14th November - Frantic Assembly

Tuesday 18th November - Awards Evening

Thursday 27th November - Year 13 Parents' Evening

Friday 28th November - Teacher Training Day

ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Expectations

w.c. 10/11 - Anti Bullying week / Odd Socks Day (10th), Power of Good, Remembrance Day (11th)

w.c 17/11 - Safety Online and AI

Please take the time to talk to your daughter and/or son about what they have learnt in Assembly.

YEAR 7

YEAR 8

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

YEAR 11

SIXTH FORM

LETTERS

COMMUNITY

MESSAGE FROM MISS MIDDLEHURST, SENIOR VICE PRINCIPAL

Students have settled quickly back into routines following their half-term break. As explained before the holiday, the school fields are now closed and students need to remain on areas of concrete and tarmac at break and lunchtime; we are, though, extremely fortunate with our astroturf pitch and this remains open at lunch. The changes to our approach to accessing free school meals at lunchtime only are now fully embedded and it has been encouraging an increase in the uptake of these by eligible students; a reminder to parents and carers that accessing free school meals saves you £15 per child per week. Do please ensure that your daughter or son is accessing their entitlement if they are eligible; please visit [Gospel Oak School - Free School Meals](#) if you think your daughter or son may be eligible so that you can check, and do not hesitate to contact the school if you need any help with this process.

Homework is now being set for all students in all year groups, and you will recall Mr Hickinbottom's letter to Year 8 and Year 9 parents and carers before the holiday with information for these two year groups; we have been delighted with the progress made in embedding homework routines so far this year and are very grateful to parents and carers for their support with this. Students will be rewarded for completing their homework and will be sanctioned if they choose not to complete it. Students need to get into good habits both inside and outside of the classroom to support their learning and homework is a key part of this.

I hope you have a lovely weekend; a reminder that if you need to get in touch, please use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#).



YEAR TEAM UPDATES

This week, students have been welcomed back to Gospel Oak by Mr Wilson, Mr Minton and Miss Webb.

Students returned extremely well BUT attendance at the start of the week was very poor – particularly with regards to girls' attendance!! On Tuesday, Y7 attendance was 93% but boys' attendance was 100%. We did see an improvement later in the week but come on girls do not let the boys beat you!!

During their first assembly on Monday, we took time to deliver key messages and notices as well as taking some time to reflect on the Year so far and look ahead to the future.

Upcoming Dates

28th November – Staff Training Day (students do not attend school)

18th December – Winter Funland Trip

19th December – Last day of term before the Christmas break

Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team



✨ Year 8 Weekly Newsletter ✨

Year 8 have had a great start back after the October half-term! We hope everyone enjoyed a well-rested week off and returned feeling refreshed and ready for the new half-term ahead. This is a seven-week run up to the Christmas break, so let's make every week count.

🧠 Assembly Focus – Resilience & Reflection

This week, Mr Bowser delivered an important assembly on resilience and taking responsibility for our actions. As a year group, we saw a dip in both attendance and behaviour last term. This half-term is a fresh start, and we are encouraging everyone to reflect, reset, and work together to be the very best we can be.

📌 Attendance Matters

Our attendance target is **97%**, but we are currently at **92.8%**. Every school day counts, and improving attendance will help all students achieve their full potential. Let's aim high this half-term!

📅 Upcoming Dates

- **28th November** – Staff Training Day (students do not attend school)
- **19th December** – Last day of term before the Christmas break

💛 First Give Update

Mrs Parsons has met with a group of enthusiastic Year 8 students who are taking on a new challenge through the **First Give** programme. They will be working together to raise money for a charity of their choice. We are excited to see their ideas develop and will keep you updated on their progress!

📌 A Final Message to Year 8

Reflect on your time in Year 8 so far, make positive changes where you need to, and let's get our Year 8 family back on top.

Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team



✨ Year 9 Weekly Newsletter ✨

Year 9 have had a brilliant start back after the October half-term! We hope everyone enjoyed a well-deserved rest and returned ready for a strong and successful run-up to Christmas. With seven weeks until the holidays, this is the perfect time for students to focus on building good routines, showing maturity, and aiming high in everything they do.

