



Newsletter

| SEPTEMBER 2025

Greek School of Ayia
Triada Birmingham
Strive, Learn, Grow in our
Community



HELLO SEPTEMBER!



Message from
Mrs Eleni Topalidou &
Despoina Takirdiki

WELCOME
**Back to
SCHOOL**

Welcome back to a brand new school year at the Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham! I hope you all had a relaxing and joyful summer break, filled with special moments and cherished time with family. As we begin this academic year, I'm excited to welcome both new and returning families. It's always a joy to see our students walk through the doors, ready to learn, grow, and embrace the beautiful traditions of our Greek heritage. To our wonderful parents and carers – thank you for your ongoing support, trust, and collaboration. Your involvement is truly valued, and together, we can make this a successful and memorable year for our children. Let's work hand-in-hand to continue building a warm, inclusive, and inspiring learning environment.

A Personal Farewell

After six incredible years as the Nursery-Reception teacher at the Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham, the time has come for me to say goodbye. It has been an absolute honour and a true blessing to be part of this community. I'm deeply grateful for the trust you've placed in me, the friendships I've made and the many precious moments shared with your little ones. Watching them grow, learn, and thrive has been one of the greatest joys of my teaching journey. I will truly miss each and every one of you – this school will always hold a special place in my heart.

Contents

p2 Poem of the month-Upcoming events

p3 Welcome message from our new teachers.

SPOTLIGHT SECTION

p4 Students of the month

p5 Ellinomatheia exams results

p6 Blessing ceremony

p7 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

p8 Asia Minor Catastrophe

p9 International Day of awareness of food

AROUND THE SCHOOL

p10-14

CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL CORNER

p16 Dance classes

p17 European Corner

p18 Rights Respecting School

ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ



Νικηφόρος Βρεττάκος

Το Φθινόπωρο

Το φθινόπωρο βρήκε στο σπίτι μου.

Ένα ψέλλο κίτρινο,
σαν ένα γραμμάτι δίχως ρόγια,
γρίστρεψε κάτω απ' την πόρτα.

Μύρισε βροχή και χιμιά,
κι άκουσα το αέρα
να αεγοτραγουδάει

μ' ένα καρδινόσι μαυρινό.

Τα δέντρα έγιναν πιο γυμνά,
κι η καρδιά μου κωθει πιο μόνη,
σαν να περιμένει κάτι
που δεν ήρθε ποτέ.

Upcoming Events

- 1st October
Cyprus Independence Day
- 5th October
International Teachers Day
- 25th October
School Event: 28th October 1940 - OXI Day
- Half Term Break
27/10- 31/10 2025 (including)



New School Year

Welcome message from
our school's new teachers



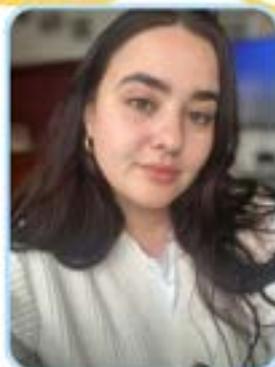
My name is Kleio Theodosiou and I am very happy to be joining the Greek School of Birmingham as a teacher in Year 1+ and Year 5-6. It is a privilege to support our students in learning and celebrating the Greek language, history, and culture. I look forward to working together with colleagues, parents, and of course the children, to create a positive and inspiring learning environment.

My name is Maria Karatzia and I am delighted to be teaching Year 2 at the Greek School of Birmingham this year. I really enjoy working with children and supporting them as they develop their knowledge of the Greek language while also exploring our history and traditions. My aim is to make learning enjoyable and meaningful, creating a positive and welcoming classroom where every child feels confident, supported, and inspired. I look forward to working closely with my colleagues and parents to share this delightful journey with our students.



Dear families of the Greek School of Ayia Triada, I am Aglaia Foteinou, a new teacher for Year 2, and I look forward to supporting the children as they explore the Greek language through cultural heritage, traditions, history and of course, fun! I am passionate about teaching, and I would love to see them all get the same enthusiasm for their achievements this year. Wishing you all an enjoyable and productive academic year and thanking you for welcoming me!

