

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and carers

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:

Preparing for 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 our 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.
- This year we will also have Bible Alive booklets available with more scripture and prayer.
- Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings.

It all begins on Ash Wednesday with Masses in both churches. It is February 14th, so bring your valentine to Mass to receive ashes together!

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.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Year 3/4 Athletics team

Congratulations to the year 3 and 4 athletics team who won a local competition this week. Over 140 children from twelve local primary schools took part in the competition at Rawlett High School, testing the children in running, jumping and throwing events. The team were amazing and showed great team spirit to finish in first place. Our captain Cian said, "We tried our best, we worked really hard and that earnt us the win."

Many thanks to Mr Birtwistle for all his work training the children and thanks to Mr Fowler for supervising the children at the event. The team was: Cian, Leon, Fabio, Edward, Jenson, Max, Eva, Maisie, Vittoria, Rose, Niamh and Martha.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday, children took part in Safer Internet Day, which is organised and promoted by [Safer Internet](#).

The event encourages children, not just in this country but children in 170 countries around the world, to think about how they could be safe online and how they should treat others online too. The theme this year was: Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online.

The children at St. Gabriel's had assemblies and live lessons, which showed them how to be safer and looked at the developments in AI technology. The children learnt how to use these new technologies safely and what to look out for to keep themselves and other safe.

As parents, remember you are the best example to your child on how they should conduct themselves online.

To find out more information on this go to: [Safer Internet Day - Tips](#)

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RJC	Jaxon
RHK/AD	Mataya
1KG	Harry T
1NH	Oliver
2LG	Zach D
2NT	Bobby
3CC	Evie
3SO	Anthony
4HB	Willow
4LM	Harrison
5VN	Archie
5SM	Aubrey
6AC	James
6BF	Evie



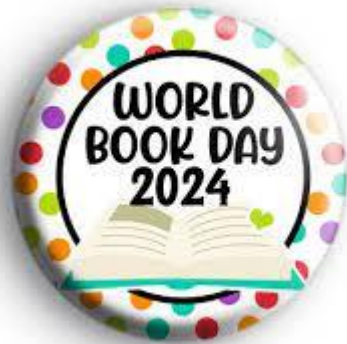
**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

World Book Day

Mrs Hughes and Miss Cunningham write to tell us that World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th 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
Reception	9:30 - 9:55
1	10:00 - 10:25
2	10:30 - 10:55
3	11:00 - 11:25
4	1:20 - 1:45
5	1:50 - 2:15
6	2:20 - 2:45



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. Please make sure your child understands that they will be exchanging their book so another child will be taking their book home!!

We will also be setting a World Book Day related Home Learning task after the half term holiday, the results of which the children will share with one another on World Book Day. 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.

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. 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 School Closures](#)

[St Gabriel's School Closure Procedure](#)

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 - 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

FEBRUARY

- Fri 9th School closes for HALF TERM 3.20pm
Weds 14th Ash Wednesday - MARKS START OF LENT
Mon 19th School re opens for all 8.50am
Reception and Year 6 Heights and Weights - catch up visit

MARCH

- Weds 6th SACRAMENT OF FIRST CONFESSION - Sacred Heart 6.00pm
Thurs 21st Tempest Photography - Reception and Y6 Vista (Year Group) photos
Fri 22nd 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 24th PALM SUNDAY
Sun 31st EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL

- Mon 8th School re opens for all 8.50am
Mon 29th INSET DAY 3 SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

MAY

- Mon 13th to } KS2 SATS - ALL Y6 PUPILS MUST BE IN SCHOOL FOR EACH OF THE
Thurs 16th } 4 MORNINGS
Sat 18th SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (3CC @ 10am/3SO @ 12.00)
Fri 24th School closes for HALF TERM 3.20pm

JUNE

- Mon 3rd School re opens for all 8.50am
Sun 9th Parish SUMMER FAYRE at Sacred Heart
Weds 19th Tempest Photography - individual, family and Pre School photos
Mon 24th INSET DAY 4 - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

JULY

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

Fri 19th Mass for End of Term in School Hall 9.15am
School closes for end of academic year

Mon 22nd **NOTE school closes at 1.30pm by decision of School Governing Body**
INSET DAY 5 - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

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

God Bless

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P Hayes".

John P Hayes
Headteacher