

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

12th May 2022

Volume 13 Number 30

Dear Parents

IF ANY PARENT IS WORRIED OR CONCERNED ABOUT PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE AT THIS TIME THEN PLEASE DO APPROACH ME OR THE SCHOOL OFFICE IN CONFIDENCE, WE WILL ALWAYS TRY TO HELP IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN.

End of Term – Friday 27th May 1.30pm

Please note the email from the Governing Board last Friday, 6th May, notifying all of a 1.30pm finish on Friday 27th May.

KS2 SATs Year 6

The children in year 6 have sat and taken their KS2 national tests this week in grammar, punctuation, spelling, reading, arithmetic and maths reasoning. All credit to the children - they have all tried so hard. This year group have had major disruption to their time in school in year 4, year 5 and year 6 due to Covid. Every single one of them can be proud of their efforts this week.

Thanks to all the staff who have worked with the children this week in organising and taking the tests, that is Mrs Taggart, Mr Fowler, Mr Phillips, Mr Bright, Mrs Brown, Mrs Hanrahan, Mrs Devenney, Miss Shackles, Mrs Smith, Mrs Drabble, Mrs Wood, Mrs Cox, Mrs McKay, Mrs Dulson and Mrs Hogg.

Catholic Virtues

This term children and staff at St. Gabriel's are growing to be **GRATEFUL** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **GENEROUS** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others

Our Parish

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.

A celebration of Holy Mass takes about 50 minutes. Many people find it spiritually lifting to sit in the peace of the Sacred Heart Church and listen and feel God around them. You will not know that unless you try it. Try it and tell me of your experience. Thank you.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Online Safety

We have been made aware of a number of online videos featuring a character called 'Huggy Wuggy.'

Huggy Wuggy is an animated teddy bear with razor sharp teeth who sings worrying songs about hugging and killing. The character appears to feature in a number of videos on a number of different online platforms, including You Tube.

Due to the name children may come across the character and watch a video expecting a bear. The character's name also means that some internet filtering tools may not identify the videos as inappropriate for children.

Please, as always, be extra vigilant when your child is online and continue to talk to them about how they keep themselves safe on the internet and what they should do if they encounter something or someone who upsets them / worries them online.

To find out more about how to support your child in staying safe online please visit the <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> website for advice, guidance and resources for parents / carers.

Step Up to the Plate

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been learning about and supporting CAFOD's new campaign: 'Step Up to the Plate:'

The logo for the 'Step Up to the Plate' campaign. It features the words 'STEP UP TO' in white, bold, uppercase letters, and 'THE PLATE!' in yellow, bold, uppercase letters, all set against a dark blue rectangular background.

THERE IS ENOUGH FOOD IN THE WORLD TO FEED EVERYONE. YET 1 PERSON IN EVERY 10 IS HUNGRY. OUR GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM IS BROKEN.

Big food companies are growing and sharing food in many ways that harm our common home and make it hard for some of our brothers and sisters around the world to have enough food to eat.

They are taking away land from farmers with smaller farms, who then have nowhere to grow food to eat or sell. They use chemicals that harm people, damage the soil and speed up climate change. And they cut down large areas of the rainforest, which gives us air to breathe, rain for crops and a habitat for wildlife.

Big food companies make big profits and hold all the power, while small scale farmers around the world, along with their families and communities, are left living in poverty.

In school we have taken part in CAFOD's campaign action by writing messages on 'broken' paper plates asking the UK Government to 'Step up to the plate' and start to fix the global food system.

If you would like to find out more about Step Up to the Plate please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Fix-the-food-system>

Home Learning and Reading Books

Please could we remind you that home reading books and home learning (if you are receiving a paper copy) need to be returned to school on a **Monday** morning. This allows us enough time to change reading books, mark the children's work and allocate new work in time to go home with the children on Wednesday. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

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 verges 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 continue to follow this up. We again ask you take this advice and requests on board. Thank you.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Zach
RJC	Kody
1KG	Lucy
1NH	Evan
2JH	Harper
2NT	Eloise
3CC	Riley
3LH	Harry.C
4HA	Jake
4HB	Max
5AC	Rhys
5SG	Evie
6BF	Jasmine
6ST	Owen



Well Done Readers of the Week!

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

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.

Emergency Contact Details Update - Please check the details we hold are correct

It is vital that we retain up-to-date Emergency Contact details for all children. Please inform school immediately if your mobile number or email address changes. We use Teachers2Parents text and email system to communicate with you and keep you informed about what is happening at school. Please ensure all 1st Priority Emergency Contact mobiles are fully charged and switched on during the school day so we can contact you in an emergency. Thank you.

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

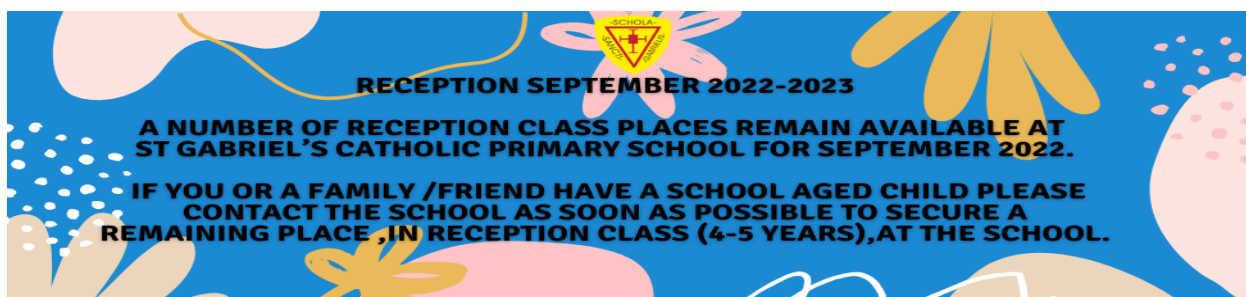
This will allow us to accept you into the group and ensure the security of the account.

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.

Ukraine - Humanitarian crisis situation

The March For Ukraine Campaign has been set up in Tamworth to collect essential supplies for refugees. It involves numerous organisations that includes Heart of Tamworth and The Parish of St. John the Baptist. They are helping as members of the organising group, collecting supplies, being a delivery centre and some transport. They are strictly only collecting new or nearly new items from the following list: Nappies, wipes, children's colouring books and pencils/crayons. Large blankets and sleeping bags. First aid items. Protein bars, baby food pouches (without milk or meat), sterilising tablets and dried food (pasta, rice, tea, biscuits etc). New nests, socks and pants. Toiletries. Donations can be dropped off at Sacred Heart Church.





Do you know of any families who have moved into Tamworth? We currently have a small number of spaces in some other year groups. If a family you know is interested please ask them to contact the school office in the first instance. Thank you

Forthcoming Dinner Supervisor Position

If you are interested in a possible role in the future as a Dinner Supervisor please pass your interest via notice to the school office. You would be notified in due course of any availability. Thank you.

Living with Covid

The Government recently 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

SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT ADVICE

UPDATED FROM 1ST APRIL 2022 ONWARDS

- Staff or pupils who are unwell, particularly with a fever or high temperature, **SHOULD STAY OFF SCHOOL** until they are feeling well and temperature has returned to normal.
- It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for Covid unless directed to by a health professional.
- Pupils who do test positive, after following direction to take a test by the NHS or GP, **SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL FOR 3 DAYS** (This is the day of the test plus 3 clear days). After the 3 days they should continue to stay off/away until they are feeling well and temperature is back to normal.
- Adults who test positive **SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL FOR 5 DAYS** ((This is the day of the test plus 5 clear days). After the 5 days they should continue to stay off/away until they are feeling well and temperature is back to normal.

IMPORTANT

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

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

Dates for your Diary

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. PLEASE NOTE 1.30pm finish
Mon 6 th June	School reopens to staff and pupils
W/c Mon 6 th June	Y1 Phonics Screenings Y4 Multiplication tables check
Fri 10 th June	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School photos
Mon 27 th June	INSET DAY 5 - School closed to pupils

Mary Our Mother,

In this month of May we turn to you.

Let us try to be like you in the care, and hope we bring to others.

Through our simple acts of kindness and good choices we make for others each day.

Pope Francis tells us at the weekend:

"Every day of May, let us pray together the Rosary for peace. My thought goes to the Ukrainian City of Mariupol, "Mary's City", barbarically being bombed and destroyed. I renew the request for your prayers, that secure humanitarian corridors might be arranged for people trapped in that city"

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes
Headteacher