

# **Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School**

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12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents

## **Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2023 - closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January - Sunday next**

The application system opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 for September 2023 Reception places. If you/a family member/friend have a child of school age in September 2023, please make sure applications are submitted. The easiest way to apply is online. The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. **DO COMPLETE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**\*\* PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU RECORD ST. GABRIEL'S AS A FIRST PREFERENCE TO SECURE A PLACE \*\***

**PLEASE NOTE THAT NON CATHOLIC CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ARE VERY WELCOME TO ATTEND ST. GABRIEL'S AND ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.**

## **High levels of flu, Covid and scarlet fever**

Flu and Covid are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in the coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

"It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading. Remember that the flu vaccination is the best protection against the virus. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late."



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



Headteacher: Mr J P Hayes BEd Hons NPQH  
Deputy Headteacher: Mr W Bright BA PGCE

## Catholic Virtues - Eloquent and Truthful

This term the children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be growing to be **ELOQUENT** and **TRUTHFUL** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people and the world.



## Girl's Football Finals

Girls from year 5/6 took part in the football finals at Rawlett High School, last Thursday. They played Dosthill in the semi-final and played very well and came back from 1-0 down to win 2-1.

In a very close fought final the girls played brilliantly and narrowly lost 1-0. The team played very well, especially our goalkeeper, Daisy, who saved a penalty in the final. The team was: Faith (c), Summer-Skye, Lola, Inez, Izzy, Saskia, Celeste, Evie, Daisy and Eleanor. Thanks to Miss Cunningham and Mr Fowler for supporting the children at the event.

## The Game

We have been alerted to "A game" being circulated via Facebook to children which contains several different actions for them to complete, including the encouragement of self-harm and hurting others.

Lisa Farmer, Education Safeguarding Lead for Staffordshire said "Whilst many of our children will, I am sure, be confident in ignoring these messages, I am also conscious that around the country there have been several incidents where dares via social media have led to a child's death."

If you have any queries about how to talk to your child about this and being safe online, there are useful resources on the NSPCC website - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

## Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Darci-Blue
RJC	Oliver
1KG	Austin
1NH	Autumn
2BL	Marcel
2NT	Sebastian
3CC	Kasey
3LH	Mason
4HB	Reece
4LM	Oscar
5SM	Oliwia
5ST	Neya
6AC	Summer-Skye
6BF	Anton



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

## **Winter**

Please be aware that at times the ground, playground and surrounding footpaths can be very icy. Please do remind the children to take care coming to and leaving school. **Parents and Carers are reminded to keep to the gritted footpaths around the perimeter of the school building at all times.** It is imperative that pedestrians do not walk across the car park at any time. During icy weather the footpaths are gritted for your safety. Thank you. If for any reason the school has to close due to adverse weather, a text message will be sent to all parents and the county council website page for school closures will be updated.

Staffordshire County Council - <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/sln/schoolclosures/>

St. Gabriel's website - [https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/emergency\\_school\\_closure\\_procedure/568432](https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/emergency_school_closure_procedure/568432)

## **Family & Community Information Hub**

Please could I draw your attention to the family and community information section on our website? This section contains a wealth of current information on community activities, mother and toddler groups, free courses, job and training opportunities, information for parents of children with additional educational needs along with opportunities available to them for example short breaks and also information on healthcare.

Please take some time to have a look at the information found [here](#) and keep checking in - there will be new information added most weeks.

## **Dogs on the school grounds**

A reminder please that dogs must not be brought beyond the school gates and onto school premises. Dogs are banned from all school grounds because of the danger of toxicariasis in dog waste. This is in line with County Council guidelines. Please respect this request at all times. Thank you.

## **Resilience/Independence**

Do encourage your child to organise themselves properly each morning. Encourage them to carry their own bag and belongings. Talk to them about organising their belongings, so they are not misplaced. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Attendance**

The attendance of our children at school has received a massive blow due to the pandemic. It has always been parents/carers legal duty to get children into school regularly, this is even more vital now due to the disruption to the children's learning. For this reason, it is so important that your child is in school for every educational hour possible AND THAT WE RE ESTABLISH OUR BEST POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE.

NO HOLIDAYS CAN BE APPROVED. I would ask that any routine appointments are made out of school hours and that you consider very carefully any absence from school. We don't want the education of our children to suffer any more than it has done already.

Our expectations for attendance are as per our published Attendance Policy which you can find [here](#) , we would encourage you to read and understand this. Thank you.

### **Parking**

Please continue to be aware of the need to park responsibly in the local area and in and around the school. Thank you to the majority of parents who continue to park lawfully and sensibly. Parking is not allowed in front of the school gates, the yellow lines and zig zags are there to stop people parking there and to protect and keep all of our children safe.

Please never park up on the footpaths in the surrounding roads. You are also asked to please show consideration to local home owners and do not block garages and driveways. Please do not become abusive to local home owners. Parking on the grass verge along Wilnecote Lane has been raised as a COMPLAINT with local police. We have been asked to advise all parents not to do this. Parking on the grass verges is dangerous and causes blockage for neighbours. Local police will be following this up. Thank you.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - School Census Day**

Please note that Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January is school Census Day.

The Universal Infant Free School Meal Grant received by schools is based on school dinner uptake on that day. **With this in mind, please encourage your child to have a school dinner on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January, especially if they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.** The kitchen will be serving All Day Breakfast (see poster attached) on Census Day. Thank you.

### **Change to School Menu - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Please note that there will be a change to the school menu on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the kitchen will be service an All American menu, please see poster attached. Thank you.

### **Sacred Heart Church**

Keep up to date with what's going on in your parish [HERE](#)

### **Heart of Tamworth Community Shop**

The community pantry at Sacred Heart has regular deliveries of good quality, fresh food. All of the food is in date but sometimes has a shorter date than others and so needs to be distributed quickly. You are more than welcome to pop down to have a look. There is a Facebook page HOT Community Shop where you can keep up to date with availability.

### **Message from the Friends of St. Gabriel's**

The friends of St. Gabriel's are looking for any unwanted Christmas gifts that could be used for Mother's Day. The blue bin will be out by the office and labelled for items to be dropped off if you have anything to donate.

Please join their Facebook page and keep up to date with events being run by the Friends of St. Gabriel's. [www.facebook.com/friendsofstgabriels](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofstgabriels)



### **Bereavement Help Points**

Fridays 10am-12noon @ Sacred Heart.

Thursdays 5.30pm-7.00pm @ The Cafe at Sacred Heart

If you are struggling with bereavement and loss and wish to talk to someone just come along.

### Dates for your Diary

Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Y3 Mass 9.15am
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Board meeting 6pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	INSET DAY 3 - School <u>CLOSED</u> to pupils
<b>February</b>	
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school Mass at Sacred Heart Church 9am
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Y2 Mass 9.15am
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for Half Term
	Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> , during Half Term (START OF LENT)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Return to school
<b>March</b>	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mass - Whole school led by Y3 9.15am
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mass - Early years and Y1 9.15am
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 3 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacred Heart Church 6pm,
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	Mass - Whole school led by y4 9.15am
	Break up for school holidays
	Easter Sunday April 9 <sup>th</sup>

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher