

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

Wilnecote Lane, Tamworth, B77 2LF Tel: 01827 213910

E-mail: office@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

17th June 2021

Volume 12 Number 35

Dear Parents

FRIDAY 18TH JUNE (tomorrow) - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Please note - school staff have a teacher training day tomorrow.

Don't Give Up Now

IN LIGHT OF THE LATEST CONCERNS REGARDING THE NEW VARIANT, IT IS ONLY SENSIBLE TO CONTINUE WITH THE CAUTIOUS WAYS OF WORKING, TO TRY AND MINIMISE INCREASED SPREAD.

Staffordshire County Council have launched a "Don't Give Up Now" campaign. We are all asked to keep following the guidelines, get tested twice a week and to book a vaccination when we're offered one.

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER TAKE A TEST AS A RESULT OF COVID SYMPTOMS, WHICH ARE:

- A HIGH TEMPERATURE (FEVER) - HOT TO TOUCH
- A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH
- A CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

YOU MUST SELF-ISOLATE AND STAY AT HOME, AS A HOUSEHOLD, UNTIL YOU RECEIVE YOUR RESULTS.

PLEASE NOTIFY SCHOOL (USING THE EMAIL ADDRESS BELOW) OF YOUR RESULTS, EITHER WAY, TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF OTHERS IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

confirmedcovidcase@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

Thank you to all these parents who have continued to inform and communicate with us via this e-mail.

KEY INFECTION AND PREVENTION CONTROLS REMAIN IN PLACE as published in the "daily plan". By following these measures we all reduce risks in our setting and create a safer environment.

We **MUST** always:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. Ensure face coverings are used in recommended circumstances.

3. Ensure everyone is advised to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
4. Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
5. Maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents.
6. Consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
7. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
8. Ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary.
9. Promote and engage in asymptomatic testing, where available.
10. Promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
11. Manage and report confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community.
12. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.

DEFERRED INSET DAY

The school cancelled the Inset day which was to be taken on 29th January 2021 in order to stay open for key worker and vulnerable children. In line with government guidance, I have consulted with the chair of governors and have identified when this day will now be taken. This teacher training day will now be taken on **Wednesday 21st July 2021**. The final day for pupils will therefore be Tuesday 20th July 2021.

Collection at end of day

All parents and carers are reminded - wait patiently as children are dismissed. We can only send one child at a time, while the teacher records the adult collecting. Please be clear that this is to satisfy safeguarding requirements and to ensure ALL children go home safely. Parents are asked NOT TO QUEUE OFF MARLBOROUGH ROAD OR WILNECOTE LANE as this is blocking the flow of local traffic. Thank you.

Hot Weather

Now that the weather is warmer please remember to send your child in with a suitable hat to wear at playtimes.

Please ensure that on hot/sunny days you apply cream BEFORE YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL. Do not send children to school with bottles of sun cream. We are not allowed to apply sun cream for children.

Children need to have had their hay fever medication before they come in to school and bring a water bottle with them.

Unless there is a medical reason, children should not be bringing sunglasses into school. Please ensure all belongings are named and labelled. Thank you

Bikes

If using the cycle rack to leave bikes or scooters on the school premises then please ensure they are secured with a bike lock. We cannot accept any responsibility for any bikes or scooters left on school premises. Thank you

Wow Active

Mr Fowler writes. Children from Reception and years 2,3 and 4 have been enjoying the opportunity of an extra fitness session this week with representatives from Wow Active. Each class bubble has completed different fitness tests (socially distanced) to help promote exercises they could complete at home.

Many thanks to Michael Brennan, from Wow Active who helped the children complete different fitness tests such as: burpees, shuttle runs and get ups.

Wow Active will be in school again next week to facilitate more fitness tests with children from years 1, 5 and 6.

- Please could children in **Year 1** and **Y5AC** and **Y6BF** come to school in their PE kits on **Wednesday 23rd June 2021**
- Please could children in **5HB** and **Y6ST** come to school in their PE kits on **Thursday 24th June 2021**.

First Holy Communions 2020/2021

Congratulations to all the children who have received Holy Communion for the first time recently. **There will be a Corpus Christi Procession on June 20th (this coming Sunday) after the 9.00am Mass.** An opportunity to dress up again and honour the Blessed Sacrament as we process around Sacred Heart - all welcome.

Clean Air Day 2021

Happy Clean Air Day 2021



Today is National Clean Air Day and here in Staffordshire we are doing our bit to try and help make the air you breathe cleaner and healthier.

Could you give YOUR car the day off?

Did you know:

- 1/3 of ALL car journeys in Staffordshire are less than 2 miles, they could easily be substituted by sustainable travel
- idling cars pump out about 150 balloons worth of harmful gas every minute!
- poor air quality is responsible for 500 deaths in Staffordshire every year
- that idling is the single biggest contributor to poor air pollution outside schools
- 30% of all asthma cases in children are down to air pollution

The Big Bee Challenge

Our bees are in trouble! The bee population across the UK has decline significantly in recent years. Bees help to pollinate three quarters of the plants that produce 90% of the world's food!. A third of the world's food production depends on bees, i.e. every third spoonful of food depends on pollination.



Now the bees need our help:

The Big Bee Challenge is Radio 2's brand new competition for kids, in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society. It's a fun and creative way to learn more about bees and other insects that help provide much of the food we eat, and are essential for a healthy environment. If you are between the ages of 6 and 12, we want you to design a bright, buzzy garden that will attract bees and other pollinating insects. The winner's design will be built by the RHS at an NHS Trust site which is used by children and young people with mental health needs.

The lucky winner will be invited to open the garden at an outside broadcast of [The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show](#) on Friday 20 August 2021! You will meet loads of guests, receive a professional illustration of your garden design and go home with a box of goodies to help turn your own outside space into a wonderland for bees. Each shortlisted finalist will also receive an array of bee themed goodies. It's super simple to enter. Download our garden design entry form and paint, sketch or draw a gorgeous garden.

Think about the plants that bees love. Remember bees also get thirsty and they need a safe place to rest and lay their eggs. And don't forget to include a place for hospital patients, staff and visitors to sit (humans!). Then write 3-5 sentences telling us more about your design and why you want to help the bees.

Visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09j4g1m> for more details and to take part!

Fratelli Tutti

Last week we enjoyed watching Cafod's Live Assembly about the Pope's letter 'Fratelli Tutti.' Fratelli Tutti - Brothers and Sisters all - is a letter from Pope Francis urging us all to build a better world based on fraternal love. In the assembly we learnt about how Fraternal love means caring for every man and woman, young and old, with the same care as the Good Samaritan, who refused to walk by and ignore the injured man as other people had done. He saw the injured man not as an outsider, but instead as a brother. The assembly challenged us to think of ourselves more and more as a single family living in a common home. 'Each of us bringing the richness of our faiths and beliefs, each of us with our own voice, brothers and sisters all.' If you would like to watch the assembly or learn more about Fratelli Tutti please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Primary-school-assemblies/Fratelli-Tutti-primary>

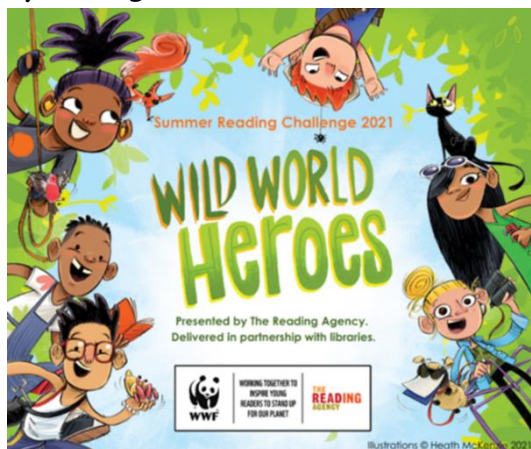


Summer Reading Challenge

The 2021 Summer Reading Challenge is going to be launching in libraries across Staffordshire and the rest of the country on Saturday 10th July!

This year the Summer Reading Challenge has a Wild World Heroes theme:

Pack your bags, we're headed for Wilderville!



It's a pretty cool place, but there are lots of things that the Wild World Heroes can do to make their town even better for the people and animals that live there.

*Join the Wild World Heroes for the Summer Reading Challenge and discover how **you can make a difference** to the environment too.*

*We're teaming up with **WWF** for a very special nature-themed Challenge that will inspire you to stand up for the planet!*

Wild World Heroes will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment.

*Are you excited to join the **#WildWorldHeroes** this summer?*

You can join the Summer Reading Challenge at your local library or online - visit

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> for more details.

To complete the challenge you just need to register and read 6 books during the Summer - as you read you can collect rewards include stickers and certificates!

Tamworth Library are taking part - a leaflet with details is attached to the newsletter email.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a fantastic way to encourage your children to keep reading during the Summer - please do take a look and take part!

Message from the Kitchen

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 21st June 2021 is as follows:

Monday: Pizza, Dough Balls and Sweetcorn

Tuesday: Big Breakfast - See attached menu

Look out for the Golden Ticket!

Wednesday: Roast Dinner

Thursday: Beef Meatballs, Rice and Garlic Bread

Friday: Fish Fingers and Chips

The Heart of Tamworth Community Shop as seen at www.tamworthrc.church

Visit the HOT COMMUNITY SHOP based at sacred heart church for your shopping. They are there to give a helping hand to those who need it.

1 bag of shopping = £4

2 bags of shopping = £7

A selection of fruit and veg is available free when you buy your bag.

Opening times: Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm, Sunday - closed. Thank you to all those who continue to donate food and hygiene items.

Citizens Advice Mid Mercia - EU Settlement Scheme

Citizen's Advice Mid Mercia are working alongside the Government in order to reach out to all of the families in Tamworth and East Staffordshire to support them with their EU Settled Status. The Government has recognised that not all families are aware that they need to ensure they have been granted settled or pre-settled status by the end of June 2021.

Parish Mission Saturday 19th June to Sunday 27th June 2021 - Information from the Parish

St. John the Baptist Parish with
Sacred Heart Church



Dear Parents,

You may or may not be aware of our up and coming Parish Mission Week
Sat 19th

June – Sun 27th June. We take this opportunity to invite your families to
join us for
this special time. A time to have fun and reflect; where we can appreciate
the

precious gift

of each other as a community. A time to engage with ourselves and our
faith that is enriched through our connection with Christ.

Below is a schedule for the events happening in our Parish Mission Week

Come and join us and be refreshed.

Look forward to seeing you there,

The Parish Team



From Sat June 19th till Sunday June 27th

What the Mission will look like:

June Dates	Time	Activity
Sat/Sunday June 19 th /20 th	Usual Masses	The opening of the Mission with Masses led by Fr Gareth and input from Sion team members Corpus Christi procession led by FHC children after 9 am Mass Picnic after 12 noon Mass
Monday 21 st	9.30am SJ 7.00pm SH 11-12 noon SJ	Morning and evening Masses followed by a short session with teaching on how to pray. Holy Hour – quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament
Monday 21 st	2-4.00pm SH Evening	An afternoon talk for the retired involved in parish life, followed by afternoon tea - Tickets for the Afternoon tea £2 to cover costs How to maintain/deepen your faith in a foreign land – in Polish
Tuesday 22 nd	9.30am SH 7.00pm SJ 11-12 noon SH 6.30 -7.30 pm	Masses with testimonies at each Church followed by some reflection on praying with the Bible Holy Hour – quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament Online session with parents
Wed 23 rd	9.30am SJ 11-12 noon SJ 7.00pm SH	Mass at St John's with workshop: Catholic Prayers - praying the rosary Holy Hour – quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament Service at Sacred Heart focussing on the call to serve, with a blessing on all who are doing God's work in some way, followed by refreshments.
Thurs 24 th	9.30am SH 7.00pm SJ 10-12 am 11-12 noon SH 6.30-7.30pm	Feast of St John the Baptist, our parish patron. Masses at each Church. Talk after 7pm Mass – <i>What does Baptism mean for me?</i> One to one sessions with members of Sion team Holy Hour Parents online – <i>'My vocation/calling'</i> Retreat Day in both schools
Friday 25 th	9.30am SJ 7.00pm SJ 10.15 – 11.15am 11-12 noon SJ	Morning and evening Masses. Evening Mass will have sacrament of the sick and prayers for healing. 'Prayer walks' will be arranged at St John's after Mass. Holy Hour – quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 26 th	Both Masses led by Sion team	Youth Activity Day – fun with spiritual focus – 9.00am to 3.40pm for Y3-Y6. Forms in Church porch.
Sunday 27 th	3 Masses	Fr Gareth leading Masses and preaching. Dan Callow doing music at Sacred Heart with a focus on families Refreshments after the 12 noon Mass

We don't expect anyone to do all of this.

**We just hope everyone will dip into the things that will help them and
use the booklets to pray each day.**

Some important moments include:

- *Daily prayer and prayer workshops*
- *Celebrating our generous volunteers (Wednesday evening)*
- *Celebrating our Feast Day and the gift of Baptism (Thursday)*
- *Healing Mass (Friday)*
- *Parents' sessions online - contact alex@tamworthrc.church for details*

Dates for your Diary

Fri 18 th June 2021	INSET DAY - School closed to pupils
Sat 19 th June 2021 to	Parish Mission - The theme will be "My Light and My Hope"
Sun 27 th June 2021	Please keep the dates in your diary. Themed events, retreat days, Interesting activities all at the Sacred Heart and run by Sion
Thurs 1 st July 2021	Sacrament of Confirmation - Mr Fowler's class bubble 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church
Fri 2 nd July 2021	Sacrament of Confirmation - Mrs Taggart's class bubble 7.00pm Sacred Heart Church
Tues 20 th July 2021	Last day for pupils
Weds 21 st July 2021	INSET DAY - School closed to pupils

"O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in thee."

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher