

# Gospel Oak Weekly Newsletter

## w.e. 14<sup>h</sup> November 2025



### UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November - Awards Evening

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November - Year 13 Parents' Evening

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Teacher Training Day

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Flu Vaccines



### ASSEMBLY THEMES

Assembly focus this week was Anti Bullying week / Odd Socks Day (10<sup>th</sup>), Power of Good, Remembrance Day (11<sup>th</sup>)

w.c 17/11 - Safety Online and AI

w.c 24/11 - Homophobia and Discrimination

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

As always, it has been a very busy week in school. It is 'Anti-Bullying Week', and many students and staff wore odd socks on Monday as part of this event. This year's theme is 'Power for Good' and students have had very powerful messages in morning meetings and assemblies about speaking up if they see things which are not right, empowering people to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes; please see [Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good](#).

Tuesday was 11th November, and students took part in a Remembrance service; the weather meant that plans were adjusted with the event moving indoors and Year 7 and Year 13 were able to attend the service in the Theatre, and all other members of the school community took part via an online link. We welcomed the Lord Lieutenant into school who spoke about the sacrifices made in war, and Treasure and Lennon, our head girl and boy, laid a wreath alongside Mr. Brownlow; many of our Cadets also took part in a very poignant and moving ceremony, and the whole school observed a two-minute silence. You may wish to watch [108 year old veteran Frank Chester](#), [VE Day 80: A Message of Service & Remembrance](#) and [VE Day 80 years on](#) which have all been recommended by the Sanctuary Foundation to support our understanding.

A number of our Year 7 students have taken part in a 'Water-bots' STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – activity with the Canal and River Trust. They showed fabulous team building skills as they worked together to build bridges out of straws and tape; it was lovely to hear students discussing, planning, and exploring ways to solve the problems they were given. This is part of a wider project - [Water Bots - BOM Birmingham Open Media](#) – and is another great example of the wider learning opportunities provided in school.

Please keep talking to your daughter and/or son about their learning in school. As you know, there is a lot of work being undertaken in school to build our homework culture and to make sure students are working hard outside of the classroom as well as in lessons. Completing homework will support all students to achieve better exam results; please keep ensuring that homework is being done and reminding your daughter and/or son about how this will support them to get higher grades. Students are rewarded for completing their homework and sanctioned if they choose not to do so.

As always, thank you for your support; please do use [Gospel Oak School - Contact Us](#) if we can help in any way.



# YEAR TEAM UPDATES

## Attendance

We're thrilled to see our attendance remaining high – we continue to maintain an average of 95% despite all the coughs and colds.

Let's keep this going – even when the mornings are **wet, dark, and cold**. Pushing yourself to show up builds **resilience** and prepares you for the world beyond school. Let's see if we can stay top of the leaderboard for attendance across all the year groups in school

## Contact Us

You might have spotted that our emails have had a little update!

If you ever need help, have a question, or just want to reach out – we're here for you.

Get in touch at:

[year7enquiry@gospeloak.crst.org.uk](mailto:year7enquiry@gospeloak.crst.org.uk)

## Late to School

Lately, we've noticed a few more students arriving **late** to school and lessons. Let's work on turning that around!

Remember – school starts at **8:25am** and you should be in **line-up** ready to go.

## Homework Heroes

Homework is rolling in – and it's amazing to see so many of you taking responsibility for your learning!

If you're finding it tricky to log in or complete something, don't struggle in silence. Ask your **teacher** for help. If you are having issues with devices or technical issues, then come and see the Year Team or pop into homework club on a Tuesday or Thursday.

**Mr Wilson and the Year 7 Team**



## Year 8 Weekly Newsletter

### Attendance

#### **WOW, Year 8 – you smashed it!**

We're thrilled to see our attendance climbing – on Monday we hit a brilliant **95.2%**! That's something to be proud of!

Let's keep this going – even when the mornings are **wet, dark, and cold**. Pushing yourself to show up builds resilience and prepares you for the world beyond school. Let's see if we can break our record next week – we believe in you! 🍊

### Contact Us

You might have spotted that our emails have had a little update!

If you ever need help, have a question, or just want to reach out – we're here for you. Get in touch at: [year8enquiry@gospeloak.crst.org.uk](mailto:year8enquiry@gospeloak.crst.org.uk)

Don't be shy – communication is key! 😊

### Late to School

Lately, we've noticed a few more students arriving **late** to school and lessons. Let's work on turning that around!

Remember – **school starts at 8:25am** and you should be in **line-up** ready to go.

Being on time helps you start your day with confidence and focus – plus, it's a great life skill for the future! 🕒

### Homework Heroes

Homework is rolling in – and it's amazing to see so many of you taking responsibility for your learning! 📖

If you're finding it tricky to log in or complete something, don't struggle in silence. Ask your **teacher** or **the Year 8 team** for help – we've got your back!

Remember: every piece of homework is a chance to **shine brighter** and build those skills that make you unstoppable. ✨

**Mr Bowser and the Year 8 Team**



### ★ Year 9 Weekly Update ★

What an incredible week it has been for Year 9!

#### 📈 Attendance Superstars!

We are thrilled to announce that our attendance has reached a **record high of 93%** since returning from the summer holidays! 🙌

This is a huge achievement and both **Mr Marris and Mr Johnson** are extremely proud of the year group – well done, Year 9! 🌟👏

#### 🎭 Remembered Day Parade

This week we also took part in the Remembered Day Parade, where Year 9 conducted themselves with outstanding maturity and respect.

A special mention to Harry Billingham for delivering a powerful and brilliant performance – thank you, Harry! ★

#### 🙏 Incredible Charity Achievement

A massive shoutout to **Charlie Joe Fitzpatrick**, who has raised an unbelievable **£4,000+** for charity, supporting cancer research and those battling the disease. ❤️

We are in awe of your determination and kindness – thank you for making such a difference!



#### 📦 Shoebox & Donation Appeal

We are proud to have launched our **Year 9 Shoebox Appeal!**

From this week, we will also begin collecting **non-perishable food items** to support families in our community who may need a little extra help.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity – every donation makes a difference



#### 👊 Anti-Bullying Week

This week is **Anti-Bullying Week**, and we are proud to say that a group of Year 9 students took part in an anti-bullying campaign to promote togetherness and to stand united against bullying. ❤️

In PSHE, all students have also been given the opportunity to **design a poster for our Anti-Bullying Campaign.**

🏆 The winning design will receive a **£50 voucher**, and the runners-up will each receive a **£20 voucher.**

📁 All entries must be handed in to **Miss Malkin** – we can't wait to see your amazing designs!

#### 📧 Parent Contact Reminder

If you need to contact the Year 9 team, please use the **Contact Us** section on the school website.

🔄 We will aim to respond within **48 hours.**

#### 📝 Homework & ClassCharts

Homework has now officially begun for Year 9! ✅

All tasks must be accessed via **ClassCharts** using the links provided, and students must sign in through **Microsoft** using their school email and password (the same login used for school computers 🖥).

🔑 Forgotten login details? No problem!

Students can speak to their tutor, or parents can contact the Year 9 team via the website.

⚠ Please do not leave this until the last minute.

As always, thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership.

We are so proud of this year group – keep shining, Year 9! 🌟💙

**Mr Johnson and the Year 9 Team**



Happy Week 2 of Autumn 2 from the Year 10 family!

During their second assembly on Thursday, students had an assembly delivered by our wonderful SENDCO Miss Nutting. Miss Nutting led an informative anti-bullying assembly for all students. She spoke about the importance of kindness, respect, and speaking up when bullying occurs. Miss Nutting encouraged everyone to look out for one another and to always choose kindness. ✨

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 3 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!

**OFSTED NEWS – Mr. Brownlow:**

*Gospel Oak School is a school that is transformed.*

*The school has high expectations for pupils and is ambitious for their future.*

*It is a calm place where pupils feel safe. Relationships between staff and pupils are warm.*

*The school has high expectations of pupils' achievement*

Inspection of Gospel Oak School	
Wilson Road, Gospel Oak, Tipton, West Midlands DY1 8BZ	
Inspection dates:	30 September and 1 October 2025
The quality of education	Requires improvement
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Early years provision	Good
Previous inspection grade	Inadequate

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](mailto: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 Mock Results Day is coming up on **Thursday 21st November** — an important milestone on your journey to success! From **Monday 17th November**, teachers will begin returning papers, giving you personalised feedback, and helping you set your next goals. Remember: your predicted grades for college and sixth-form applications will be based on these results, so make the most of every piece of advice you receive.

## **Attendance Matters**

Our year group attendance has dipped to **around 92%**, and we need everyone's commitment to bring this back up. Every lesson you attend gives you the knowledge and confidence to achieve the grades you deserve. Let's get back on track together — every day in school counts!

## **Homework & Study Support**

Homework is now back in full swing!

If you're issued a homework, you must attend **F3 at lunchtime** to complete it. Missing this means it automatically rolls over to a **30-minute detention after school**.

Check the **homework schedule below** to stay organised — staying on top of your work now will make a huge difference later.

## **Punctuality & Standards**

Being on time sets the tone for your whole day. If you're late to school, you'll need to attend a **break-time detention in F2**. Missing this results in **30 minutes after school**, so let's avoid that by getting through the gate and lined up on time every morning.

## **Remembrance Parade**

This week's **Remembrance Parade** was truly special. We are incredibly proud of Year 11's outstanding conduct, respect, and heartfelt messages written to the fallen. You represented Gospel Oak School with maturity and pride — thank you for making it such a powerful moment of reflection.

## **Shoebox Appeal**

Our annual **Shoebox Appeal** is underway! We're collecting:

- Empty shoeboxes
- Non-perishable food items
- Sanitary products and other essential goods

Every box will go towards supporting local families this winter — a small act of kindness that makes a big difference. Please bring donations to your form tutor by the end of the week.

## **Key Dates**

- Mock Results Day: 21 November
- Parents' Evening: 11 December
- Prom: 2 July @ Black Country Living Museum
- GCSE Exams Begin: 5 May

Keep striving, keep showing up, and keep supporting one another. Every bit of effort you put in now will pay off in the summer — we believe in you!

**Miss Malkin and the Year 11 Team**



On Thursday 23rd October we welcomed a number of Year 11 students to the Post 16 open evening. It was a great event which showcased the range of subjects that we offer along with the advice and guidance. It was great to see so many students attending the event.

Anyone that is interested in applying to the 6th form is welcomed to apply online or to collect a paper application form, the deadline for applications is 30th March 2026. If you require any further information, please contact me or pop and see me around school.

Year 12 and 13 students are continuing to work hard in lessons. Year 13 students will be receiving their mock grades in a few weeks.

Your sincerely,

Mr Bala  
Director of Post 16

Upcoming dates -

27th November – Visit to University of Birmingham

27th November – Year 13 Parents' Evening

18th December – Reward trip to Liverpool



To: All Parents/Carers

## Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road  
Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

10th November 2025

**Our Ref:** PG.KH.3399

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Term-Time Holiday Expectations and the Importance of Full Attendance**

I am writing to remind all parents/carers of the serious impact that taking holidays during term time can have on your son/daughter's education, well-being and future success.

Every day in school matters. When students miss lessons, they miss teaching, discussions and practice that cannot be repeated. Even the most able students find it challenging to fully catch up. Research shows that students with high attendance achieve considerably better outcomes than those who are frequently absent.