🧠 Assembly Focus – Aspiration & Responsibility

This week's assembly focused on **aspiration** – setting high expectations and taking ownership of our actions. As Year 9 prepare to make their GCSE option choices later in the year, it's crucial that they show independence and consistency in their approach to learning.

We've been really impressed with how many students have started the term with focus and enthusiasm. This is a great opportunity for everyone to reset, reflect, and show what they're truly capable of.

📚 Homework – Raising Standards and Building Habits

Homework is now fully up and running for Year 9, and we are placing a strong emphasis on getting this right. Regular completion of homework helps students to consolidate their classwork, build confidence, and prepare for future exams.

Here's what parents and students need to know:

- **Homework is set and accessed through ClassCharts.**
- **Mr Johnson checks homework completion every day.**
- **If homework is not completed, students will be required to attend a lunchtime detention.**

Students will need:

- Their **ClassCharts logins** – if they've forgotten these, they should speak to their tutor.
- Their **Microsoft login details** – the **email address and password** they use to sign in to school computers.

We kindly ask parents and carers to support this by checking ClassCharts regularly and encouraging students to complete homework on time. Working together, we can help every student form strong habits that will set them up for success at GCSE and beyond.

📅 Attendance Matters

Our school attendance target is **97%**, and Year 9 are currently just below this. Every day in school counts – lessons build on one another, and consistent attendance makes a huge difference to progress. We'd love to see Year 9 leading the way in attendance this term!

📅 Key Dates

- **28th November** – Staff Training Day (students do not attend school)
- **19th December** – Last day of term before the Christmas break

👏 Positive Attitude & Teamwork

We're so proud of the many Year 9 students showing great effort, positivity, and kindness around school. They are becoming strong role models for younger years, and we want to keep that going right through to Christmas.

🌟 A Final Message to Year 9 Families

This half-term is a chance to build consistency, show resilience, and take pride in every achievement – big or small. With good attendance, positive attitudes, and strong effort at home and in school, we're confident Year 9 can finish the year on a real high.

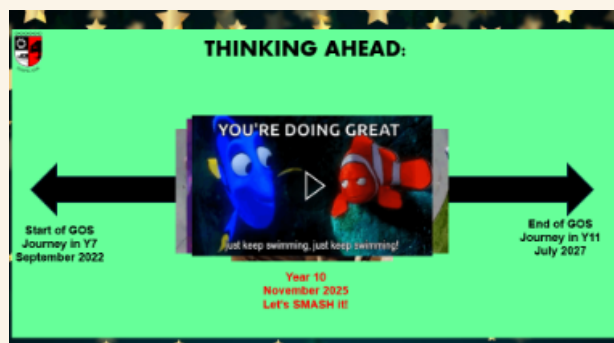
Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team



Happy Week 1 and Happy Autumn 2 from the Year 10 family! This week, students have been welcomed back to Gospel Oak by Miss Ralph and Mrs Kler who are looking forward to seeing students continue succeeding and achieving on their journey of their GCSE options!

Students returned extremely well hitting 94.7% attendance on Monday which was a great start to this half term and it was clear they have returned with the 10/10 mindset that Miss Ralph reminds them of daily and that they are prepared and ready to embark on this 7 week half term!

During their first assembly on Thursday, students were welcomed back in by Miss Ralph who took the assembly time to deliver key messages and notices as well as taking some time to reflect on the Year so far and look ahead to the future. Between now and the end of 2025 how many goals and targets can our wonderful students achieve I wonder? ✨



Mr Brownlow also joined assembly to reflect on the recent Ofsted report and to discuss how our school has “transformed” in the most positive way and how it is great that the Y10 family have been a part of this journey over the last three and a bit years! Students have responded well to this news and hopefully now can share the pride that staff do on how Gospel Oak has made massive strides in making it a better place for all!



Now it may be a new academic half term, but not everything has changed and as always, Miss Ralph and Mrs Kler are here for each and every student and family member to support with whatever is necessary. If parents or carers require this or need to get in touch with the Year 10 team, please contact year10enquiry@gospeloakschool.co.uk and one of us will be able to pick this up and support and hopefully resolve as soon as!

Week 1 of Autumn 2, Year 10 at GOS done already. Let's see what our 10/10 attitude towards learning, our 10/10 mindset towards success and achievement and our 10/10 positivity every single day can get us between now and Christmas – Let's go TEAM GREEN! ♥

Miss Ralph and the Year 10 Team



YEAR 11

Mock Results & Feedback Fortnight

Your hard work during the mocks is about to pay off! From **Monday 17th November**, teachers will begin returning your papers as part of **Feedback Fortnight** – this is your chance to see what went well, where to improve, and how to push your grades even higher.

Your **formal results** will be released on **Friday 21st November**, giving you a true picture of your current performance.

Predicted grades for your **college and sixth form applications** will also be shared during this time – make sure you're proud of what you've earned!

Attendance Matters

You were **outstanding during mock week**, and our **attendance average this week is 94%**!

Keep that momentum going – **every single day in school counts**. Each lesson you attend brings you one step closer to the grades you deserve this summer. Let's aim for our **best attendance yet** as we head into Feedback Fortnight.

Parents' Evening

A reminder that **Year 11 Parents' Evening** will take place on Thursday 11th December.

This is an important opportunity for you and your parents to celebrate progress and set clear next steps for success.

Prom News

We're thrilled to announce that **Year 11 Prom** will be held at the **Black Country Living Museum** on **Thursday 2nd July 2026** – a stunning venue to celebrate your journey in style!

If you're already dreaming about outfits, there's a **Prom Dress Pop-Up Shop** in **Coseley** on **Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November**.

All the details are displayed **outside the Year 11 office** – don't miss out!

Keep showing up, working hard, and supporting one another – you're smashing it, Year 11.

The best is yet to come!

Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team



A warm welcome back to all Year 12 and 13 students, we hope you had a restful break.

Students are continuing to work hard in both lessons and supervised study.

A reminder to attend everyday even if you are feeling unwell.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala
Director of Post 16

Upcoming dates –

27th November - Year 13 Parents' Evening

18th December – Reward trip to Liverpool One



To: All Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road
Gospel Oak
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DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

7th November 2025

Our Ref: SBr.KH.3400

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Staffing

I am writing to let you know about some internal staff changes:

- Mr Brown has taken up a new position in school as a Lead Practitioner-maths;
- Mr Shergill (Assistant Principal) is now the Director of Learning and Standards-maths; and
- Miss Edwards (Director of Learning and Standards-English) will soon go on maternity leave and Mrs Quirk (Vice Principal) will cover as the Director of Learning and Standards-English in her absence.

The updated staffing list can be found at [Gospel Oak School - Staff](#).

Please do contact the school via the 'Contact Form' at [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal



To: All Parents/Carers

Gospel Oak School

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7th November 2025

Our Ref: MC.KH.3403

Your Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Emergency Lockdown Procedures

It is that time of the year where we carry out our annual lockdown procedure drill. Lockdown procedures are important and would be used in response to an internal or external incident which could be a threat to the safety of staff and students in the school.

Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations including;

- Reported incident/civil disturbance in the local community
- An intruder on the school site with the potential to cause harm to children or staff
- A warning being received regarding risk locally of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc.) or biological, chemical or radiological hazards
- A major fire within the vicinity of the school
- The close proximity of a dangerous animal roaming loose
- An extreme weather event

The school's procedure aims to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all students and staff. Tutors will be sharing this procedure with their class with the intention of the school carrying out an emergency drill to ensure that everyone is clear in what they have to do.

The drill will take place during the week beginning 17th November and will involve the lockdown alarm being sounded.

Assemblies will be held to remind the students of the importance of having a drill.

Parents/carers also have a role to play in lockdown procedures. Should a lockdown take place parents/carers are asked:

- To communicate the same message to their son/daughter that the school is a safe place and the drill is to ensure that everyone knows what to do in a real situation
- To be aware that calling the school for additional information could block vital lines of communication compromising safety
- Not to attend site until they are instructed to do so by either the school or emergency services, as they could place themselves in danger.

- Not to attempt to make contact with their son/daughter by calling or texting personal mobile phones as this could place them in danger if an intruder was in the building
- To understand that the lockdown may continue for a prolonged period, extending beyond the schools normal operating hours

Thank you for your cooperation and support in this crucial aspect of student health and safety.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Clapham
Estates Services Lead



To: All Parents/Carers

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W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

7th November 2025

Our Ref: SBr.KH.3402

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Emergency Closures

As we are now into the autumn months, I thought that it would be helpful to write regarding our emergency closure procedures in the event that they are required. We are determined to do whatever we can to stay open to staff and students despite any adverse weather conditions or issues with water or power.

Students and parents/carers should be extra careful travelling to and from school and take extra time to travel as pavements and side roads could be potentially hazardous. We have purchased a plentiful supply of salt and grit so we are as well prepared as we can be. However, our site has two separate buildings so students have to walk outside. If it is very snowy, students will need to wear sensible and appropriate footwear with grip and ensure they are warm. They will remain indoors as far as possible for their safety and will be required to walk very carefully along the cleared paths only. As we spread significant grit and salt, snowballing under any circumstances is absolutely not allowed as it is dangerous. I would be grateful if you could communicate this to your son/daughter.

We will endeavour to have done the following by 6.30am on any day we have to close the school:

- Notified the local radio stations: BBC WM 95.6 FM, Free Radio 96.4 FM and Heart FM West Midlands 100.7 FM.
- Placed a message on our social media feeds.
- Sent a text message to all the mobile phone numbers of parents/carers with parental responsibility we currently have in Arbor.
- Sent an email to all the email addresses of parents/carers with parental responsibility we currently have in Arbor
- Placed the appropriate message on the website-eg
 - o Open for all students
 - o Open but late start (and instructions will follow)
 - o Closed to all students except for those sitting external examinations.
- Notified the local authority: Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

The decision to close the school, unless directed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, is always made in the morning. However, if there is any additional information that I feel would be helpful to share with parents/carers I will update the website at the earliest opportunity.

We will do all we can to stay open. However, there may well be health and safety reasons which would mean we would have to close during the day and send the students home before 3.00pm. I would suggest all parents/carers nominate a place of safety, which may be your home, to which your son/daughter can go if we have to close. We have been reviewing our procedures and are planning to complete the following if we must close during the school day:

- Notify the local radio stations (especially Heart FM West Midlands, BBC West Midlands and Free Radio West Midlands).
- Send a text message to all the mobile phone numbers of parents/carers with parental responsibility we currently have in Arbor.
- Send an email to all the email addresses of parents/carers with parental responsibility we currently have in Arbor.
- Place a message on our website and social media feeds.
- Thirty minutes later we will send the students home. Any students who are unable to make their own way home may remain in school until 3.00pm where they will be supervised.

I hope you appreciate that any decision to close the school is never made lightly. The safety of students, parents/carers and staff will always remain the priority when making decisions.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Brownlow
Executive Principal



To: All Parents/Carers

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T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W www.gospeloakschool.co.uk

4th November 2025

Our Ref: PG.KH.3398

Your Ref:

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Attendance and Winter Illnesses – Every Day in School Matters

As we approach the colder months, we understand that coughs, colds and minor illnesses become more common. However, we want to remind all parents/carers that it is essential for students to continue attending school whenever they are well enough.

At Gospel Oak School, we are committed to ensuring every student achieves their full potential and regular attendance is one of the most important factors in them achieving success and positive outcomes.

We fully appreciate that sometimes students are genuinely too unwell for school, and we will always support families in those circumstances. However, we ask for your cooperation in avoiding unnecessary absences for minor ailments. Every lesson missed is a learning opportunity lost, and every day in school makes a difference.

Even small amounts of absence quickly add up:

- 95% attendance means your son /daughter misses two weeks of learning across a school year.
- 90% attendance means they miss nearly four weeks. That's half a term!
- Over five years, this can amount to half a year of lost education.

Students who miss lessons can find it hard to catch up on new concepts and may lose confidence in their learning. Good attendance also supports friendships, social development and emotional well-being.

Many mild winter illnesses do not require time off from school. According to NHS guidance, children are usually well enough to attend school if they have:

- A mild cough, cold or sore throat
- A runny or blocked nose
- A headache that can be managed with paracetamol
- General tiredness or minor sniffles

If your son/daughter feels slightly unwell but is otherwise alert, eating and drinking, please send them into school, we do have first aiders on site who can monitor them. Being around friends and following their usual routine often helps students feel better faster.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain high attendance this winter. Together, we can ensure every student at Gospel Oak has the best possible chance to learn, grow and succeed.

Yours sincerely,



Parm Grewal
Vice Principal – Designated Safeguarding Lead

COMMUNITY



Fireworks and the law

 @SaferStudents
saferstudents.co.uk

safer students.

Fireworks and the law

Bonfire Night is a time to celebrate, but misusing fireworks can land you in serious trouble. The police work closely with universities, students' unions and accommodation providers to keep campuses safe, but here's a reminder on how you can play your part to keep everyone safe.

Know the law

- You must be 18+ to buy most fireworks
- Fireworks can only be set off between 7am-11pm, except for:
 - Bonfire Night: 7am-midnight
 - New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year: 7am to 1am the following day
- It's illegal to use fireworks in public spaces like streets, parks or university grounds
- Throwing fireworks at people or buildings is a criminal offence

Consequences of misuse

You can be fined an unlimited amount and sent to prison for up to 6 months for using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

A criminal record can have a very detrimental impact on you and your studies. Your university might take disciplinary action, restrict your participation in certain activities or even withdraw you from the course.

A criminal record can also limit career options – especially in fields like teaching, healthcare or law – and impact visa applications and international travel.


Reporting misuse of fireworks

If you see fireworks being used in a dangerous or irresponsible way, you can:

- Call 101 (non-emergencies) or 999 (emergencies)
- Contact police online at westmidlands.police.uk

You can also report planned irresponsible behaviour to Crimestoppers, before it happens: **0800 555 111**.

Scan the QR code for more information:



Sign up to WMNow for free and get live updates of what's going on where you live and study
wmnow.co.uk

WM NOW

saferstudents.



STAYING SAFE ON BONFIRE NIGHT

As Bonfire Night approaches, we want to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable experience while celebrating. Fireworks can be a fun part of the festivities, but it's essential to prioritise safety and follow legal guidelines. Here are some important guidance, tips and information to keep in mind.

ENJOYING FIREWORKS LEGALLY

In the UK, it's crucial to adhere to the following regulations regarding fireworks:

- Age restrictions** – There are various age restrictions on buying fireworks, depending on what category they fall into. You must be 18+ to buy most fireworks. View the different categories and associated age restrictions on the West Midlands Police website.
- Time restrictions** – Fireworks can only be set off between 7am and 11pm, except for Bonfire Night (where the cut off is midnight) and New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year (where the cut off is 1am)
- Location** – unless part of an organized event by licensed professionals, **fireworks cannot be used on the street or in a public place**. It's illegal to throw or set off any firework (including sparklers, firecrackers and party poppers) in or onto any highway, street thoroughfare or public space and you will be prosecuted if you do so

CONSEQUENCES OF FIREWORKS MISUSE

You can be fined an unlimited amount and imprisoned for up to 6 months for using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

A criminal record can have a very detrimental impact on you and your studies. Your university might take disciplinary action, restrict your participation in certain activities or even withdraw you from the course.

saferstudents.

A criminal record can also limit career options – especially in fields like teaching, healthcare or law – and impact visa applications and international travel.

FIREWORK SAFETY TIPS

It's recommended to enjoy fireworks at an event being organised by licensed professionals, but if you are setting off your own fireworks, you are responsible to do it safely.

- Only buy fireworks from licensed retailers, or they may be dangerous and also illegal
- Make sure the fireworks you buy comply with current safety standards – check that they have the CE mark
- Read the instructions on each firework carefully before using it
- Keep fireworks in a closed, metal box – use fireworks one at a time and replace the lid immediately
- Secure fireworks on the ground and light one at a time. Make sure to light them outdoors and away from people, property and flammable materials
- Stand well back and never return to a lit firework or try to relight one that has failed to go off
- Never put fireworks in your pockets and keep naked flames – including cigarettes – away from fireworks
- Never throw fireworks or aim them at buildings or other people
- Keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby in case of fire
- Being caught breaking the law can have a detrimental effect on your future life

REPORTING MISUSE OF FIREWORKS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

Remember, misuse of fireworks can result in a fine and prosecution.

- If you see someone using fireworks in a dangerous or irresponsible way, call the police on **101** or **999** in an emergency
- If you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, such as noise nuisance or criminal damage, you should also call the police on **101**
- You can also report ASB and fireworks misuse online.
- You can also report planned irresponsible behaviour to Crimestoppers, before it happens on **0800 555 111**.

The police work closely with universities, students' unions and accommodation providers to keep campuses safe, but it's important that everyone plays their part to keep everyone safe and enjoy the fireworks this season.

All the best,
Safer Students Team

Have Your Say: Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy Consultation Now Live!

We're shaping the future of health and wellbeing across our Borough — and your voice matters. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation is now open and will run until 18 November 2025. This is your opportunity to help define the key priorities that will guide shared action across local services, ensuring better outcomes for all communities. This Strategy is a statutory responsibility of both the Local Authority and the NHS Integrated Care Board, and the consultation will focus on:

- 🚫 The core principles that underpin our approach
- 🎯 The criteria used to identify priority areas
- ✅ The priority topics themselves
- 📌 The next steps to turn strategy into action.

We are now consulting on the content of our next Strategy. We hope to engage as many people, groups, and organisations as possible so that we have a shared vision as to what we should prioritise in the years ahead, which is shaped by the people who live and work in Sandwell.

👉 Take part in the consultation now by completing the survey here: [Health and Well-being Strategy Consultation - Sandwell Council - Citizen Space](#)



FREE BOXING SESSIONS

BoxClever Mentoring will be running after-school boxing sessions every TERM-TIME TUESDAY from 04/11/25 - 24/03/26 at Contenders Boxing Club. All sessions are FREE of charge.

Contenders Boxing Club
Unit 13 Tinsley Street
Great Bridge
West Bromwich
DY4 7LQ

4:00 - 5:15pm
Ages 9 - 16 years

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
BOXCLEVER MENTORING ON THE BELOW**

📷 @boxclevercj
📘 BoxClever Mentoring



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STREATERIES

ASPENS

EXCITING MEAL OPTIONS FOR JUST £2.60 OR FREE SCHOOL MEAL PRICE!

At Aspens, we're all about offering **GREAT VALUE** and a **GREAT CHOICE** for students. Here's what you can get for just **£2.60** or your **FSM ALLOWANCE**:

ONE of these	PLUS, PICK ONE:
HEARTY MAIN MEAL OF THE DAY Choose from a meat or veggie option.	DESSERT OF THE DAY For a Sweet Treat.
TOPPED PASTA Customise with 1 delicious topping.	HOMEMADE COOKIE/TRAYBAKE
FILLED JACKET POTATO With your choice of 1 filling.	FRESH WHOLE FRUIT
SANDWICH Perfect for a grab-and-go lunch with a range of fillings.	

With such a variety of options, **YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND SOMETHING TO ENJOY!**

FLU IMMUNISATION FOR PUPILS IN SCHOOL YEARS RECEPTION - YEAR 11

Prevent your child from being seriously ill this winter!
Vaccinating is crucial in protecting them and vulnerable friends and family from flu.

NASAL VACCINE



No needles - just quick, painless, effective flu protection (contains gelatine)

OR

THE INJECTION



We offer a PORK-FREE, GELATINE-FREE injection considered a faith-friendly alternative.

Complete this form, even if you do not want the vaccine.

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/sandwell>

Secondary School students only: Young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

CONTACT THE TEAM

✉ sandwell@v-uk.co.uk
☎ 01215 921 110

Need more information?
Please see our FAQs sheet attached with this letter.

Or visit our website:



We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If your child is absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, they can still receive this important vaccine by attending one of our community clinics for the vaccine.

Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season. If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to complete a second form.

Details of these can be found on our website or you can contact the team above.

LEARN MORE

<https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/flu>
www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk

PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy
For data protection queries, please contact: gdpr@vaccinationuk.co.uk

Please complete the below link for your child to receive their vaccine:-

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/sandwell>

FLU VACCINES: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Vaccination UK will be coming into Gospel Oak School on Friday 5th December 2025 to administer the flu vaccine for a catchup session. Could you please complete the link to accept or decline if you wish for your son / daughter to receive his / her vaccine to update your son / daughters NHS record by midnight on Monday 24th November 2025. Please ensure that your son / daughter has no allergies to the vaccine and should you have any queries then please contact Vaccination UK on 0121 592 1110.

Please note that unless you accept or decline to update your son / daughters NHS record Vaccination UK will continue to contact you.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q WHY ARE CHILDREN BEING OFFERED THE FLU VACCINE?

Flu can make children feel very unwell and can sometimes lead to serious complications like pneumonia or ear infections. Some may even need hospital treatment. It's especially important for children with long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes, as flu can be more dangerous for them.

Q HOW DOES THE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN WORK?

The nasal spray contains weakened flu viruses that help your child build protection without causing illness. Because flu strains change each year, the vaccine needs to be given annually. Most children only need one dose.

Q IS THE FLU VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

Yes, it has a very good safety record and has been used for over 10 years in countries like the US without any major concerns. All vaccines available in United Kingdom must pass strict safety testing before being approved for use. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) only approve vaccines that have gone through rigorous safety testing measures. The regulators continually monitor them all the time.

Q SHOULD ANYONE NOT HAVE THE VACCINE?

Let us know if your child:

- Has a severe allergy to eggs, gelatine, or certain antibiotics
- Has recently had severe asthma symptoms or is 'wheezy on the day'
- Has a seriously weakened immune system

Also, after vaccination, children should avoid close contact with people who have very weak immune systems for about two weeks—everyone else is fine to be around.

Q ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects from the nasal spray are usually mild and short-lived. These may include a runny or blocked nose, headache, reduced appetite, or a slight temperature. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can help if needed.

Q WE DO NOT EAT PORK PRODUCTS. CAN MY CHILD HAVE A DIFFERENT FLU VACCINE?

Yes. There is an injectable flu vaccine is available that contains no pork (porcine gelatine).

While the nasal spray is generally more effective and painless, we respect your preferences. Just complete the consent form for the injection—no need to fill out both.

CONSENT INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

Q NATURAL IMMUNITY

While natural immunity from the flu can occur, it's not generally considered better than vaccine-induced immunity. Natural infection carries the risk of severe illness and complications, whereas the flu vaccine offers protection with significantly less risk. Natural immunity can be long-lasting against specific strains, but we know that the flu virus changes (mutates) overtime so natural immunity to one strain might not protect against a different strain that emerges later. Vaccines are a safer and more reliable way to protect against a wider range of flu viruses.

Flu vaccines are updated for each winter to give protection against the strains of flu that are most likely to be going around. For this reason, we strongly recommend that even if your child was vaccinated last year, they should be vaccinated again this year.

Q MY CHILD NEEDS A DIFFERENT VACCINE

If your child needs another vaccine you can speak to our team or attend one of our community clinics, all information can be found on our website: www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

Q I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

We run Q&A webinars which address frequently asked questions and gives parents an opportunity to ask their questions. You can find information and how to join on our website.

