

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Mrs Sharon Taggart

Mrs Taggart has recently written to the governing body to resign from her position at St. Gabriel's. This will be with effect from 31st August 2023.

For Mrs Taggart this will bring to a close 25 years teaching at St. Gabriel's, since 1998.

That is a whole generation of children who she has impacted on so positively, in her role as class teacher, Music teacher, Religious Education lead, Mathematics lead, Assistant Headteacher and in many other ways.

Mrs Taggart has been a pillar and a constant in the school.

We thank her for her work over so many years.

We wish Sharon good health and happiness with the next stage of her life.

First Holy Communion - Saturday 20th May 10am and 12 noon

Thank you to all our families who made both celebrations beautiful events.

Congratulations to the children who took part so prayerfully in the event.

Thank you to the family members attending, who created a prayerful atmosphere.

Thanks to all the staff for giving their time on Saturday to allow the Masses to happen.

Special thanks to Miss Caswell, Mrs O'Hanlon and Miss Allen for their work in preparation.

Note - A May procession will take place after the 9am Mass at Sacred Heart on Sunday next, 28th May. Children who made their First Holy Communion may come along in their special clothes again.

Laudato Si Week

We have had a very exciting week celebrating Laudato Si Week 2023. We have planted seeds, gone on Creation Walks, created Laudato Si Superheroes, created an amazing Laudato Si Mural and much much more! Please do visit our twitter account (@GabrielsPrimary) and our Laudato Si Padlet (<https://padlet.com/willbright/laudato-si-week-2023-at-st-gabriel-s-unzwv8h5iw3jt6rh>) to find out more!



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Catholic Virtues

Our Gospel Virtues for this half term are Curious and Active: **Curious** about everything; and **active** in our engagement with the world, changing what we can for the better.



Reception September 2023

A number of reception places for our September 2023 remain available.

If you know of a family member or friend recently moved into the area, please ask them to make contact with us.

Heart of Tamworth Firewalk Fundraiser - Saturday 24th June

HoT Firewalk is a 5 metre sponsored walk. The only catch is it's on hot coals! It's on June 24th at Sacred Heart for the Heart of Tamworth Charity. They need 100 people, please email margaret@heartoftamworth.org if you want to know more.

Stay up to date with all parish matters by searching "Catholic Tamworth" or at <https://www.tamworthrc.church>

St. Gabriel's Firewalkers

Miss Townsley, Miss Cunningham, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Brindley have bravely decided to take on the firewalk challenge, on Saturday 24th June 2023.

The firewalk is being held to raise much needed funds for the work of Heart of Tamworth. Please consider sponsoring our team if you are able to - any donation, no matter how small, will be very much appreciated. Donations can be made through the Just Giving page:

[St.Gabriel's Firewalkers - Just Giving](#)

Attendance

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

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 94.81% (5/9/22-19/05/23)

R - 92.96%

Y3 - 96.01%

Y6 - 94.98%

Y1 - 93.01%

Y4 - 95.24%

Y2 - 95.53%

Y5 - 95.28%

Attendance overall, as shown above, is slowly creeping upwards.

We need to improve the attendance of our pupils, particularly our youngest pupils. Thank you.

Parking

Local Councillor Paul Thompson and a representative of the local police team visited school on Thursday March 30th. Developments are expected as a result.

Please continue to be aware of the need to park responsibly in the local area 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.

Enrichment Activities and Attendance

It is really encouraging to see the amount of enrichment activities the children are attending at weekends and evenings and this is something that we actively encourage for every child.

However, we are noticing more and more that after these activities, children are not attending school because they are over-tired.

Whilst we fully appreciate that children will be tired, it is important to ensure that their attendance at school is not affected. Additionally, it is an ideal opportunity to build resilience, as we all recognise that there are things we need to do, as adults, even when we are over-tired!

I would really appreciate your support and understanding with this issue.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RJC	Lana-Rose
RAD	Harry T
1KG	Kuba
1NH	Roza
2BL	Noah
2NT	Weronika
3CC	Maya
3LH	Freddie
4HB	Archie
4LM	Gian
5SM	Brooke
5ST	Ntando
6AC	Ariah
6BF	Misha



**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

Summer Fayre - Message from the Friends of St. Gabriel's

We will be running a second hand uniform stall at this year's Summer Fayre. We will need donations of unwanted uniform from parents to sell on. This will be a chance for parents to get rid of their unwanted items and in turn, get some uniform at a fraction of the price of buying it new.. If you have any spare uniform please consider donating it. The blue bin will be outside School reception after half term for any donations. Thank you.

Please join their Facebook page and keep up to date with events being run by the Friends of St. Gabriel's [HERE](#)



Miss Katie Ansell (Out of School Club/Pre School)

Miss Ansell will be leaving St. Gabriel's Preschool/Out of School Club on Friday 9th June, as she has been given an opportunity to work with older children in a residential setting. This is something Miss Ansell has always wanted to do. We would like to thank Miss Ansell for all her hard work over the last 6 years and wish her all the best for the future.

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



Bee-friendly plants

Are you taking part in [#NoMowMayStaffs](#) this month and leaving your grass to grow to help pollinators and biodiversity?

If you are unable to, or don't have grass to cut, you can introduce some bee-friendly plants to your outdoor space.

Lavender

Sunflowers

Coneflowers

Salvia

Bee Balm

Wildflowers

Take a step back and let nature do its thing this May while you enjoy the beauty of a thriving bee-friendly garden.

Selected libraries in Staffordshire are giving free signs to stick in your garden - [find a library near you](#). Remember to share your pictures using [#NoMowMayStaffs](#) or on the [Facebook group](#).

Spital Tennis Club

During the upcoming Whitsun Holidays, Spital Tennis Club are running their half term holiday tennis camps for ages 4 to 16. **Venue:** Spital Tennis Club, Wigginton Road, Tamworth, B79 8RH. Bookings can be made [HERE](#)

They have also set up some super exciting new tennis sessions for 4-10 year olds at both Spital Tennis Club and Tamworth Castle Grounds starting after half term. Children will get 6 lessons, plus a racket, tshirt, wristbands and balls, all for £35! This is run by an experienced coach, and is a great way for new or returning players to get into the game.

Spital Tennis Club session information:

Saturdays 09:00-10:00 4-9 years [Book Here](#)

Saturdays 10:00-11:00 8-11 years [Book Here](#)

Tamworth Castle Grounds session information:

Tuesdays 17:00-18:00 4-7 years [Book Here](#)

Fridays 17:00-18:00 4-7 years [Book Here](#)

Fridays 18:00-19:00 8-10 years [Book Here](#)

Please email yasmin@micro-sports.co.uk if you have any questions.

Whitsun Soccer Schools | Aston Villa Foundation

Dates: Tuesday 30th May - Friday 2nd June 2023

Time: 9:30 - 15:30

Price: £70

Ages: 5 - 12 year olds

PRE BOOK NOW VIA THE LINKS BELOW

[Aston \(Academy Building, Villa Park\)](#)

[Bodymoor Heath \(Aston Villa Training Ground\)](#) * limited spaces available *

[Harborne \(Lordswood Girls School\)](#)

[Sutton Coldfield \(Sutton Coldfield Town FC\)](#)

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.

Safe Haven

Safe Haven is a Crisis Cafe situated at Sacred Heart Church, for people aged 18 plus with mental health problems. This service will run between 5pm to 11pm Wednesdays to Fridays and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays, and Bank holiday 1.30pm to 9pm.

Safe Haven will provide a safe, supportive, and therapeutic environment helping individuals in their recovery through promotion of self-empowerment and independence. It will be relaxed, informal and supportive, considerate of risk and safety, but focused on de-escalation and recovery. Safe Haven are currently looking for volunteers, for more information email

Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk

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

Sun 21 st May to	LAUDATO SI WEEK "Hope for the Earth, hope for humanity"
Sun 28 th May	
Fri 26 th May	Break up for half term
Mon 5 th June	School reopens for children and staff
	2 week window opens for year 4 Multiplications Tables Check
Weds 21 st June	Parent meeting for Reception September 2023 intake @ 9.30am
Sat 24 th June	Firewalk Event at Sacred Heart from 10.00am onwards
Tues 27 th June	Sacrament of Confirmation - Sacred Heart @ 7pm
Fri 21 st July	Mass for end of term and end of school year.
	Children finish for Summer

*God our Father,
Let the Spirit you sent on your Church
to begin the teaching of the gospel
continue to work in the world
through the hearts of all who believe.
Amen*

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher