

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents



Lent

Ash Wednesday (yesterday) sees the start of the holy season of Lent. It was great to see the 42 parents and carers in the hall with us yesterday. I hope you were able to reflect and enjoy the experience created by the pupils and Fr. Subba, as we shared ashes.

Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can try to stop and think about our relationship with God.

It's a good time to think about going back to Church if you have been away due to Covid.

There are many opportunities to be involved in the Catholic parish in Tamworth.

Have a look at www.tamworthrc.church

Think seriously about going along to one of the Masses at the times shown.

Cafod Family Fast Day

The Lent Cafod Family Fast Day is Friday 11th March 2022. This will be a non-school uniform day to raise money for Cafod's Lenten appeal.

We will be asking for non-uniform donations to be paid via ParentPay as we are no longer able to accept cash payments into school.

Catholic Virtues

This half term children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be learning to be **INTENTIONAL** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience, and **PROPHETIC** in the example they set to others.

Punctuality and Being on Time

Thanks to all those families who get your children down to school on time.

We open for business at 8.50am. Currently about half of the children are in school getting started with their day within 3 minutes.

The flexi start allows less congestion outside at the start of the day.

A very small number of families are still arriving after the registration bell at 9.10am. A lot of important, key work takes place in the first few minutes. Please do get your children down to school before the bell so that they DO NOT MISS OUT. Thank you.

Attendance

Further to the email sent to all parents on Monday 22nd November 2021. Please assist by:

- Not taking holidays in term-time, no period of leave for holiday can be authorised
- Only request a leave of absence when absolutely necessary
- Book routine appointments where possible outside of school times
- Not taking time off school for minor ailments - ask yourself if you would stay off work for the same
- Be on time for school - lateness disrupts the start of the day for your child and many key interventions take place in the first few minutes of the day
- Remember there are 175 non-school days per year, plenty of time for holidays, visits, days out and routine appointments

Athletics County Championships - Tuesday 1st March 2022. Mr Fowler writes:

Well done to the children in year 6, who competed in an indoor athletics tournament on Tuesday in Stoke-On-Trent. This tournament was comprised of all the best primary schools from across the county. The team were amazing and competed very well in all their events, supporting each other and cheering everybody on.

Out of eight schools, the team finished in third place and earnt themselves a certificate and a nice, shiny medal! Our captain Daniella said "The team did very well and tried their hardest so I'm very proud we came 3rd. The tournament was really fun and I'm glad we were able to go."

The team was: Gracie, Daniella, Cherry, Evie-Mae, Maisey, Quinn, Jessica, Maja, Maisie, Erin, Freya, Liam, Sam, Alfie, Owen, Ted, Mason, Charlie, Lucas, Sebastian, Lucas, Tomasz and Josh.

Many thanks to Mr Birtwistle and Mr Fowler for training and preparing the team and Mrs Hanrahan for helping Mr Fowler supervise the children at the event.

We look forward to seeing how our Year 4 athletics team do in their tournament next week - we wish them the best of luck!

Governors Fund

Thank you to the families who have already made payments to the Governors Fund this year. The governors suggest a voluntary contribution of £50 per year, per family. This can be paid in instalments as you wish via ParentPay.

Your children attend a good school and your funds will directly impact on our ability to ensure continued success and allow the governors to attend to urgent matters of upkeep. It would be timely to thank those parents who already contribute various amounts regularly - thank you so much for your loyal support, month in, month out, year in, year out.

St Gabriel's Twitter

Please join our closed Twitter account - @GabrielsPrimary

We will be trialling our Twitter account with our Reception classes.

This will be used to show a screenshot of various activities throughout their day.

We will be expanding upon this, over the coming months to include all other year groups in school. We hope you will find this useful.

We would like to increase our followers to all parents and grandparents that are known to us. Our Twitter account is a closed account (private); therefore in addition to your request to follow the Twitter account we will need your own Twitter account username details to be sent to us, via the following email address: twitter@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

This will allow us to accept you into the group and ensure the security of the account.

Please be aware - this account will only be used to share information and snapshots of your child's learning - please do not use this as a means of direct contact. There will be no facility to comment.

Living with Covid

The Government has announced their Covid 19 response "Living with Covid-19" strategy for England.

It means that most of the measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus are no longer required.

National guidance now urges us all to take personal responsibility so that our actions minimise the risks of transmission.

In school we will continue to:

- Offer frequent and proper handwashing for staff and pupils
- Encourage good respiratory hygiene - this includes continuing to follow "catch it, bin it, kill it"
- Have additional cleaning of major touch points
- Have additional ventilation

If your child feels unwell and has any symptoms associated with the covid virus, I ask you to take NHS advice and get them tested where necessary.

IMPORTANT

IF YOU TAKE A CHILD FOR A PCR TEST THEY MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE AWAITING A RESULT, FOR THE SAFETY OF OTHER PUPILS AND STAFF. THANK YOU.

IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE COVID 19 VIRUS, YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO ISOLATE FOR AT LEAST 5 DAYS AND ONLY RETURN TO SCHOOL ONCE THE VIRUS AND SYMPTOMS HAVE PASSED.

Get the basic principles of virus controls done well as part of your behaviour.

The spread of ALL variants will be reduced by:

- Limiting your mixing
- Keeping your distance
- Good hand, nose and mouth hygiene
- Good ventilation

IF YOU ARE INVITED INTO SCHOOL FOR A MEETING PLEASE

- Wear a mask if you can
- Sanitise hands on arrival
- Respect social distancing

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Austin
RJC	Kody
1KG	Noah
1NH	Austin
2JH	Lewis
2NT	Selena
3CC	Franc
3LH	Thomas
4HA	Shael
4HB	Teresa
5AC	Theo
5SG	Lola Rose
6BF	Gracie C
6ST	Ollie



Well Done Readers of the
Week!



Walk against Hunger

Are you ready to change your life and transform someone else's this Lent?

This Lent CAFOD are launching their Walk Against Hunger campaign:

Challenge yourself to walk 200k this Lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time.

You can walk, roll, skip or stroll your way to 200k. You can boldly go it alone and take it on 5k a day for 40 days, or you can smash the target all at once as a team.

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to conquer 200k, and help give hunger its marching orders.

If you would like to find out more about Walk against Hunger please visit:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 7th March will be:

Monday:	Cheese Pizza, Garlic Doughballs and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Chicken Burger, Peas, Broccoli and Potato Wedges
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Beef Meatballs in Tomato Sauce, Pasta and Sweetcorn
Friday:	Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas



Week commencing 14th February

Unfortunately no classes
achieved 100% attendance.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 11 th March	CAFOD Family Fast Day - Non Uniform Day
Mon 14 th March	School Nursing Team NHS - Reception and Y6 heights and weights
Weds 16 th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church 6pm
Mon 21 st March	INSET DAY 4 - School closed to pupils
Tues 22 nd March to Fri 25 th March	Vocations Week
Thurs 7 th April	Tempest Photography - Vista Group Photographs Reception & Y6
Fri 8 th April	School closes for End of Term
Mon 25 th April	School reopens to staff and pupils
Mon 25 th April to Weds 27 th April	Y6 Alton Castle Residential Trip
Mon 2 nd May	MAY DAY - School closed
Weds 4 th May	Y3 First Holy Communion Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Mon 9 th May to Thurs 12 th May	KS2 SATS - Y6 pupils must be in school each morning
Sat 21 st May	First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Mrs Holmes' class
Tues 24 th May	Y6 Confirmation Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Fri 27 th May	School closes for half term
Mon 6 th June	School reopens to staff and pupils
Fri 10 th June	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School photos

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.
Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P Hayes". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

John P Hayes
Headteacher