



WE GROW AS WE LEARN

# ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

"THE POLISHED JEWEL OF THE GROVE"

VOLUME 70 | ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2026

ONE FAITH, ONE LIGHT, OUR LEGACY CONTINUES



1956 – 2026



## SCHOOL HISTORY

### A LEGACY SINCE 1956

Founded in 1956, St. Cecilia's School has faithfully served the Coconut Grove community and the Bahamas for 70 years. Established as a Catholic primary school, the school has remained committed to faith, academic excellence, character formation, and service.

Through the years, St. Cecilia's has nurtured generations of students while continuing to grow and uphold its proud legacy.

This year, we celebrate 70 years under the theme:

*One Faith • One Light • Our Legacy Continues.*

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

As we celebrate 70 years of faith-filled education, we give thanks for our rich history and look forward with hope to the future. Together, we continue to nurture hearts, inspire minds, and build strong character rooted in Christ.

**We are blessed.  
We are St. Cecilia's!**



Miss Vanta Culmer  
Principal

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 10  
Class Meetings @ 6pm
- September 17  
PTA Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
*See Calendar*

### SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

**STC Golf Team  
excels!**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Welcome to our New Teachers!

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Miss Yasmin Brown        | 2B          |
| Mrs. Lakisha Brown       | 5B          |
| Miss Dwaynisha Henderson | 3H          |
| Miss Charmeeeka Dean     | Art         |
| Mrs. Donella Wilson      | Mathematics |

**Welcome back! Ms. Cheryl Huyler KH**



FAITH IN OUR HEARTS. LIGHT IN OUR MINDS. SERVICE IN OUR HANDS.



| Administrators   |                         |                      |                                                                                |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                | Culmer, Vanta           | Principal            | vculmer@cec.edu.bs                                                             |
| 2                | Minnis, Teresine        | Vice Principal       | tminnis@cec.edu.bs                                                             |
| TEACHERS & AIDES |                         |                      |                                                                                |
| 1                | Brown, Lueretha         | KB                   | lbrown@cec.edu.bs                                                              |
| 2                | Rolle, Deborah          | Kgn Aide             | drolle@cec.edu.bs                                                              |
| 3                | Huyler, Cheryl          | KH                   | chuyler@cec.edu.bs                                                             |
| 4                | Lockhart, Renathia      | Kgn Aide             | <a href="mailto:renathia.lockhart@cec.edu.bs">renathia.lockhart@cec.edu.bs</a> |
| 5                | Allen, Savanna          | 1A                   | <a href="mailto:shall@cec.edu.bs">shall@cec.edu.bs</a>                         |
| 6                | Gardiner, Shernell      | 1G                   | <a href="mailto:sgardiner@cec.edu.bs">sgardiner@cec.edu.bs</a>                 |
| 7                | Gilbert, Azaria         | Grade 1 Aide         | <a href="mailto:azaria.gilbert@cec.edu.bs">azaria.gilbert@cec.edu.bs</a>       |
| 8                | Brown, Yasmin           | 2B                   | yasmin.brown@cec.edu.bs                                                        |
| 9                | Edwards, Rudell         | 2E                   | rferguson@cec.edu.bs                                                           |
| 10               | Henderson, Dwaynisha    | 3H                   | dhenderson@cec.edu.bs                                                          |
| 11               | Pratt, Demetria         | 3P                   | dpratt@cec.edu.bs                                                              |
| 12               | Miller, Shantel         | 4M                   | sdavis@cec.edu.bs                                                              |
| 13               | Moss, Valishta          | 4VM                  | valishta.moss@cec.edu.bs                                                       |
| 14               | Brown, Lakisha          | 5B                   | lakisha.brown@cec.edu.bs                                                       |
| 15               | Walkes, Arona           | 5AW                  | <a href="mailto:awalkes@cec.edu.bs">awalkes@cec.edu.bs</a>                     |
| 16               | Bolton, Denise          | 6B                   | <a href="mailto:denise.bolton@cec.edu.bs">denise.bolton@cec.edu.bs</a>         |
| 17               | Williams, Gillian       | 6W                   | <a href="mailto:gwilliams@cec.edu.bs">gwilliams@cec.edu.bs</a>                 |
| 18               | Dean, Charmeeke         | Art                  | cdean@cec.edu.bs                                                               |
| 19               | Richards, Antonia       | Computer             | antonia.christie-richards@cec.edu.bs                                           |
| 20               | Wilson, Donella         | Mathematics          | donella.wilson@cec.edu.bs                                                      |
| 21               | Taylor, Ashton          | Music                | <a href="mailto:ashton.taylor@cec.edu.bs">ashton.taylor@cec.edu.bs</a>         |
| 22               | Henfield, Rochelle      | PE                   | <a href="mailto:rochelle.henfield@cec.edu.bs">rochelle.henfield@cec.edu.bs</a> |
| 23               | Bethel, Takeria         | Reading              | <a href="mailto:tknowles@cec.edu.bs">tknowles@cec.edu.bs</a>                   |
| 24               | Curry, Janis            | Religion             | jcurry@cec.edu.bs                                                              |
| 25               | Hudson, Taja            | Spanish              | <a href="mailto:taja.hudson@cec.edu.bs">taja.hudson@cec.edu.bs</a>             |
| 26               | McPhee, Ashea           | Substitute (Spanish) | ashea.mcphee@cec.edu.bs                                                        |
| STAFF            |                         |                      |                                                                                |
| 27               | Durham, Shantique       | Guidance Counselor   | sdurham@cec.edu.bs                                                             |
| 28               | Williams-Boodle, Latoya | Nurse                | latoya.boodle@cec.edu.bs                                                       |
| 29               | Griffin, Marie          | Secretary            | marie.griffin@cec.edu.bs                                                       |
| 30               | Johnson, Judy           | Custodian            | judyann.johnson@cec.edu.bs                                                     |
| 31               | Taylor, Janet           | Custodian            | janet.taylor@cec.edu.bs                                                        |
| 32               | Tinker-Brown, Shereka   | Custodian            | shereka.brown@cec.edu.bs                                                       |
| 33               | McKenzie, Andrew        | Custodian            | andrew.mckenzie@cec.edu.bs                                                     |





**September  
2026**



Website

<http://saintcecilia.cec.edu.bs>

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stceciliacatholicsschool>

## Dates to Remember

Dates are Subject to Change

### August 2026

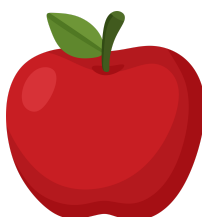
- 28 Opening of 2026-2027 Academic Year  
Dress Code: PE Shirt, Long Jeans, Tennis Shoes  
(Noon Dismissal)
- 31 First full day of classes (Full Day)

### September 2026

- 07 International Literacy Day
- 07 Caribbean Wellness Day
- 10 Class Meeting - Grades K-6 - School Grounds (6:00 p.m.)
- 17 General PTA Meeting - St. Joseph's Hall (6:30 p.m.)

### October 2026

- 02 Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Tournament begins
- 04 World Teachers' Day
- 06 Staff Meeting (2 p.m. dismissal)
- 08 Grade 6 - Grade Level Retreat
- 12 HOLIDAY - National Heroes' Day
- TBA Character Day
- 22 Archbishop Patrick Pinder Visit
- 23 Distribution of Progress Report Cards
- TBA 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event
- 30 & 2 Nov. Mid-Term Break



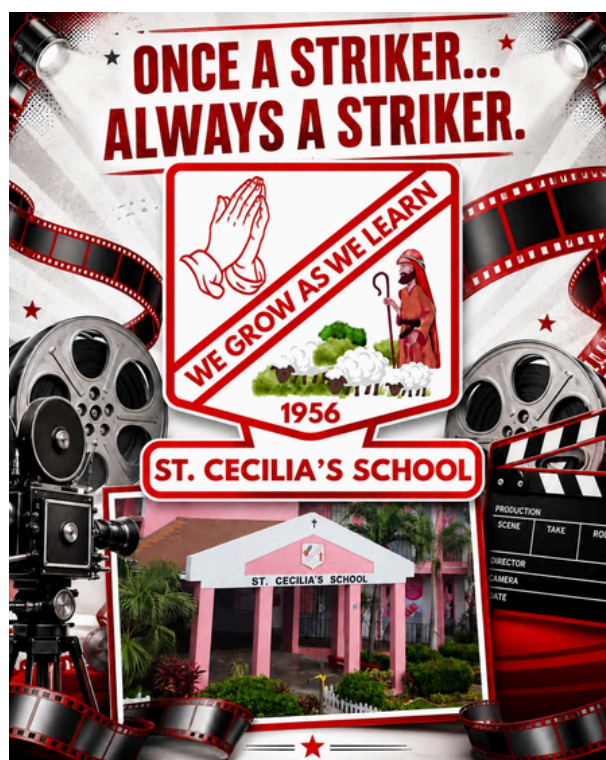
### November 2026

- 01 Feast of All Saints - Mass
- 02 Mid-Term Break
- 03 School Reopens after Mid-term break (full day)
- 04 Founders' Day - 137th Anniversary of Catholic Education in the Bahamas
- 05 Grade 5 - Grade Level Retreat
- 07 The Celestial Race CBOE Scavenger Hunt & Block Party
- 12 Staff Meeting (2 p.m. Dismissal)
- 17 Writing Examination
- 18 Language Examination
- 19 Mathematics Examination
- 20 World Children's Day
- 22 Feast of St. Cecilia (Visit St. Cecilia's 9 a.m. Mass)
- 29 First Sunday of Advent

### December 2026

- 02 First Day of Second Term (School Fees Due)
- 02 Grade 4 - Grade Level Retreat
- 01-04 CBE Basketball Play-offs and Championship games
- 08 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 15 Christmas Production (St. Joseph's Hall 6 p.m.)
- 18 First Semester Report Card Distribution
- 18 School & Office Closes for Christmas Vacation
- 29 School Office Opens at 8 a.m.
- 30 School Office Closes at 1 p.m.

School Reopens- January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2027



# **CLASS PARENT MEETING**



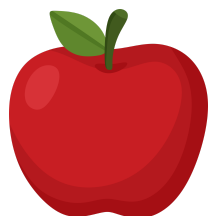
**THURSDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**  
**6 P.M.**  
**SCHOOL GROUNDS**

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# **PTA MEETING**

**THURSDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2026**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL**







# St. Cecilia's SCHOOL CLUBS

Learn  
Grow  
Lead!

★ DISCOVER ★ LEARN ★ GROW ★ BELONG ★



All clubs would commence by the  
**2nd week in September.**

Check with your child's class teacher for more information.



## SUNFLOWER

Mondays  
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.



## CULTURE CLUB

2nd & 4th Wednesdays  
3:15 - 3:45 p.m.



## BROWNIES

Tuesdays  
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.



## PRINCESS CLUB

Wednesdays & Fridays  
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.



## K-KIDS

Thursdays  
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.



## STREAM

Fridays  
2:15 p.m.



## COOKING

Mondays  
3:15 - 3:45 p.m.



## CHOIR

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.



## ART

Wednesdays  
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.



## MALE EMPOWERMENT

Fridays  
2:15 - 3:00 p.m.



## ECO CLUB

Wednesdays  
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.



## RED CROSS

Tuesdays  
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.

≡ TO BE ANNOUNCED ≡



GOLF



SPELLING



PENMANSHIP



YOUNG CHEF



CHEERLEADERS  
CLUB



DANCE

BE  
YOU!

# JOIN A CLUB TODAY!

BE  
INVOLVED.  
BE  
AMAZING!





FROM THE DESK OF

# Nurse Booodle

CARING FOR OUR STUDENTS,  
*Every Day, In Every Way.*

- ♥ HEALTHY MINDS
- ♥ HEALTHY BODIES
- ♥ BRIGHTER FUTURES



YOUR HEALTH. OUR PRIORITY. ♥ ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL

## Medication Administration & Student Health Reminders

- **Classroom teachers are NOT permitted to administer medication to students.**
- All prescription medications must be brought to the Business Office and vetted by the school nurse before administration, according to school procedures.  
**DO NOT SEND MEDICATION IN YOUR CHILD'S BAG.**
- Students who use asthma pumps are reminded to have an extra pump available in the Business Office in case of an emergency.
- **All medications must be properly labelled, clearly identifying the student's name, medication, dosage, and relevant instructions.**
- Staff members should refer all medication-related concerns to the school nurse or Business Office and should not administer medication independently.

## Sick Certificate

If a student is absent for a day or more, he/she should bring a note from his/her parent or a doctor's certificate stating why he/she was out of school. Students will not be allowed in classes without a note/certificate.



# School Fee Information



## The fees for the 2026-2027 school year are as follows:

Term Fee - \$1,113.00 (per term)

(June 30, December 1, March 1)

Annual Fee - \$3,081.60

(Due by Sept 1)

### Payment Plan

Monthly Fee - \$338.90 (10 months)

(June 30 -March 30)



## 1ST TERM SCHOOL FEE

Please be reminded that students will not receive their textbooks if payment has not been made.

First Term Fees were due

June 30, 2026.

## Tuition Refund Policy

If a student leaves within **1-2 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is entitled to 75% refund.

If a student leaves within **3-4 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is entitled to 50 % refund.

If a student leaves after **4 weeks** from the start of the term, the parent is not entitled to a refund.

Registration, Capital Development Fund Fee, testing and special fees are **non refundable and non transferable.**

School fees can be paid through the online portal at [www.TuitionPay.io](http://www.TuitionPay.io) or at Royal Bank of Canada or First Caribbean International Bank. After making the payment, please email all fee receipts to the following email addresses:

Mrs. Griffin - [marie.griffin@cec.edu.bs](mailto:marie.griffin@cec.edu.bs)

Miss Culmer - [vculmer@cec.edu.bs](mailto:vculmer@cec.edu.bs)

Miss Minnis - [tminnis@cec.edu.bs](mailto:tminnis@cec.edu.bs)



## GRADE 6

Tuition remains the same for sixth graders except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Term. **An additional \$110 is added for graduation fees, bringing the total to \$1,223.00.**

In addition to Awards Day, Grade 6 teachers will plan extra activities for the **Grade 6 SWAG Package** at an additional cost.

**These activities may include a Grade 6 luncheon, a class t-shirt, professional photos, and other student activities and paraphernalia.**

These additional activities help our graduating students create lasting memories and feel a sense of achievement as they move on to the next phase of their education.

**Participation in some of the activities is optional.**



# UNIFORM

## GIRLS:

**Jewellery** - small ear-knobs and wristwatch

### Kgn- Grade 3

- Pink Jumper
- White Peter Pan Shirt
- Pink Necktie
- White Socks and Black Shoes
- Absolutely NO weave or extensions

### Grades 4-6

- Pink Skirt (below the knee)
- White Peter Pan Blouse
- Crest (on left Pocket)
- Pink Necktie
- White Socks and Black Shoes
- Absolutely NO weave or extensions

## BOYS

**Jewellery:** None-Smart Wristwatch ONLY

### KGN - Grade 3

- Short Navy Pants – knee-length
- White collar shirt
- Necktie
- Crest (on left pocket)
- Blue Socks
- Black Shoes

### Grades 4-6

- Long Navy Pants – (no jeans of any sort)
- White-collar shirt
- Necktie
- Crest (on left pocket)
- Blue Socks and Black Shoes

**P.E. Kits, Sweaters and  
Jackets  
are on sale in the office.**



**Cell phones and smart watches are not allowed in school!**



## BIRTHDAYS... CUPCAKES ONLY!

Students will be allowed to bring cupcakes to school. All classroom teachers and the office have birthday forms, which parents should complete and return to the classroom teacher ahead of time. **NO PARTY BAGS! NO MASCOTS! NO BALLOONS!**

## Lunch

Please be informed that the school will NOT allow food to be warmed in the microwave for safety reasons. We kindly encourage you to purchase a thermos for your child to keep their meals warm.

The breakfast and lunch program is outsourced to a private vendor. Breakfast is served from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. Grits, tuna, sausage, corned beef, cereal, pancakes and other items are available. Lunch orders are taken during the homeroom period.



# ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL

## DROP-OFF & PICK-UP POLICY



### OPTION 1



#### 3rd STREET DRIVE-UP

- 1 Drive up to the stage.
- 2 Make a U-turn.
- 3 Let the child(ren) off by the office entrance.

### OPTION 2



#### 4th STREET DRIVE-THROUGH

- 1 Enter through the northern gate (Coconut Grove Avenue).
- 2 Stay to the right. Drive up to the white picket fence.
- 3 Let the child(ren) off as quickly as possible.
- 4 Leave through the southern gate (Palm Tree Avenue).

**GATE LOCKED AT 3:30 P.M.**

### Drop-Off & Pick-up Areas

Kgn & Grade 1  
Classrooms

Grade 2  
Pavilion (mornings)  
Grade 2 Class Porch Area (afternoons)

Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6  
Pavilion Area

*rainy days*

Students will remain in the classrooms. Students names will be called over the PA system for collection.



### MORNING DROP-OFF:

**\*\* (If students are brought to school early) \*\***

Parents/guardians, please remain with your child/children until 8:00 a.m., when the security guard and office personnel arrive.



### AFTERNOON PICK-UP:

You are reminded to collect students no later than **3:15 p.m.\*\***



- Clubs are dismissed at **3:45 p.m.**
- Students should not be on campus after **4:00 p.m.**, as the security guard leaves at **3:30 p.m.** and the office staff leaves at **4:00 p.m.\*\***



*Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students safe and ensuring a smooth drop-off and pick-up experience.*

**SAFE STUDENTS • STRONG COMMUNITY • ST. CECILIA'S FAMILY**

### Bell Schedule

#### ARRIVAL

**1st Bell 8:15 a.m.**

**2nd Bell 8:30 a.m.**

#### DISMISSAL

**Kindergarten**

**2:45 p.m.**

**Grades 1 - 6**

**3:00 p.m.**







# **IMPORTANT REMINDER**



## **Parents Attire on School Campus**

**As we continue to create a positive and respectful learning environment for our students, please be reminded of our school's dress code policy regarding attire worn on campus.**

**We believe that appropriate dress plays a significant role in maintaining a focused and respectful atmosphere. Therefore, we kindly ask that all parents adhere to our dress code guidelines when entering the school campus. Inappropriate attire, including but not limited to clothing with offensive graphics or language, excessively revealing outfits, and items that do not align with our school values, will result in you not being allowed to enter the campus. We appreciate your support. Together, we can ensure that our school remains a place where everyone feels comfortable and focused.**

**Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.**



## **GOOD NEWS PLANNER 2026/2027**

**Students in Grades 1 through 6 will receive a student planner. Please review the General Rules for All Catholic Primary Schools.**

# **Absolutely NO hair extensions.**



***Please adhere to the school rules.***

- ***No extensions will be accepted. (That is inclusive of, but not limited to braids and locks)***
- ***No hair colours (bleached or dyed hair is unacceptable)***
- ***NO beads allowed.***
- ***Schoolboy cut ONLY, no designs inclusive but not limited to arrows/roads.***

***If a student is identified as having any infraction, the parent/ guardian will be called to pick up the child to correct the named violation.***

# **Thank You Parents**

**For entrusting your child / children to us.  
We truly appreciate you.**



70<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

ST. CECILIA'S SCHOOL



Home of the Strikers

70<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

1956-2026

*Celebrating*

70 YEARS

*One Faith, One Light, One  
Journey*

*Our Legacy Continues*

**Stay tuned for our monthly activities**





# JUDY'S Kitchen

**BREAKFAST IS SERVED DAILY  
BETWEEN 7:45 AND 8:15 A.M.**



**PLEASE NOTE THE CAFETERIA PRICE CHANGES**



**BREAKFAST  
\$3.00**

**LUNCH  
\$5.00**



## BREAKFAST ITEMS



**TUNA**



**CORN BEEF  
OR SAUSAGE  
AND GRITS**



**PANCAKES**



**CEREAL**

## LUNCH

**MONDAYS**

Grill Cheese, Ham,  
Tuna Sandwich or Wraps



**TUESDAYS**

Pasta



**WEDNESDAYS**

Chicken & Fries



**THURSDAYS**

Pizza



**FRIDAYS**

Dinners



**BEEF HOT DOGS  
ARE SOLD DAILY FOR**

**\$4.00**



**FRUITS, VEGGIE SALAD AND FRUIT SALAD ARE SOLD DAILY**



## DRINKS

**WATER ONLY  
ON WEDNESDAYS**

**WATER, SUNNY D,  
BLUEBIRD JUICE,  
SWITCHA**

**ARE AVAILABLE DAILY**



**WE SERVE  
DELICIOUS FOOD  
MADE WITH CARE  
BECAUSE YOU  
MATTER!**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

**♥ ENJOY YOUR MEALS! ♥**

## AFTERSCHOOL

**POP ICE  
ARE SOLD  
AFTERSCHOOL**



*Good Food. Great Prices. Happy Hearts!*







# Judy's

## KITCHEN

### LUNCH MENU

### SEPTEMBER

Options may  
change, however,  
students will get a  
24 hours notice.



| MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                 | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                   | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                          | THURSDAY                                                                                                              | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Tuesday 1st</b><br>Pasta with<br>Ground Beef<br>      | <b>Wednesday 2nd</b><br>Chicken &<br>Fries<br>    | <b>Thursday 3rd</b><br>Pizza<br>    | <b>Friday 4th</b><br>Curry Chicken,<br>White Rice &<br>Vegetables<br>                           |
| <b>Monday 7th</b><br>Grill Cheese<br>or Beef<br>Hot Dogs<br>                         | <b>Tuesday 8th</b><br>Pasta with<br>Tuna Salad<br>     | <b>Wednesday 9th</b><br>Chicken &<br>Fries<br>  | <b>Thursday 10th</b><br>Pizza<br> | <b>Friday 11th</b><br>Sausage &<br>White Rice<br>                                             |
| <b>Monday 14th</b><br>Grill Cheese<br>or Hamburger<br>Sandwich<br>                   | <b>Tuesday 15th</b><br>Spaghetti<br>                   | <b>Wednesday 16th</b><br>Chicken &<br>Fries<br> | <b>Thursday 17th</b><br>Pizza<br> | <b>Friday 18th</b><br>Vegetable Rice<br>with Fish Fingers<br>                                 |
| <b>Monday 21st</b><br>Ham, Turkey<br>or Tuna Wrap<br>or Beef Hot Dog<br>Sandwich<br> | <b>Tuesday 22nd</b><br>Pasta with<br>Chicken Salad<br> | <b>Wednesday 23rd</b><br>Chicken &<br>Fries<br> | <b>Thursday 24th</b><br>Pizza<br> | <b>Friday 25th</b><br>Mashed Potatoes<br>with BBQ Chicken<br>Drumsticks and<br>Vegetables<br> |
| <b>Monday 28th</b><br>Grill Cheese<br>or Tuna<br>Sandwich<br>                        | <b>Tuesday 29th</b><br>Chicken<br>Fettuccine<br>       | <b>Wednesday 30th</b><br>Chicken &<br>Fries<br> |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                    |

Good Food  
Great Day! 

Thank you for your continued support!

Judy's Kitchen 