My name is Despina Takridi, and I am delighted to be joining the Greek School of Ayia Triada as the new nursery teacher. It is a real pleasure to become part of this wonderful community, and I look forward to working closely with you and your children as they take their first steps in learning and exploring the Greek language and culture. My aim is to create a safe, nurturing and inspiring environment where every child feels confident, valued, and excited to learn. Thank you for welcoming me into the Ayia Triada family—I cannot wait to share a wonderful year ahead with you all.



SEPTEMBER 2025



Spotlight Section

September

pages 3-9

STUDENTS OF THE

Month

NURS. & REC.

Amir Sh.
Stella Chr.
Alexandra K.

YEAR 1

Raphael P.
Kyriakos F.

YEAR 1 ADV./ 2

Rafaela Ch.
Mariam D.
Seraphim K.
Evangelos Kn.

YEAR 3

Anthi-Maria K.

YEAR 4

Evdokia Ant
Philip G

YEAR 5/5+

Anna-Maria K.
Panayiota K.

A LEVELS & ELLINOMATHEIA

Georgios V.
Ioanna T.

YEAR 6

Iris K.
Theodoros N.

PRE GCSE/GCSE

Zacharias K.
Andreas I.
Anatoli M.
Manolis M.

LEVEL 2 MON

Efthymia G
Theodore N

GREAT!



SEPTEMBER

SPOTLIGHT SECTION

Results

ELLINOMATHEIA

A1

Pavlos Z.
Vasilios K.
Sophia M.
Leonardo T.
Ioanna N.
Aimilia N.
Stefanos P.
Lucas N.
Markos N.
Theodosia D.
Panayiota P.

B1

Anna G.
Athanasios K.
Vaggelis A.

A2

Alexandros Chalaile
Aikaretini M.
Eleftheria G.
Apostolos G.
Emmanouel P.
Georgios K.
Anthony D.
Elina K.

B2

Melina R.
Lucas G.
Evangelos F.
Fotios M.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all of our student for successfully passing their exams with Outstanding



Ο ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ

*Blessing Ceremony at the Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham -
A Blessed Start to the School year*

With great joy and emotion, the new school year began once again at the Greek School of Ayia Triada in Birmingham, marked by the traditional Agiasmos (Blessing) ceremony.

Father Christos blessed the school's Monday, Saturday, and Tuesday branches to perform the Agiasmos for each class, blessing the students, teachers, and parents. His presence and prayers brought spiritual strength and optimism for a year filled with learning, progress, and collaboration.

The Agiasmos is a significant tradition in our Orthodox faith, offering a way to begin the school year with God's grace, protection, and guidance.

On this occasion, Father Christos and the school leadership offered their heartfelt wishes:
Have a good and blessed school year!
With health, joy, patience, and creativity.
Best wishes to our students, parents, and teachers!
We hope this year will be full of success, progress in our Greek language, history, and culture—and above all, love and unity within our Greek community. Wishing everyone a happy and successful school year!

