

Newsletter



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



Message from our teachers



Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,
On behalf of all our staff, I would like to warmly wish everyone a happy and successful New Year. We hope the Christmas break was a time of rest, happiness, and special moments shared with family and friends.
Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026. The start of a new year is a valuable opportunity to renew our focus, set new goals, and approach the months ahead with positivity and enthusiasm. We have many exciting plans in place for the year ahead and look forward to working closely with you as we continue our journey together.

January has already been a very busy and productive month within our school. Students and staff have settled back into their routines, and we are delighted to see the launch of new initiatives and projects that will support learning and growth across our school community.

As always, we would like to sincerely thank you for your continued support, help, and cooperation—it is truly appreciated and plays a vital role in the success of our school. Let this amazing year begin!



2026

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ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

Το χιόνι

Τί καλά που 'ναι στο σπίτι μας τώρα που όζω πέφτει χιόνι! Το μπερντέ παραμερίζοντας, τ' άσπρο βλέπω εκεί βεντόνι να σκεπάζει όλα τα πράματα: δρόμους, σπίτια, δένδρα, φύλλα. Πόσο βλέπω μ' ευχαρίστηση μαζεμένη τόση ασπίδα!

Όμως κάτω, τουρτουρίζοντας το κορίτσι εκείνο τρέχει. Τώρα στάθηκε στην πόρτα μας. Ψωμί λέγει πως δεν έχει, πως κρυώνει, πως επάχωσε... «Έλα μέσα, κοριτσάκι. Το τραπέζι μας εστρώθηκε κι αναμμένο είναι το τζάκι».

Κώστας Καρυωτάκης



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Seferis Workshop Un. Wales : 7/2
- Annual Memorial Afxendiou-Pallixaridis: 8/3
- Commonwealth Day: 9/3
- Celebration 25th March 1821: 21/3
- Parents Meetings: 23-28 Feb.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

NURS. & REC.

Koralia Th
Panos C
Elsa T
Nektarios Angelos K.
Charalampos K.

YEAR 3 & 4.

Anastasia A S
Athanasios S
Savvas P
Alexandra J

YEAR 6/ GCSE 1-2

Anton M.
Anatoli M.
Giorgos K.
Christina G.
Fotios M

YEAR 1

Natalia K
Zacharias Z

YEAR 5

Raphaella S.
Panagiotis D.
Christos K.

LEVEL 1

Elaina N
Angelina B
Katerina J

YEAR 1 ADV. & 2

Phoebe G.
Ioanna P.
Eleni M.
Evangelos M.
Vasilis N.

WOW!

A+

ELLINOMATHEIA

Katerina M
Anna G

AWARDS OF THE YEAR 2025

Many Congratulations to
our Ellinomatheia and
GCSE Candidates of May -

June 2025
for their outstanding
results



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Rights Respecting Schools Silver award



Congratulations!

Proud Announcement – A Historic Achievement for Our School
The Greek School of Ayia Triada, Birmingham is pleased to announce a significant and historic achievement for our school community.

Following a three-hour RRSA accreditation meeting with members of staff, students, and members of the management board, and after a thorough review of the three RRSA strands and the nine outcomes, we are immensely proud to confirm that our school has been officially awarded the UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)

SILVER AWARD



This outstanding achievement reflects the collective dedication, collaboration, and shared vision of our students, staff, parents, and wider community in placing children's rights at the heart of education. Congratulations to everyone involved — together, we have made history.



EUROPE

EU Parliament ambassadors' meeting

Greek School Ayia Triada Birmingham's Junior Ambassadors will take part in the European Parliament Ambassador Schools (EPAS) 10th anniversary competition: what Europe means to me in an image.

Contest!



grschayiatriadabirmingham By IAKOVOS ANASTASAKIS

Europe is a living dialogue between past and present. Its strength lies in the way ancient and modern wine



grschayiatriadabirmingham By Adrian M...

Europe to me is identity witho...



grschayiatriadabirmingham By Haris Agapakis

The EU means respect, unity and togetherness. Despite our differences we are fundamentally united by the values of



grschayiatriadabirmingham By Dimitrios...

...turing the Jacques Delors b...



grschayiatriadabirmingham By Georgios Marios



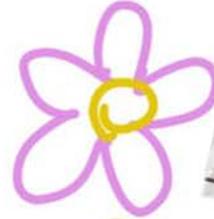
Their entries are online on our school's Instagram page and if one of them is chosen we can win an educational trip to Brussels!! Thank you EPAS!!



NURSERY-RECEPTION



MONDAY & TUESDAY





SATURDAY



Have Fun



Smiles
ARE ALWAYS
IN FASHION





THURSDAYS HARBORNE



you're
AMAZING

Our Greek community in the West Midlands is growing, and so is our Greek school! We are delighted to announce that we started classes in Harborne.

It is wonderful to see so many little ones joining us on the journey of the Greek language and culture!

We are running two classes: one for early years children aged 3.5-6, and one for beginners in Greek aged 7-10. The sessions take place at the Quinborne Community Centre every Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30. More children are very welcome to join our sessions. For further information, please contact the school directly.



**PROUD
OF
YOU**



THREE HIERARCHES CELEBRATION

On 1/2/26, our students gathered at our church to celebrate the Three Hierarchs with a beautiful program of poems, songs, and traditional dances. The celebration reflected the spirit of faith, learning, and culture that the Three Hierarchs represent. Following the program, a wonderful dinner was shared by everyone, creating a joyful and welcoming atmosphere. The evening concluded with an award ceremony honoring the students who successfully completed their GCSE and Ellinomatheia examinations last year. It was a proud and memorable occasion, celebrating both academic achievement and our strong community spirit.



DANCE CLASSES

This year, our school's dance program has truly come to life under the guidance of our wonderful dance teachers, Mrs Sotiria Karafillides and Mr Dimitris Themistokleous. The enthusiasm and energy in every class have been incredible, and it's clear how much our students look forward to dancing each week.

Dance classes take place on Mondays from 19:30-20:30 for our students, Tuesdays from 18:30-19:00 for children and 19:00-20:00 for adults, and Saturdays, with two groups running: 14:00-15:00 for school children (split into two age groups) and 15:00-16:00 for the adult dance group.

It's amazing to see how much these classes are flourishing this year, with both children and adults thoroughly enjoying the experience, building confidence, and sharing their love of dance.

Anyone interested in joining our dance classes is welcome to contact the school directly or speak with the class teachers. We are always delighted to welcome new dancers into our community.

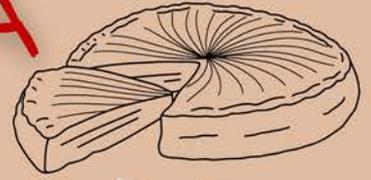




HISTORY & CULTURE



VASILOPITA



Vasilopita is one of the most well-known and beloved traditions of the Greek New Year. The custom is connected to Saint Basil, who, according to tradition, distributed bread with coins hidden inside in order to return people's money in a discreet and fair way. Since then, the Vasilopita contains a hidden coin, known as the *flouri*, which symbolizes good luck, blessings, and prosperity for the year ahead.

The cutting of the Vasilopita usually takes place on New Year's Day, within the family or community. Before it is shared, the sign of the cross is made, and the first pieces are dedicated to Christ, the Virgin Mary, Saint Basil, the home, and then to each family or community member. Whoever finds the *flouri* in their slice is believed to be blessed with good fortune throughout the year.

Beyond being a festive dessert, Vasilopita represents unity, love, and hope for a happy and blessed New Year!



Feeling
LUCKY





THEOPHANY JANUARY 6TH

Σήμερα τα φώτα κι ο φωτισμός
η χαρά μεγάλη κι ο αγιασμός.
Κάτω στον Ιορδάνη τον ποταμό
κάθετ' η κυρά μας η Παναγιά.

Όρσανο βαστάει, κερι κρατεί
και τον Αϊ-Γιάννη παρακαλεί.



Αϊ-Γιάννη αφέντη και βαπτιστή
βάπτισε κι εμένα Θεού παιδί.
Ν' ανεβώ επάνω στον ουρανό
να μαζέψω ρόδα και λίβανο.

Κάλημερα, κάληπερα.
Καλή σου μέρα αφέντη με την κυρά.

ΚΑΛΑΝΤΑ
ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ

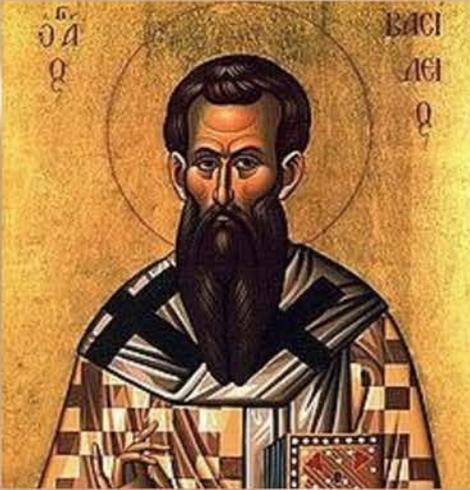
The central tradition of Theophania in Greece is the Great Blessing of the Waters. On the 6th of January, members of the clergy lead a procession to nearby bodies of water, such as the sea, rivers, or lakes.

During the ceremony, a cross is cast into the water to represent the baptism of Jesus Christ. Young participants then dive into the often icy waters, each hoping to be the one who retrieves the cross. It is believed that whoever brings it back will receive blessings and good fortune throughout the year.

Theophania is not only a significant religious observance but also an important cultural celebration. Across many towns and villages in Greece, the day is marked with music, dancing, and traditional food, creating a festive atmosphere and bringing communities together in joyful celebration.



The Three Hierarches



Μέγας Βασίλειος

St. Basil is particularly renowned for his theological writings and for his philanthropic work. He emphasized the Christian duty to care for the less fortunate and established a complex of charitable institutions known as the "Basiliad." These included a hospital, a poorhouse, and a hospice for travelers, reflecting his commitment to social justice and compassionate care for those in need.

Γιορτάζουνε τα γράμματα,
γιορτάζουν τα βιβλία,
γιορτάζουνε κι οι
δάσκαλοι
και όλα τα σχολεία.

Άγιος Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος

Known for his powerful and eloquent sermons, Gregory earned the title "The Theologian" due to the depth and precision of his theological reflections. His theological works, particularly the Five Theological Orations, are considered masterpieces of early Christian literature. He is venerated as one of the great teachers of the early Church.



Μιλούμε για τα
γράμματα
και για την προκοπή,
μιλούμε για τις αρετές
που τρέφουν την ψυχή.

Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος

Known for his profound sermons and theological writings, St. John Chrysostom's preaching was characterized by his emphasis on moral integrity, social justice, and asceticism. He fearlessly spoke out against corruption and injustice, earning both admiration and opposition. He is venerated as a Doctor of the Church.

Για γράμματα μας
δίνουν φως,
γι' αυτό και τα τιμούμε
και τα σοφά βιβλία μας
όλοι τα αγαπούμε.





The Rights of the Month

January

Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham is proudly a SILVER accredited Rights Respecting School.

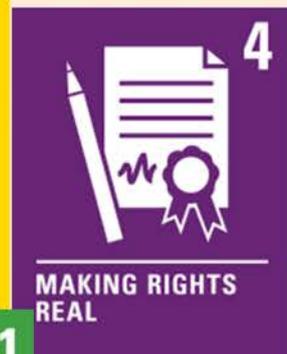
Articles of January

The Convention on the Rights of the Child brings together a range of rights that all children aged under 18 are entitled to, no matter who they are or where they are born. These rights ensure that all children are given the support they need to develop and reach their potential and are protected from harm. Governments across the world have signed up to the CRC and have promised to make the rights within the CRC a reality for children in their country and a number of articles specifically mention what governments must do to make rights happen.

Article 1 makes clear that everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

Article 4 states that governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights.

Article 41 states that if a country has laws and standards that go further than the present Convention, then the country must keep these laws.



Article 41 of the CRC says that if governments have higher standards or stronger laws than the CRC asks for, they must keep these standards. Look at the Convention and try to identify any rights which, in the UK, are promoted or protected more strongly than the Convention expects.



Under the CRC, children are rights holders; governments and adults are duty bearers who are responsible for making sure children's rights are met.

Do you know five key words related to rights? They are universal, unconditional, inherent, inalienable and indivisible!



Κυπριακή Προεδρία στο
Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης
Ιανουάριος - Ιούλιος; 2026



CY20
26.EU

Official logo of the
Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU 2026

Cyprus Presidency

Cyprus Takes the Helm: Presidency of the European Council

From January to July 2026, all eyes are on Cyprus, as the country takes over the Presidency of the European Council. For six months, Cyprus will lead discussions, set priorities, and help coordinate the work of the European Union at the highest level.

The Presidency is a big responsibility. Cyprus will focus on strengthening security, supporting green and digital transitions, and promoting economic growth across Europe. It's also an opportunity for the country to highlight issues close to its heart, such as regional stability, migration, and the protection of European values.



January-July 2026

For students, this is an exciting chance to see how European countries work together. The Presidency shows how smaller nations, like Cyprus, can take on major leadership roles and influence decisions that affect millions of people. It's also a reminder that politics, cooperation, and teamwork happen on a big stage, not just in classrooms!

Cyprus' leadership of the Council is an inspiring example of how dedication and diplomacy can make a real difference. As young Europeans, it's a great moment to learn about the EU, its priorities, and how countries collaborate to solve challenges together.

Further Read

<https://cyprus-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/the-programme-priorities-and-logo-of-the-cyprus-presidency-of-the-council-of-the-eu-2026-unveiled/>

Fun Facts about Cyprus



DID YOU KNOW?



Cyprus is the smallest EU country by population to ever hold the Presidency of the European Council!



The Presidency rotates every six months among EU countries, giving each a chance to set priorities and lead meetings.

- **From January to July 2026**, Cyprus will host dozens of EU leaders for important summits and discussions.



The European Council is not the same as the European Parliament — it's where the heads of state and government of EU countries meet to make decisions.



Cyprus will use its Presidency to focus on green energy, digital innovation, and security, showing how even a small nation can influence Europe's big decisions.



January-July 2026



Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, is the only divided capital in the world — one city, two communities — and this gives Cyprus a unique perspective on international diplomacy.



The Presidency is also a great way for students to see how teamwork and cooperation at a European level really work.



Fun fact: The EU flag with 12 stars is not related to the number of countries; it represents unity, solidarity, and harmony.



WE LOVE EUROPE

European Corner

How does Europe celebrate New Years?

New Year's celebrations across Europe offer more than just a chance to welcome the coming year—they unveil the rich cultural heritage of each destination, inviting you to connect with their traditions in an authentic way.

2026



In Portugal, New Year's Eve is steeped in meaningful traditions and a festive atmosphere that sparkles along the coastlines and cityscapes. One of the most cherished customs is eating twelve raisins at the stroke of midnight. Each raisin represents a wish for the upcoming year, a quiet, hopeful ritual that unites families and friends as they gather to share their dreams for the future.



New Year's in Spain is an occasion filled with excitement and ancient traditions, the most famous being the "Doce Uvas" (Twelve Grapes). At the stroke of midnight, Spaniards eat one grape for each chime of the clock, making a wish with each bite. This ritual is believed to bring good fortune for the twelve months ahead, and it is a fun yet meaningful tradition that fills the air with joy and anticipation.



New Year's in Italy, also known as La Festa di San Silvestro, is rich with tradition, combining elements of elegance and exuberance. One quirky yet deeply rooted custom is the wearing of red underwear. This tradition is believed to bring luck and prosperity for the coming year, and it is not unusual for Italians to buy a new pair of red undergarments to usher in a fresh start.



2026

Paris, the city of romance and sophistication, is the heart of the country's New Year's celebrations. The Eiffel Tower, illuminated in a dazzling display of lights, serves as a stunning backdrop for the festivities. Along the Champs-Élysées, crowds gather to witness the magical countdown and share in the joy of the occasion. The glamour of Paris is undeniable, as the streets glisten with festive lights and the city's chic cafés offer the perfect setting for midnight toasts.