

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and carers

IMPORTANT

Note - Please see additional letter, emailed from Mr Hayes, via Teachers 2 Parents earlier today, at 2.30pm

Mass for start of term - tomorrow Friday 12th January at 9.15am

Parents and carers are welcome to join us for the celebration of Holy Mass tomorrow, Friday 12th January. Please note Fr. Michael is away so Fr. Ramesh is on his own.

BELGRAVE CLUB PARKING - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note the following changes to parking arrangements at Belgrave Club.

1. **ANY PARKING PASSES ISSUED BY SCHOOL WILL NOT BE VALID FROM JANUARY 2024**
2. ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) will be in operation controlled by Parkingeye
3. Unfortunately, at this stage, we have not been provided with any other information regarding the new terms and conditions
4. Any parents/carers choosing to park at Belgrave Club are strongly encouraged to check parking terms and conditions directly with the Club

Sacred Heart Church

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

Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2024 - closing date 15th January

The application system opened on 1st November 2023 for September 2024 Reception places. If you/a family member/friend have a child of school age in September 2024, please make sure applications are submitted. The easiest way to apply is online [HERE](#)

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2024.

Make sure you record St Gabriel's as your FIRST PREFERENCE to secure a place. Thank you.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Winter Approaching

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

Emergency Closures

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](#)

Online safety

The school has become aware that some children are taking part in various, viral online challenges that are promoted or circulated on social media such as Instagram and TikTok. These challenges usually involve people recording themselves doing something difficult or silly, which they share online and encourage others to repeat. Whilst some of these challenges are harmless, many of them are considered to be dangerous and can cause risks to individuals mental and physical health. Please do talk to your child about this and remind them that anything online that asks them to perform tasks or challenges maybe not be the best thing for them to do; they should always ask permission from a parent or guardian before acting on anything they see online.

For more information please use the following links:

[Internet Matters - Online Challenges](#)

[Childnet - Online Safety](#)

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.

We currently have 179 followers. If you have a phone... follow us. Thank you.

Coats

Can I ask all parents and carers to make sure your child brings a coat to school?

It is December now and the colder, wetter months are ahead. The number of children without coats in school at times is shocking. THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR CO OPERATION WITH THIS MATTER.

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.

Struggling with energy debt?

Individuals and families can apply for grants to clear domestic gas and electricity debts. Before applying to the Trust you must get money or debt advice first. The British Gas Energy Trust would encourage you to contact your local Money Advice Agency for help before applying for a grant. If you get advice, this will help your chances of a successful grant application.

Click [here](#) to find your local advice centre or find online debt and money information at [turn2us](#), [Step Change](#) and [Citizens Advice](#).

Criteria that must be met to be eligible:

- Have energy debt up to £2,000 and have a credit energy account OR use a Pre-Payment Meter in your main residence and the energy account must be in the name of the applicant
- You live in England, Scotland, or Wales
- You have not received a grant from the British Gas Energy Trust within the last 2 years
- You must be seeking a grant to clear an outstanding debt on a current or open gas, electricity or dual fuel energy account in your name and the energy account must relate to your main residence. If your application is successful, your energy account will be credited with the grant. Please note the British Gas Energy Trust does not award cash payments
- You have electric and/or gas debt
- You must be in or facing Fuel Poverty
- You have received help from a money advice agency

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RJC	Lucas E
RHK/AD	Piotr
1KG	Joey
1NH	Tola
2LG	Willow
2NT	Zach
3CC	Penny
3SO	Emilia H
4HB	Ethan
4LM	Jenson
5VN	Poppy
5SM	Jenson
6AC	Ewan
6BF	Tymon



**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

Parking

The council have now placed wooden posts on the grass verge on the side of Wilnecote Lane to prevent parking there.

You will also note that Staffordshire Police have provided us with some signage to encourage parents and carers not to 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.
- 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.

We have received complaints from several businesses situated on the Seaton Industrial Estate: *"Over the past several months, we have noticed an increase in parents parking their vehicles on our industrial estate while dropping off or picking up their children from St Gabriel's School. While we understand the importance of ensuring the safety of students, the overflow of vehicles onto our property has become a persistent problem. This unauthorized parking disrupts our daily operations in several ways:*

1. *Restricted Access: Parents' vehicles block access to our service entrances and parking spaces designated for our employees and clients. This impedes the timely delivery and shipment of goods, leading to delays in production and customer service.*
2. *Safety Hazards: The additional traffic and congestion caused by parked vehicles on our estate create safety hazards for both pedestrians and drivers. This jeopardizes the well-being of our employees and visitors.*
3. *Business Disruption: The disruptions to our operations have a negative impact on our productivity, and it also reflects poorly on our reputation when we are unable to meet our commitments to clients due to these parking issues."*

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.

Dates for your Diary

Catholic Virtues - COMPASSIONATE and LOVING

This half term, the children and staff at St. Gabriel's are growing to be Compassionate and Loving.

Pupils are growing to be compassionate towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and loving by their just actions and forgiving words.



January

Fri 12th Whole School Mass for start of new term 9.15am
Mon 15th Closure of application for Reception school places September 2024

February

Sun 4th Sacred Heart School Led Mass 9.00am
Tues 6th PARENTS EVENING 3.40pm-6.30pm
Thurs 8th PARENTS EVENING 3.40pm-6.30pm
Fri 9th School closes for half term 3.20pm
Weds 14th Ash Wednesday - MARKS START OF LENT
Mon 19th School re opens for all 8.50am

March

Weds 6th SACRAMENT OF FIRST CONFESSION - Sacred Heart 6.00pm
Fri 22nd Mass for End of Term in School Hall 9.15am
Sun 24th PALM SUNDAY
Sun 31st EASTER SUNDAY

April

Mon 8th School re opens for all 8.50am
Mon 29th INSET DAY 3 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

May

Mon 13th to } KS2 SATS - ALL Y6 PUPILS MUST BE IN SCHOOL FOR EACH OF THE
Thurs 16th } 4 MORNINGS
Sat 18th SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

"So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
Isaiah 41:10

A very special thank you for the many cards, gifts and words of thanks received by staff recently. The staff greatly appreciate your kindness.

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes
Headteacher