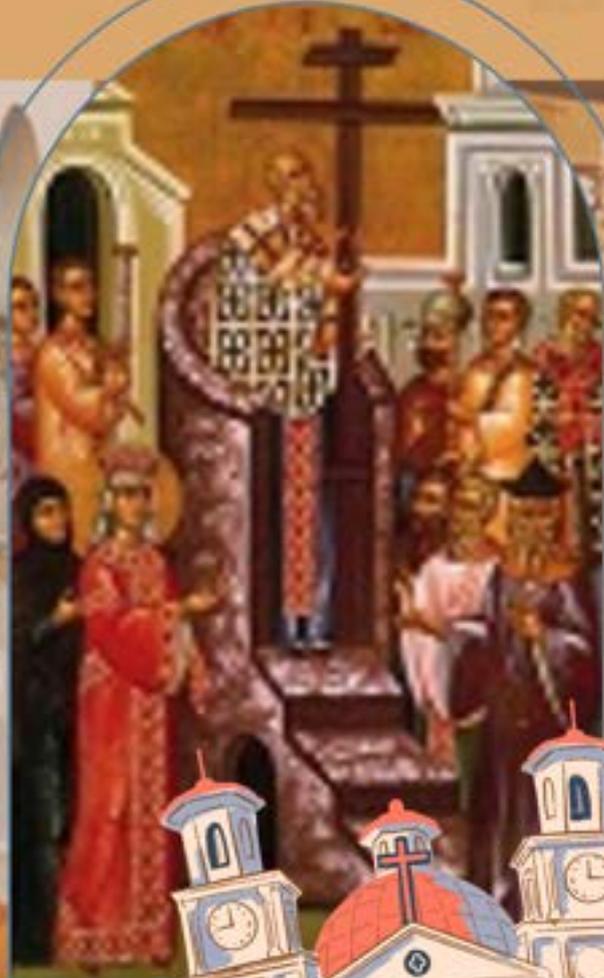


Υψωση του Τιμίου και Ζωοποιού Σταυρού



Λειτουργικά κείμενα
Άπολυτίκιον

Εἰσὸν Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.



Υψώσεις του Τιμίου και Ζωοποιού Σταυρού

Το 326 μ.Χ. η Αγία Ελένη πήγε στην Ιερουσαλήμ για να προσκυνήσει τους Αγίους Τόπους και να ευχαριστήσει το Θεό για τους θριάμβους του γιου της Μεγάλου Κωνσταντίνου. Ο Θεός ζήλος όμως, έκανε την Αγία Ελένη να αρχίσει έρευνες για την ανεύρεση του Τιμίου Σταυρού.

Επάνω στο Γολγοθά υπήρχε ειδωλόλατρικός ναός της θεάς Αφροδίτης, τον οποίο γκρέμισε και άρχισε τις ανασκαφές. Σε κάποιο σημείο, βρέθηκαν τρεις σταυροί. Η συγκίνηση υπήρξε μεγάλη, αλλά ποιος από τους τρεις ήταν του Κυρίου; Τότε ο επίσκοπος Ιεροσολύμων Μακάριος με αρκετούς Ιερείς, αφού έκαναν δέηση, άγγιξε στους σταυρούς το σώμα μιας ευσεβέστατης κυρίας που είχε πεθάνει. Όταν ήλθε η σειρά και άγγιξε τον τρίτο σταυρό, που ήταν πραγματικά του Κυρίου, η γυναίκα αμέσως αναστήθηκε.

Η είδηση διαδόθηκε σαν αστραπή σε όλα τα μέρη της Ιερουσαλήμ. Πλήθη πιστών άρχισαν να συγγρεύουν για να αγγίξουν το τίμιο ξύλο. Επειδή, όμως, συνέβησαν πολλά δυστυχήματα από το συνωστισμό, ύψωσαν τον Τιμό Σταυρό μέσα στο ναό σε μέρος υψηλό, για να μπορούν να τον δουν και να τον προσκυνήσουν όλοι.

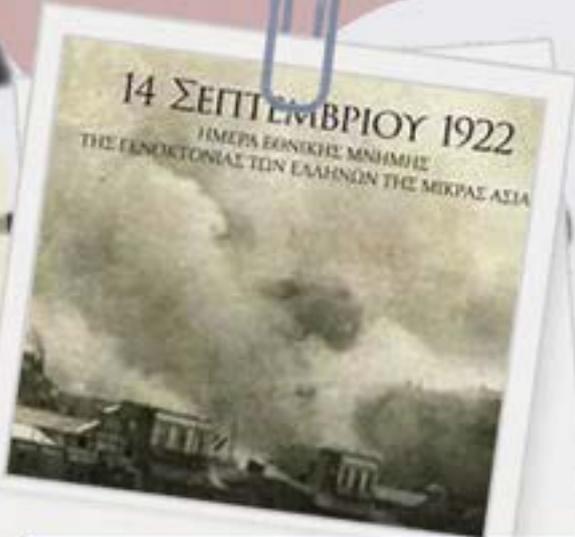
Αυτή, λοιπόν, την ύψωση καθιέρωσαν οι άγιοι Πατέρες, να γιορτάζουμε στις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, για να μπορούμε κι εμείς να υψώσουμε μέσα στις ψυχές μας το Σταυρό του Κυρίου μας, που αποσιλεύει και' εζοχήν 'άλλου κατά τον διαβόλου'.

Η τιμή προς τον Τιμό Σταυρό
Η Υψώσεις του Τιμίου Σταυρού είναι μία σταθερή εορτή που έχει καθοριστεί να εορτάζεται στις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου.
Στις 14 Σεπτεμβρίου σύμπασα η Ορθοδοξία τιμά τον Σταυρό του Κυρίου μας Ιησού Χριστού, ο οποίος χαρακτηρίζεται ως το «καύχημά» Της και η «δόξα» Της. Η εορτή της Παγκόσμιας Υψωσης καθιερώθηκε ίσως από τον ίδιο τον Μέγα Κωνσταντίνο, κατά προτροπή της μητέρας του αγίας Ελένης, αμέσως μετά την εύρεση του Τιμίου Ξύλου στα Ιεροσόλυμα, γύρω στο 330.

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE ASIA MINOR CATASTROPHE

SEPTEMBER 14th

Every year on September 14, Greeks in Greece and around the world observe a solemn day of remembrance: the National Day of Remembrance for the Genocide of the Greeks of Asia Minor by the Turkish State. This day honors the memory of the hundreds of thousands of Hellenes who lost their lives or were forcibly uprooted from their ancestral homes during one of the darkest periods in modern Greek history.



WHAT HAPPENED ?

Between 1914 and 1923, during and after World War I and the Greco-Turkish War, Greek communities in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) — especially in regions like Smyrna (Izmir), Ionia, and Pontus — faced persecution, massacres, forced marches, and the destruction of their homes, churches, and schools.

These events are part of what is known today as the Asia Minor Catastrophe. In September 1922, the ancient and vibrant city of Smyrna, once a center of Greek culture and trade, was burned to the ground. Thousands of Greek civilians were killed or fled in terror, seeking refuge in Greece. In the aftermath, around 1.5 million Greeks were displaced and forced to leave Asia Minor — lands they had lived on for thousands of years.

WHY DO WE REMEMBER ?

This tragic chapter is not only a story of loss, but also a story of survival, resilience, and the rebirth of Hellenism in new lands. Many of today's Greek families — in Greece and abroad — are descendants of those refugees. They carried with them their language, their traditions, their faith, and their dreams. They helped shape modern Greece and continue to contribute to Greek communities around the world.

By remembering the events of the Asia Minor Catastrophe, we honor the victims, learn from the past, and ensure that such tragedies are never forgotten.

A MESSAGE TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS

As students in the Greek diaspora, we carry a responsibility: to keep our history alive, to respect our ancestors, and to promote peace, understanding, and human rights. History is not just about the past — it is a compass for our future.

Let us remember. Let us learn. Let us never forget.

International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW)



DONATE
do not waste

The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) is an annual United Nations observance on September 29. Its goal is to raise public awareness of the scale and causes of food loss and waste and to encourage global efforts to reduce it. Co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the day promotes action towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 12.3, which seeks to halve per capita global food waste by 2030 and reduce food losses throughout the supply chain.

Why it Matters

Resource Waste:

Food loss and waste result in the squandering of valuable resources like land, water, energy, and labour used in food production.

Food Security:

Reducing food waste contributes to global food security and availability, especially for vulnerable populations.

Environmental Impact:

Addressing food waste is crucial for mitigating climate change and achieving overall sustainability.

Did you know?

- While an estimated 735 million people go hungry globally, food loss and waste generate 8 to 10 percent of GHGs and is a methane hotspot.
- Households waste over 1 billion meals worth of edible food every day, the equivalent of 13 meals every day for everyone in the world affected by hunger

SEPTEMBER 2025



Around the School



pages 10-14

nursery-
reception

Προσαρμογή,
νέοι φίλοι,
νέα παιχνίδια,
νέες γνώσεις και
συνήθειες!

CLASSROOM



nursery- reception

Excitement filled the air as the little ones, both in reception and nursery, arrived at school. They carried their bags and entered a bright room with lots of fun things to explore. They made new friends with giggles and shy hellos. It was the start of their exciting adventure in learning!



Year 1 Class

On the first day of school, the Year 1 kids arrived with a mix of curiosity and apprehension. Clutching their backpacks tightly, some held onto their parents' hands as if they were their lifelines, while others bravely took their first steps into the classroom of the Greek School.



Welcome everyone
to year 1 Erdington
Monday and
Saturday
Teacher: Maria
Georgiou:
georgiou.m@greeksat.org.uk

12
11
11



Play
explore
and
Learn



Year 1 adv. & Year 2



Year 1 advanced - Year 2
So many happy children this September
not only they settled in quiet quickly but
they started exploring new learning
through discovery, through class
exploration activities.

Με τη σάκα σου
στον ώμο, τρέχεις
γρήγορα στον
δρόμο. Που
πήγαινες με χαρά?
Στο σχολείο στην
χαρά!!





SEPTEMBER 2025



Cultural & Educational Corner



pages 15-18

Dance Groups



This year our school has been running dance classes led by our Dance Teachers Mr Dimitris Themistokleous (Dance Groups Lead) and Mrs Sotiria Karafillides. We presently offer six dance classes tailored for both children and adults.

Classes run as follows:

- Mrs Karafillides
Monday 7:30- 8:30 children
- Mr Themistokleous
Tuesday 6:30 to 7:00 children
Tuesday 7:00-8:00 adults
- Saturday 2:00-3:00 children

It's amazing to see that this year our dance classes are flourishing and both children and adults are enjoying them.

Anyone interested in dance classes can contact our school directly or the class teachers. We are always happy to welcome new students.



Scan the QR code to register for dance classes



WE LOVE EUROPE

Celebrating the European Day of Languages in London!

WE ARE PROUD THAT OUR SCHOOL GREEK SCHOOL OF BIRMINGHAM, PARTICIPATED AT THIS INSPIRING EVENT ON SEPTEMBER THE 25TH, ALONGSIDE EU JUNIOR AMBASSADORS WHO EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF A MULTILINGUAL EUROPE.



Our junior and senior ambassadors got involved and discovered so much about the diverse languages spoken across the EU, as well as the rich cultures that coexist harmoniously within it.



Many congratulations to Cyprus educational mission (KEA) and the Greek education office for their successful presentation in this fantastic event which celebrates EU languages!



Europe Day of Languages

Αγίας Τριάδας Μπερμινγκχαμ

KUMUSTA CIAO
HI BONJOUR
HEJ
HOLA SALUT



With great joy and pride, the Holy Trinity Greek School of Birmingham participated in this year's European Day of Languages event in London — a celebration that highlights the richness and diversity of Europe's linguistic heritage.

As part of the festival, our students had the wonderful opportunity to join the EU Junior Ambassadors, who embody the spirit of a multilingual Europe. Their participation underscored the importance of language learning and the value of fostering intercultural communication.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents of our students for encouraging their children to take part in initiatives such as the EU Ambassador Schools Project, and to our dedicated teachers, Kleio Theodosiou and Tina Takirdigi, for accompanying the students to London and supporting them in making the most of this unique experience.



Warm congratulations are also due to the Cypriot Educational Mission (KEA) and the Greek Education Office for their outstanding presentations at this wonderful event celebrating the languages of the European Union.



A sincere thank-you as well to the European Union in the United Kingdom for providing this meaningful opportunity for students, educators, and communities to come together and celebrate the power of languages. This participation marks another memorable milestone for our students and strengthens our school's vision of promoting the Greek language and culture within a multilingual and multicultural environment.



Rights Respecting School

unicef
UNITED KINGDOM



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

Bronze
Rights Committed

As a Bronze Rights Respecting School we are committed in upholding all rights of all children, all of the time.



UNICEF Article 19 (from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) says that every child has the right to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and mistreatment, whether at home, at school, or in the community.

It also makes clear that governments must take steps—like laws, education, and support systems—to keep children safe and to help those who have been harmed.



Article 19 Protection from Violence

ARTICLE 19 PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE

UNICEF Article 19 says every child has the right to be safe from violence, abuse, and neglect. Today, with wars, poverty, and online risks affecting millions of children, this right is more important than ever. Protecting children means not only stopping harm but also creating safe and caring environments where they can grow and thrive.