To put this into perspective:

- 90% attendance (equivalent to one day missed every two weeks) means your son/daughter misses four weeks of school per year or half a year of learning by the time they leave secondary school.
- 85% attendance equated to nearly six weeks of missed learning each year.
- 80% attendance (one day off each week) is the same as missing one full year of education over five years.

Even short absences can disrupt the flow of learning, affect assessment results and slow progress. In addition to academic loss, students who take holidays during term time often find it harder to reintegrate socially when they return, missing important class projects, group work and school events.

Please be reminded that under current Department for Education regulations, schools are not permitted to authorise holidays during term time except in exceptional circumstances. Any unauthorised absence may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority. This legal framework is in place to ensure that every child receives their full educational entitlement.

Please do not book holidays during term time. All family travel should be arranged during school holidays, as published in the [Gospel Oak School Term Dates](#). If you believe your situation is exceptional, you must submit a written request in advance to the Executive Principal. Each case will be considered individually, but please be aware that authorisation is rarely approved.

I appreciate your cooperation in ensuring your son's/daughter's attendance remains consistently high. Regular attendance not only supports strong academic achievement but also promotes confidence, friendships and a sense of belonging within our school community.

Yours sincerely,



**Parm Grewal**  
**Vice Principal—Designated Safeguarding Lead**



To: Year 11 Parents/Carers

14th November 2025

**Gospel Oak School**

Bilston Road  
Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

T 0121 556 1351

F 0121 506 7833

W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

**Our Ref:** CM.KH.3407

**Your Ref:**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Revision Strategies for Year 11 Students**

In assembly today, Year 11 students have been shown how to create 'flashcards' to support their revision; students need to be revising now in order to ensure that they will do well next summer when they take their GCSE examinations.

Next week, all students will be given a pack of blank flashcards. Form tutors will give students time in registration periods over the next fortnight to begin to make their flashcards and will be checking that each student has made at least 50 flashcards to support their revision in Maths, English and/or Science. Students will then be expected to use flashcards as part of their revision strategies; teaching staff will be able to ask students to create flashcards in all subjects as needed to support revision, knowing that students have been taught how to do this.

Later on this term, students will be taught another revision strategy called 'quizzing'; again, form tutors will check that students know how to make their own quizzes and teaching staff will be able to ask students to create quizzes to support their revision.

In order to be successful in examinations, students need to rehearse their learning; in other words, they must keep practising so that they have the information they need in their memories when they need it in their examinations. Good examination results do not happen by accident and are the result of hard work over a sustained period of time.

Please take the time to talk with your daughter and/or son about 'flashcards' and about how they should be using these to support their revision. Teaching staff may talk with you at our Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening on Thursday 11th December about these; further information about the Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening will follow in due course.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the work of the school.

Yours faithfully,

**Miss C Middlehurst**  
**Senior Vice Principal**



To: All Parents/Carers

## Gospel Oak School

Bilston Road  
Gospel Oak  
Tipton  
West Midlands  
DY4 0BZ

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F 0121 506 7833

W [www.gospeloakschool.co.uk](http://www.gospeloakschool.co.uk)

14th 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**

# COMMUNITY



**Winter coats for children and adults**



**Pick up & take home:**  
Thursday 20 November  
from 2pm – 4.30pm

**Venue:**  
New Road Methodist Church,  
Mount Street, Tipton,  
DY4 7DE

**FREE**

Gospel Oak School Poppy Display



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## GUIDING YOUNG VOICES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bullying impacts the lives of many young people. In the UK, one in five pupils aged 10 to 15 report being bullied. The effects can be long lasting, affecting mental health, school attendance and self-esteem, and can impact long-term development into adult life. Adults play a key role in building young people's confidence to speak out, support one another, and stand up to unkind behaviour. This guide offers ways to help youngsters make a positive difference.

### 1 CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES

Help young people value diversity by showing that what makes us different is also what makes us strong. Encourage them to learn about different cultures, identities, and abilities through books, films, and conversations. By appreciating uniqueness in themselves and others, children can grow into open-minded individuals who build inclusive and welcoming environments.

### 2 MODEL RESPECT

Children watch and learn from how adults behave. Use respectful language, show patience in disagreements, and treat others with fairness – especially in front of children. By modelling inclusive behaviour and challenging unkindness, adults set a lasting example that respect should be part of every interaction, whether online, at school, or at home. Be the change you want to make.

### 3 SPOT THE SIGNS

Adults and young people should learn how to recognise signs that someone may be experiencing bullying. This might include withdrawal from friends, hobbies or interests, changes in mood, reluctance to go to school, or unusual injuries. Helping young people recognise these clues ensures that support can be offered sooner and problems do not go unnoticed.

### 4 VALIDATE FEELINGS

When a child shares something that worries them, it's important to listen carefully and validate how they feel. Respond with empathy – not judgement – and let them know it's okay to feel upset or confused. Offering reassurance and understanding helps young people feel safe about opening up, and builds the trust needed to talk again in future.

### 5 TEACH ALLYSHIP

Show children how to stand up for others in safe, respectful ways. Allyship might look like sitting next to someone who's been excluded, reporting hurtful behaviour, or speaking up when they witness bullying. By practising these responses together, you're helping children develop the courage to be kind and to take action when it really counts.

### 6 PROMOTE REPORTING

Ensure young people know how to report bullying and feel confident that they'll be taken seriously. Talk to them about who they can speak to and what to expect when they do, such as reporting school incidents to teachers, and out-of-school bullying to parents or teachers. Reassure them that reporting is a brave and helpful choice – not tattling – and that it plays a vital role in keeping everyone safe.

### 7 ENCOURAGE KINDNESS

Everyday acts of kindness can make a big difference in creating safer, happier spaces. Encourage children to look out for one another by being helpful, saying kind words, or including someone who feels left out. These small actions set a strong example that kindness matters, and that it can be a powerful response to bullying.

### 8 USE YOUR VOICE

Encourage young people to speak up for themselves and others. Whether through storytelling, school campaigns, or peer-led projects, children can learn that their voice has power. Support them to express themselves confidently and safely, helping them understand that sharing experiences can challenge injustice and inspire real change in their communities.

### 9 BUILD COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

Children thrive when they feel supported. Help them build strong friendships, join clubs or teams, and connect with trusted adults who care. These networks offer comfort, encouragement, and protection – particularly during challenging times. Remind children that they don't have to face difficulties alone and that support is always within reach.

### 10 SUSTAIN THE CONVERSATION

Bullying awareness shouldn't be limited to one week each year. Create regular opportunities to talk about kindness, respect, and inclusion. Use books, news stories, and personal experiences as conversation starters. Embed anti-bullying initiatives into the school, and make tackling bullying a shared, ongoing commitment.

## Meet Our Expert

Robert Allsop is an experienced pastoral and safeguarding practitioner, specialising in tutorials, behaviour interventions, and attendance management. A recipient of the Diana Award for Anti-Bullying, he has helped raise standards and improve Ofsted outcomes in some of the country's most challenging schools and colleges.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website.

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.11.2023

All ages welcome – accessible venue – free entry!



# Christmas at Murray Hall

A free festive family event, crafts, music, and Santa's workshop!

Live Music

Refreshments

Activities for all the family



1pm - 5pm Thursday 11th December 2025  
The Bridge, St Marks Road, DY4 0SL

Calling All Little Elves!

Join Santa's Workshop  
and Elf Training  
Academy!  
Create, Craft & Take  
Home the Christmas  
Magic!

Reindeer Food Making Fun!

Decorate Your Own  
Festive Cookies!

And more!

Meet Santa!



For further information please call 01902 826 513

Charity No. 1076896 | Company No: 03692018 Registered in England & Wales

## 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](mailto: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](https://www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk)

#### PRIVACY POLICY

Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: [www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy)  
For data protection queries, please contact: [gdpr@vaccinationuk.co.uk](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

