

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

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22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

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Dear Parents and carers

## **Tomorrow, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 - Non Uniform Day for CAFOD Family Fast Day**

The Lent CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

This will be a non-school uniform day to raise money for CAFOD's Lenten appeal and the theme is 'Bright Colours'.

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

## **Sacred Heart Church**

Keep up to date with what's going on in your parish [HERE](#) Please see below for exciting information about how our parish will be marking Lent this year:

## **Preparing for Lent**

There is a lot of encouragement this year to simply know God better through prayer. We always have fasting and almsgiving too, but this year there will be a special emphasis on prayer. Here is what is on offer:

- Nightly rosary, prayed on the parish Youtube channel at 8pm every evening - just 15minutes each night for Lent.
- An excellent prayer app called Hallow. The parish has paid for all parishioners to get this through Lent. We have paid £200 so that you will get it for just 75p each. It offers all sorts of ways of helping us pray, with daily reflections too.
- Daily Mass, plus Friday Lenten soup lunch in support of CAFOD - 12 noon Mass at St John's.
- Homilies on prayer for the first Sundays of Lent in which we are encouraged and taught how to pray.
- Walk With Me Booklets.
- This year we will also have Bible Alive booklets available with more scripture and prayer.
- Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



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

## **Prayer Bags**

Each class has a prayer bag that the children will be bringing home during Lent. This is an opportunity to spend a short time as a family praying together.

Please ensure you read the information in the bag as the bags vary depending on what year group your children are in. When you have the prayer bags please support your child in writing or drawing a prayer on the heart to return to school to put on put Lenten Prayer Tree (which is on display in the hall).

We ask that you ensure the bags come back to school ready for the next child to use. Please feel free to share any photos of your prayer set ups or prayers on our padlet via [padlet.com](https://padlet.com)  
Thank you, Mrs Minton and Mr Bright.

## **Measles**

Cases of measles are rising across England, including among children. It's an infection that spreads very easily, especially in nurseries and schools if children are not vaccinated. It can be a very unpleasant illness and, in some children, can be very serious and lead to hospitalisation - and in rare cases tragically can cause death.

There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell and helps prevent the spread in the community.

The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is one of the [routine childhood vaccinations](#), so most children are already vaccinated against measles. If your child has received both doses of the vaccine, they are unlikely to have the virus.

We are calling on all parents and carers to make sure their children are up to date with their 2 MMR doses. To see if your child is up to date with their MMR vaccines, check your child's personal child health record, known as the 'red book', or contact your GP practice.

Children who are unvaccinated and come into contact with a case will need to stay away from school or nursery for up to 21 days.

It is never too late to catch up. The MMR vaccine is free, whatever your age. If anyone has missed one or both doses of the MMR vaccine, contact your GP practice to book an appointment.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness, so to prevent the illness spreading further, anyone with symptoms is advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice, rather than visiting the GP practice or A&E.

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth. Find out more on the [NHS website](#).



## CAFOD Walk Against Global Poverty

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

**This Lent CAFOD are launching their Walk Against Global Poverty campaign:**

Challenge yourself to walk 200k this Lent and help stamp out Global Poverty, 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 Global Poverty its marching orders.

If you would like to find out more about Walk Against Global Poverty please visit:

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

## Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RJC	Lucas P
RHK/AD	Pippa
1KG	Violet
1NH	Alexis
2LG	Scarlett
2NT	Georgie
3CC	Darcy
3SO	RubyLea
4HB	Kasey
4LM	Nel
5VN	Franciszek
5SM	Leo
6AC	Mark
6BF	Celeste



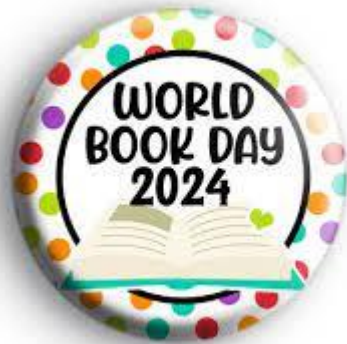
**Well Done Readers of the Week!**

## World Book Day

Mrs Hughes and Miss Cunningham write to tell us that World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March and we hope you'll join us as we come together to celebrate our World Book Day in school.

Every year on World Book Day we are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our school community. We know that this year many families will find themselves in a difficult financial situation and we don't want our celebrations to be an additional burden. In light of this, we are inviting children to come to school wearing their pyjamas/ loungewear so that we can all relax with a book. Children are still more than welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character if they have a costume and would prefer to do so.

As part of our celebrations, we would like to invite parents/carers/grandparents to come into school to share a story with their children on World Book Day. Please see the timetable below for your child's year group story time.



Story Time Hall Timetable	
Year Group	Time
Reception	9:30 - 9:55
1	10:00 - 10:25
2	10:30 - 10:55
3	11:00 - 11:25
4	1:20 - 1:45
5	1:50 - 2:15
6	2:20 - 2:45



Please don't worry if you are not able to make it to this session, we will make sure there will be somebody to share a book with all of our children. If you have children in multiple year groups but can only make one of the sessions, simply choose the most convenient time and we will invite all siblings to join you at this session.

In the interests of encouraging reading for pleasure, we are also planning for children to take part in a book swap (in their own year group) during the day. If your child has any unwanted books, books they have grown out of or one they have simply read too many times, they can bring it into school and swap it for another book of their choice from one of their school friends. Please make sure your child understands that they will be exchanging their book so another child will be taking their book home!!

We will also be setting a World Book Day related Home Learning task after the half term holiday, the results of which the children will share with one another on World Book Day. In school children will also be taking part in the Design a National Book token competition and the two winning designs from each class will be entered into the national competition. We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which could not happen without the support of parents and carers - thank you.

## 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.** 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 School Closures](#)

[St Gabriel's School Closure Procedure](#)

## Twitter

IF YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN A LOOK YET, DO PLEASE VIEW @GabrielsPrimary on X formerly Twitter for a range of moments capturing school life. If you have a phone please follow us. Thank you.

## Parking

Parking continues to be an issue, please be reminded of the following:

- Please do not park on or block Wilnecote Lane and the school driveway.
- Please continue to be aware of the need to park responsibly in the local area and around the school. 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 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.
- Please do not park on the Industrial Estate.

Local councillors continue to be involved and taking an active interest because of irresponsible driving behaviour by a small minority.

Thank you to the majority of our parents and carers who continue to park lawfully and sensibly.

## Help and Support

If any family member is ever at the point of crisis, money worries or otherwise, ALWAYS BE BRAVE AND REACH OUT TO US. We will always try to help by signposting to the correct services. Where food provision is a worry - TELL US - we will always try to help.

We will always aim to help you in a DIGNIFIED and CONFIDENTIAL way. Thank you, Mr Hayes.

### Hygiene Bank NOW AVAILABLE in School

We are now regularly supplied, by Tamworth Hygiene Bank, with personal hygiene products and some household cleaning products. If you would like to make use of this valuable resource in the current economic climate, just give the office a call IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE to arrange a time to call in and take whatever you need. All we ask is that you bring your own carrier bag.

### Catholic Virtues - FAITH-FILLED and HOPEFUL

This half term, the children and staff at St. Gabriel's are growing to be FAITH-FILLED and HOPEFUL.

Pupils and staff are growing to be FAITH-FILLED in their beliefs and HOPEFUL for the future.



### Dates for your Diary

#### **FEBRUARY**

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> CAFOD Family Fast Day - Non Uniform Day (Bright Colours)

#### **MARCH**

Weds 6<sup>th</sup> SACRAMENT OF FIRST CONFESSION - Sacred Heart 6.00pm

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Tempest Photography - Reception and Y6 Vista (Year Group) photos

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Mass for End of Term in School Hall 9.15am.

School closes for Easter

**NOTE school closes at 1.30pm by decision of School Governing Body**

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> EASTER SUNDAY

#### **APRIL**

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> School re opens for all 8.50am

Mon 29<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY 3 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

#### **MAY**

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> to } KS2 SATS - ALL Y6 PUPILS MUST BE IN SCHOOL FOR EACH OF THE  
Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> } 4 MORNINGS

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
(3CC @ 10am/3SO @ 12.00)

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> School closes for HALF TERM 3.20pm

#### **JUNE**

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> School re opens for all 8.50am

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Parish SUMMER FAYRE at Sacred Heart

Weds 19<sup>th</sup> Tempest Photography - individual, family and Pre School photos

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY 4 - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS



## JULY

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup>

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - Sacred Heart 7.00pm led by Canon Paul McNally

Fri 19<sup>th</sup>

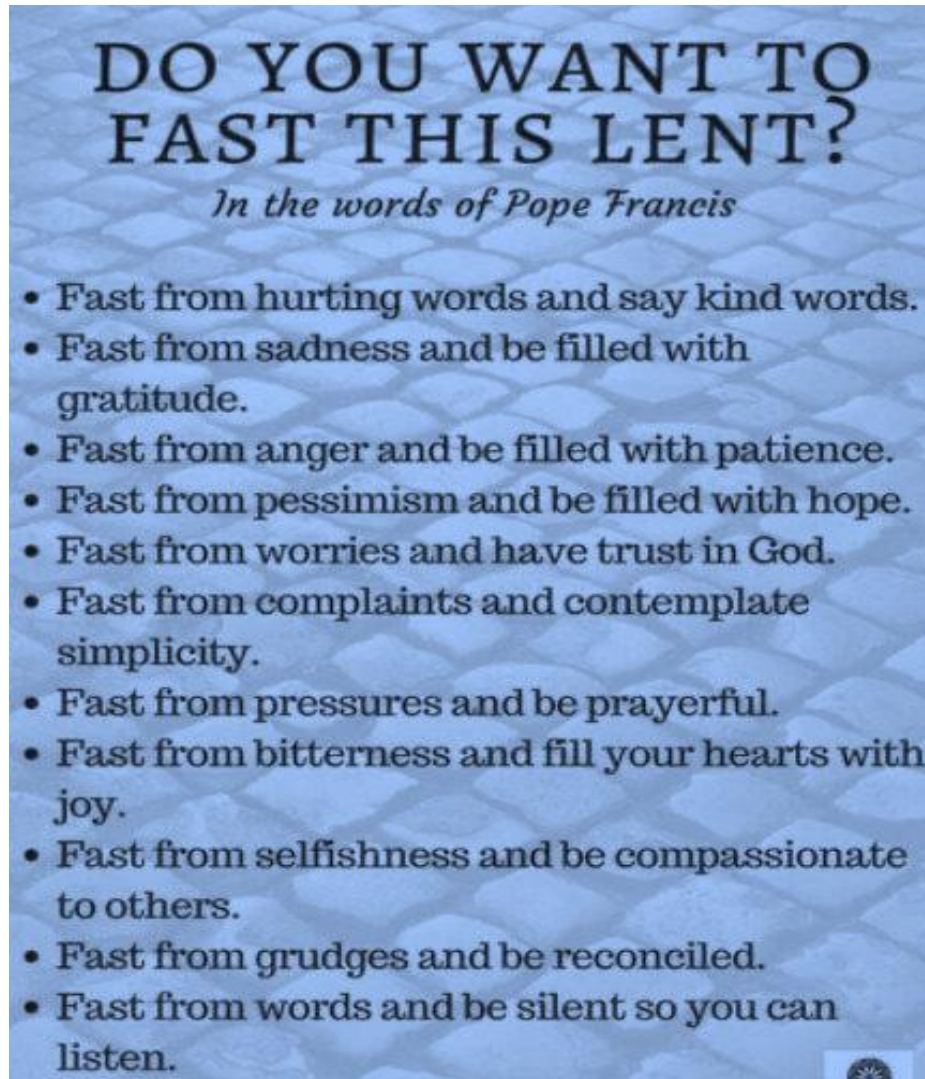
Mass for End of Term in School Hall 9.15am

School closes for end of academic year

**NOTE school closes at 1.30pm by decision of School Governing Body**

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>

INSET DAY 5 - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS



"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan"

Blessed Carlo Acutis

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes

Headteacher