

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Volume 15 Number 17

Dear Parents and carers

## **Year 3 Mass - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Parents and carers of year 3 are invited to the celebration of Holy Mass in the school hall from 9.15am.

## **Measles**

Given the sudden surge in measles cases in the West Midlands over the past few weeks please read the attached guidance. Please take action to prevent the spread of this very dangerous disease if necessary. Thank you.

## **Parents Evening - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

The online booking system for our Parents Evening in October worked really well, so this is the system we will continue with going forward. Our next Parents Evening is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 3.40pm - 6.30pm.

Earlier this week you were sent a link to your 1<sup>st</sup> priority mobile phone number or email address. This link takes you to our new online booking system, here you will be able to select a time convenient for you.

Please follow these simple steps to book your slot:

1. Click the link that you receive through text and/or email to take you to the confirmation page. You will need internet access to do this.
2. Enter your child's first name to continue. If you have more than one child, any of their first names will work.
3. Next you will be taken to the booking page. This will show your children alongside all of the teachers that you can book in with.
4. Click 'Please Choose' to be shown a list of available times that you can click to book.
5. Please click 'Book this Slot' to complete your booking. When the button has turned green you know your booking has been made.
6. At any time before the Parents Evening, you can click the link on your phone or email again to check your booking time or even un-book by clicking the green booked button. We hope that this will make the booking and managing of your appointments much easier. If you have any queries then please contact the school office. Thank you.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



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

## **Sacred Heart Church**

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

## **Christmas Jumper Day - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Thank you for your generous donations of selection boxes and £183.70 in cash which have all been gratefully received by the Heart of Tamworth.

## **Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights**

The Families' Health and Wellbeing service will be in school on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 from 9.30am to deliver the National Child Measurement Programme.

Parents and carers of Reception and Year 6 pupils were emailed on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January with full details. If you do not want your child to take part you MUST opt out, we have the opt out forms available in the school. Thank you.

## **Girls Football County Finals**

Children in year 5/6 took part in a county football competition on Monday at Stafford Football Club, in Stafford. The children played really well and worked their hardest in each and every game. Although we were not winners, the girls should be very proud of the way they played. The team was: Celeste (c), Scarlett, Neive, Eva, Krystal, Minnie, Georgia, Ella-Grace and Jessica. Many thanks to Mr Birtwistle for training the children and Mr Fowler and Mrs Hanrahan who helped supervise the children at the event.

## **Wow Active/Premier Education Pupil Logins**

You should have received a pupil login sheet for your child this week to access their Wow Active fitness data. When you login, you will be able to see how your child scored in their last two fitness tests in school, which tested them on agility, balance, coordination and fitness. You will also be able to download their own individual fitness challenge card, which gives them challenges to do at home to help improve their overall fitness.

## **Thank you**

A big thank you to GXO for their very kind donation of 28 reams of coloured A3 paper, which was delivered into school earlier this week. This has been gratefully received by our Art department.

## **BELGRAVE CLUB PARKING - IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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

- **ANY PARKING PASSES ISSUED BY SCHOOL ARE NO LONGER VALID**
- ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) will be in operation controlled by Parkingeye
- Unfortunately, at this stage, we have not been provided with any other information regarding the new terms and conditions
- Any parents/carers choosing to park at Belgrave Club are strongly encouraged to check parking terms and conditions directly with the Club

## 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

## 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](#)

## Coats

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

The weather has been very cold. The number of children without coats in school at times is shocking. THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR CO OPERATION WITH THIS MATTER.

## 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 180 followers. If you have a phone please follow us. Thank you.

## Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RJC	Abisola
RHK/AD	Ida
1KG	Vivien
1NH	Zachary
2LG	Max
2NT	Freya
3CC	Oliver
3SO	Liberty
4HB	Elena
4LM	Georgia
5VN	Charlie
5SM	Elsie-Mai
6AC	Bella
6BF	George



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

## **Big Garden Birdwatch 2024**

During the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> - 28th January 2024 the RSPB will be holding their annual Big Garden Birdwatch - and you can take part! All you need to do is to spend an hour counting the birds you see in your garden and then tell the RSPB what you have seen.



Taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch helps the RSPB to build up a national picture of our garden bird population. It is open to experienced twitchers and absolute beginners! If you would like to sign up please see [HERE](#)

## **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.

## **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

## **FAMILY PRACTITIONER SERVICE PARENT SUPPORT**

The Family Practitioner Service is currently taking referrals from schools for the following support sessions they are running: -

- **Teen Parenting Programme** - this is a six-week programme for parents and carers of 11-17 years old. It covers communication, home rules, safety, peer pressure and how to manage challenging situation. A course started on the 10<sup>th</sup> January but, there will be further courses running.
- **Young Parents Support Group** - over an 8-week rolling cycle a range of topics will be explored to help teenage and first-time parents including; child development, sleep routines, feeding and weaning, play and interaction, childhood immunisations and health, financial advice and budgeting and looking after yourself. Babies and toddlers are welcome at these sessions. This currently runs every Wednesday afternoon from 12.30 - 2.30 pm

Please contact Mrs McKay in school if you are interested in any of these courses.

### **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.

### 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.



### Dates for your Diary

#### **January**

Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights - Please see email from 10.1  
Weds 31<sup>st</sup> Migration date for new phone system. NOTE: PHONES WILL BE DOWN AT SOME POINT TODAY. Please use office email address as needed.

#### **February**

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

#### **March**

Weds 6<sup>th</sup> SACRAMENT OF FIRST CONFESSION - Sacred Heart 6.00pm  
Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Tempest Photography - Reception and Y6 Vista (Year Group) photos  
Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> PALM SUNDAY  
Sun 31<sup>st</sup> EASTER SUNDAY

#### **April**

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

#### **May**

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> to } KS2 SATS - ALL Y6 PUPILS MUST BE IN SCHOOL FOR EACH OF THE  
Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> } 4 MORNINGS  
Sat 18<sup>th</sup> SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
Fri 24<sup>th</sup> School closes for HALF TERM 3.20pm

#### **June**

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> School re opens for all 8.50am  
Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Parish SUMMER FAYRE at Sacred Heart  
Weds 19<sup>th</sup> Tempest Photography - individual, family and Pre School photos

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY 4 - School closed for join training with Tamworth and Lichfield Catholic Schools

**July**

Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION - Sacred Heart 7.00pm led by Canon Paul McNally

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>nd</sup> INSET DAY 5 - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

"Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord."  
Psalm 94

"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan" Blessed Carlo Acutis

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher