

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

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Dear Parents

Whole School Mass - Sunday 5th February at Sacred Heart Church 9.00am

We look forward to seeing as many children and families as possible at Mass on Sunday. Some children have volunteered for reading and taking up gifts. But the most important way of taking part is by simply being there.

Mrs Morgan

We think of Mrs Morgan and her family today.

It is Mrs Morgan's Mum's funeral today.

We keep Mrs Morgan and all the family in our thoughts and prayers.

Parents Evening Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th February

Your child should have brought home a letter this week regarding choice of night.

Please complete and ensure you return promptly to the class teacher. Thank you.

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.



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

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 7th February, St Gabriel's and schools around the country and will be taking part in the global event to encourage children and young adults on how they can be safe and responsible online. The theme of this year's event is: 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.'

For more information, please go to <https://www.saferinternetday.org/home>

School Disco

Please note for you diaries that the next school disco will be on Tuesday 7th February.

Rec/KS1: 4.45pm - 5.45pm

KS2: 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Your child should have brought a letter home this week with full details.

Thanks to the Friends of St. Gabriel's for organising and for the teachers who are staffing.

Children's Mental Health Week



Children's Mental Health Week - running from the 6th - 12th February - is an annual event organised by Place2Be (Children's Mental Health Charity). The aim of the Week is 'to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.'

This year the theme of the Week is Let's Connect:

'Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections - to family, friends and others - this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely - which can have a negative impact on our mental health.'

In school we will be looking at different ways we are all connected, exploring ways we can support our own mental health and celebrating being a part of our community! Families can also access more information and resources relating to Children's Mental Health Week at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Live Simply - Responding to the Call of Creation

Each month the Archdiocese of Birmingham produces a 'Responding to the Call of Creation' newsletter. The newsletter aims to 'inspire and enable climate action.' This month's edition has tips on having a 'Low Energy Sunday,' joining the Green Heart Campaign and the lifecycle of plastics! A copy of the newsletter is attached - please have a look.

Ten:Ten Parental Newsletter



The February Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter is now available on our school website [HERE](#)

The newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout February and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it.

Home Reading Books

We are currently running very low with our levels of home reading books, particularly in the purple and turquoise book bands. Could I please ask everyone to have a good look at home, just in case any books have been overlooked or forgotten about, and return them to school as soon as possible. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Evie
RJC	Elijah
1KG	Harley
1NH	Liam
2BL	Marysia
2NT	Rubylea
3CC	Edward J
3LH	Lucas
4HB	Wiktorja
4LM	Leo
5SM	Drew
5ST	Shael
6AC	Sam
6BF	Danielle



**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

Attendance

Parents of children with attendance below 90% have been written to this week.

The attendance of our children at school has received a massive blow due to the Covid 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.

Current attendance for the school year so far - Overall 94.30%

R - 91.78%	Y3 - 95.85%	Y6 - 95.49%
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Y1 - 92.01%	Y4 - 94.90%
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Y2 - 94.37%	Y5 - 94.75%
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We need to improve the attendance of our pupils, particularly our youngest pupils. Thank you.

White Rose Maths

I'd like to signpost parents and carers to a series of free maths films on 'White Rose hub' called Maths with Michael. Please have a look at this mini-series with Michael Underwood that explains how maths is taught at school. Thank you, Mrs Taggart.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/maths-with-michael>

Long Hair

Please can we remind you that if your child's hair is long enough to be tied back then it should be tied back neatly for school. Loose hair can be a health and safety concern and also greatly increases the chances of head lice. Thank you for you co-operation.

Electronic Devices in school

Children SHOULD NOT bring electronic devices, such as Smart Watches, into school. These can be very distracting during lessons and there is also the risk of expensive property being lost or misplaced. Thank you.

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/>

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

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 toxocarasis 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.

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.

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



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.

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.

Dates for your Diary

February

Sunday 5 th	Whole school Mass at Sacred Heart Church 9am
Tuesday 7 th	School Disco
Friday 10 th	Y2 Mass 9.15am
Tuesday 14 th	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm
Thursday 16 th	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm
Friday 17 th	Break up for Half Term
Wednesday 22 nd	Ash Wednesday (during Half Term) START OF LENT
Monday 27 th	Return to school

March

Friday 3 rd	Mass - Whole school led by Y3 9.15am
Friday 17 th	Mass - Early years and Y1 9.15am
	** NOTE - MOTHER'S DAY EVENT **
	TOILETRIES/PERFUME etc FOR SALE
	2pm-3pm - <u>Children</u> visit the hall with an opportunity to buy.
	3.30pm-4pm - Open to ALL families after school
	MORE INFO TO FOLLOW
Thursday 23 rd	Year 3 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacred Heart Church 6pm
Thursday 30 th	Tempest Photography Reception & Y6 Vistas and Year Groups
Friday 31 st	Mass - Whole school led by y4 9.15am
	Break up for school holidays
	Easter Sunday April 9 th

Today is Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Yesterday, 1st February was the Feast Day of St. Brigid - a patron saint of Ireland.

St. Brigid's was my church as a child - it's where my Mum is buried.

My granny was Brigid - she had great faith in God. I think of them today and pray this prayer.

Prayer to St. Brigid

Brigid,

You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there was conflict.

You brought light to the darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace cover
those who are troubled and anxious
and may peace be firmly rooted
in our hearts and in our world.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness
in mind, body and spirit.

Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P Hayes".

John P Hayes

Headteacher