

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and carers

Non Uniform Day - Friday 22nd March 2024

All Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Birmingham have been encouraged to raise funds for Father Hudson's Care.

The Archdiocese are asking each school to aim to raise £1 per child for this cause.

With this in mind we will hold a non uniform day on Friday 22nd March 2024, the final day of term.

We will be asking for voluntary contributions for Father Hudson's Care via ParentPay. 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:

Actions during 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.
- 6his 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

British Science Week - Mrs Minton writes

This week is British Science Week and all year groups have been carrying out investigations linked to time. Please see @GabrielsPrimary on X for photos of what we have been up to. The children have been amazing scientists and have thought of some wonderful questions they would like to find out about! Thank you.

Year 6 and Reception Vistas - Thursday 21st March 2024

Please be aware that Tempest Photography will be in school next Thursday, 21st March, to take the Year 6 and Reception Vista (Year Group) photographs. Thank you.

School Meal Price Increase from Monday 8th April 2024

We have been advised by our caterers, Edwards and Ward, that there will be an increase to the price of a school meal. From Monday 8th April the price for a school meal will be £2.95 per day. This increase will not affect children in Reception and KS1 or children on Free School Meals, who will continue to receive a free school meal. Thank you.

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](#).

Prayer Bags - From Mrs Minton and Mr Bright

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 our Lenten Prayer Tree. 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](#)

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	Wojtek
RHK/AD	Teddy K
1KG	Marie
1NH	Nyla
2LG	George
2NT	Marcel
3CC	Florence
3SO	Myla
4HB	Elsie Holmes
4LM	Harper
5VN	Grace
5SM	Isabelle
6AC	Oliver
6BF	Scarlett



Well Done Readers of the Week!

X (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

MARCH

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Thurs 14 th | ALTON CASTLE INFORMATION MEETING for Y5 parents/carers
Re: Residential Trip Autumn 2024 - Mr Fowler |
| Fri 15 th | Year 5 Mass in School Hall 9.15am |
| Thurs 21 st | Tempest Photography - Reception and Y6 Vista (Year Group) photos |

Fri 22 nd	Non Uniform Day - voluntary contributions for Father Hudson's Care 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 th	PALM SUNDAY
Sun 31 st	EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL	
Mon 8 th	School re opens for all 8.50am
Mon 29 th	INSET DAY 3 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
MAY	
Mon 13 th to Thurs 16 th	} KS2 SATS - ALL Y6 PUPILS <u>MUST BE IN SCHOOL</u> FOR EACH OF THE 4 MORNINGS
Sat 18 th	
	SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (3CC @ 10am/3SO @ 12.00)
Fri 24 th	School closes for HALF TERM 3.20pm
JUNE	
Mon 3 rd	School re opens for all 8.50am
Sun 9 th	Parish SUMMER FAYRE at Sacred Heart
Weds 19 th	Tempest Photography - individual, family and Pre School photos
Mon 24 th	INSET DAY 4 - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
JULY	
Tues 2 nd	SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - Sacred Heart 7.00pm led by Canon Paul McNally
Fri 19 th	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 nd	INSET DAY 5 - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

*Father,
Help us to be like Christ your Son
who loved the world and died for our salvation.
Inspire us by love,
guide us by his example.
Who lives and reigns forever.
Amen.*

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher