

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

## Non Uniform Day - Tomorrow, Friday 17th February - Fundraising for Julie Martin and family

A number of you will be aware that Julie Martin, a former pupil of ours now in Year 6 at St Elizabeth's, was diagnosed with cancer last July. Julie still remains very unwell in Birmingham Children's Hospital with her parents now needing to spend much time there.

To raise much needed funds for this family we will hold a Non Uniform day tomorrow. This is an act of solidarity with St. Elizabeth's who are now also running a Non Uniform Day.

Any donations to be made in the usual way via ParentPay. All voluntary donations to the family.

Please keep Julie and her family in your prayers.

## 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.



## Janitor Vacancy

We have a vacancy at the School for a Janitor to start Tuesday 02/05/2023.

The working hours are 4.00pm to 6.00pm Monday to Friday - 10 hours a week (although there can be some flexibility with these hours).

The role will include: - Closing the school each evening, filling the Toilet Roll and Paper Towel Dispensers, cleanliness of external bins and outside areas and being a Key Holder for emergency call outs (when Caretaker is not available).

Informed telephone contact to find out more is available with Headteacher John Hayes or Bursar Steve Swatton, on Monday, Wednesday or Friday on 01827 213910.

Full details and application form can be found on Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School website under Our School then Vacancies. Direct link [HERE](#)

Application deadline is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 @ 9.00am.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



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

## Traffic

Obviously, we can all see there is greater congestion on local roads at the moment. The closure of the slip road off the A5 nearest to the M42 has added to traffic using Marlborough Way. Reduction of the A5 to one lane in places and speed restrictions have now added to delays.

Please do factor this in to your journeys..... and try to leave some extra time at the start and end of the day, to drop off and collect in time. Thank you.

## CAFOD Big Lent Walk



This Lent CAFOD are launching their Big Lent Walk!

### **WALK 200KM IN 40 DAYS TO HELP FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY**

Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends.

Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty.

[The Big Lent Walk - Cafod](#)

CAFOD fundraising will support people like Dristy. She lives in a small village in Bangladesh - one of the most at-risk countries from the effects of the climate crisis. Dristy says that cyclones and floods are becoming more frequent for the people there.



Dristy's mum, Rupali, works side by side with her, teaching her how to plant lots of different crops; how to build seed beds that won't get flooded, what trees to plant to protect the village from cyclones; and how to use discarded household items to grow saplings.

If you would like to find out more about the Big Lent Walk please visit [The Big Lent Walk - Cafod](#)

## 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 94.42% (5/9/22-10/2/23)

R - 91.84%

Y3 - 96.03%

Y6 - 95.53%

Y1 - 91.91%

Y4 - 95.09%

Y2 - 94.74%

Y5 - 94.85%

Attendance overall is slowly creeping upwards.

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

### Year 4 Indoor Athletics Tournament

Well done to the year 4 athletics teams who won the Tamworth competition last Thursday and equalled the year 5/6 team's achievement, earlier this year. The children in year 4 did very well in all their events and were able to finish in first place out of eleven other primary schools - a great achievement! A huge thank you to Mr Birtwistle for training and preparing the children and Mr Fowler for supervising them at the event. The team was Harriet, Neive, Tommy, Gabriella, Natan, Archie, Izabela, Mia, Joshua, Rhys, Piotr and Layla.

### Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Kaion
RJC	Nyla
1KG	Archie
1NH	Imogen
2BL	Maya
2NT	Myla
3CC	Ethan
3LH	Isabella
4HB	Ava
4LM	Nela
5SM	Scott
5ST	Amelia
6AC	Joel
6BF	Corey



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

### 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.

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.

## World Book Day - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 - Mrs Hughes writes

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 2 March, and we hope you'll join us as we come together to celebrate our World Book Day in school. Every year on World Book Day we are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our school community. We know that this year many families will find themselves in a difficult financial situation and we don't want our celebrations to be an additional burden. In light of this, we are inviting children to come to school wearing their pyjamas/ loungewear so that we can all relax with a book. Children are still more than welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite book character if they have a costume and would prefer to do so.



As part of our celebrations, we would like to invite parents/carers/grandparents to come into school to share a story with their children on World Book Day. Please see the timetable below for your child's year group story time.

Story Time - Hall Timetable			
Year Group	Time	Year Group	Time
<b>Reception</b>	9:30 - 9:55	<b>4</b>	1:20 - 1:45
<b>1</b>	10:00 - 10:25	<b>5</b>	1:50 - 2:15
<b>2</b>	10:30 - 10:55	<b>6</b>	2:20 - 2:45
<b>3</b>	11:00 - 11:25		

Please don't worry if you are not able to make it to this session, we will make sure there will be somebody to share a book with all of our children. If you have children in multiple year groups but can only make one of the sessions, simply choose the most convenient time and we will invite all siblings to join you at this session.

In the interests of encouraging reading for pleasure, we are also planning for children to take part in a book swap (in their own year group) during the day. If your child has any unwanted books, books they have grown out of or one they have simply read too many times, they can bring it into school and swap it for another book of their choice from one of their school friends. Not only does this encourage our children as readers, the sharing and recycling of books is an excellent way for us all to contribute towards our Live Simply pledge here at St Gabriel's.

We will also be setting a World Book Day related Home Learning task next week, to be completed over the half term holiday, the results of which the children will have the opportunity to share with one another on World Book Day. The creator of the winning Book in a Box from each class will be rewarded with a book prize which have very kindly been purchased for us by the Friends of St Gabriel's. A huge thanks to all those involved in the Friends of St Gabriel's and to all parents/carers for their ongoing support of the events they organise for the children.

In school children will also be taking part in the Design a National Book token competition and the two winning designs from each class will be entered into the national competition.

We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which could not happen without the support of parents and carers - 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 [HERE](#)

### 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](#)

[ST. GABRIEL'S WEBSITE](#)

### 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.

### 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.



### 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 [HERE](#)



### 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](mailto: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

Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Break up for Half Term
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Ash Wednesday (during Half Term) START OF LENT
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Return to school
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y3 Mass 9.15am
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Early years and Y1 Mass 9.15am
	MOTHER'S DAY SALE - TOILETRIES/PERFUME etc
	2pm-3pm - <u>Children</u> visit the hall with an opportunity to buy.
	3.30pm-4pm - Open to ALL families after school
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 3 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacred Heart Church 6pm
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Tempest Photography Reception & Y6 Vistas and Year Groups
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Mass - Whole school led by y4 9.15am
	Break up for school holidays
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens for children and staff

## Preparing for Lent

Ash Wednesday - which signals the start of Lent is Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> - during half term. Before it arrives, make a point of stopping and thinking about how you could spend Lent?

There are 3 holy practices which we are called to take on in Lent.

PRAYER - spending some time - just a little each day to talk to God.

FASTING - giving up or staying off something we enjoy or like.

ALMSGIVING - giving what we can, if we can, to those less well off.

Make a Lenten plan and try to keep to it for a grace filled journey to Easter.

### A prayer for Turkey and Syria

We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria.

We pray for everyone who is affected by the earthquake, those who have lost loved ones, and all who have lost their homes. May they be comforted by so many people reaching out to offer support.

Lord, bless the efforts of rescuers and medical staff, CAFOD and all the other agencies trying to help.

Move our hearts with compassion. May our sisters and brothers know that they are loved and find their hope restored. Amen.

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes

Headteacher