

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

## Julie Martin - Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Julie Martin aged 11, a former pupil who was attending St. Elizabeth's (in Year 6) and who died on Good Friday. Please pray for her sister Emily. To Mr and Mrs Martin and the wider family we pass on our sympathy and condolences at their huge loss. May Julie rest in peace.

Julie's funeral Mass will take place at 12 noon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Sacred Heart Church.

This will be followed by a cremation at Lichfield and District Crematorium at 1.30pm.

The family have requested anyone attending to make the effort to wear orange, if possible, please.

If you would like to make a donation to help the family with the funeral costs, please use the following link.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-to-support-family-towards-funeral-costs>

## 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.

## 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.



## Heart of Tamworth Firewalk Fundraiser - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

HoT Firewalk is a 5 metre sponsored walk. The only catch is it's on hot coals! It's on June 24<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart for the Heart of Tamworth Charity. A pack is attached which tells you more. They need 100 people. email [margaret@heartoftamworth.org](mailto: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>



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



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

## **St. Gabriel's Firewalkers**

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

The firewalk is being held, at Sacred Heart Church, 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](#)

## **Advice**

As parents, you want a child to be happy and resilient. We want them to see the opportunities in our world.

However, as human beings, we are programmed to see, notice and remember the negatives more than the positives.

A big strategy to coach and encourage is to shift our attention to the positives, without ignoring the negatives.

So 3 tips.

### **1. Practice being GRATEFUL.**

Encourage your child to APPRECIATE the good things in their lives - no matter how big or small.

Do this by asking them to share 3 THINGS they are glad of or appreciate towards the end of each day.

### **2. REFRAKE challenges.**

See setbacks as opportunities for growth, rather than being FRUSTRATED or ASHAMED.

Ask your child to reflect on what they learned from their mistakes or remind them of other times when they overcame obstacles.

### **3. CELEBRATE STRENGTHS**

Recognise and encourage the unique strengths and talents your child has. Every child has them. Help them develop them further.

Praise them for their EFFORTS, not just achievements.

We can all benefit from these.

And never underestimate as a parent the difference you can make just by giving your child some TIME. Just a little quality few minutes each day.

## **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.

## **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 94.57% (5/9/22-28/04/23)

R - 92.88%	Y3 - 95.66%	Y6 - 94.83%
Y1 - 92.62%	Y4 - 95.21%	
Y2 - 95.16%	Y5 - 95.04%	

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

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

## **Visitors in School**

**We have been very lucky over the last weeks to be able to welcome a number of visitors into school!**

### **Severn Trent Water - Super Sewers!**

We welcomed a special visit from Severn Trent Water this week!

Lucy came into school to talk to us about Super Sewers and how we can all help to use water carefully and sustainably.

Lucy explained that it was really important that we remembered that there are 'Only Three Things that should go down the loo - toilet paper, pee and poo.'

Following our assemblies, we have made a commitment that we will 'Only put the 3Ps down the loo and not pour any Fats, Oils or Greases down the sink to help look after our environment.' This commitment will help us to Live Sustainably and to Work for the Common Good - If we all care and share for water then we can all have enough of this life giving resource.

### **CAFOD - Catholic Social Teaching Workshops**

We also welcomed Barbara from CAFOD into school to lead a number of Catholic Social Teaching Workshops.

Catholic social teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world.

Barbara talked to us about the different aspects of Catholic Social Teaching and how we could put the teaching into practice in our daily lives.

### Snapchat

We have been made aware of a feature within the SnapChat app, called My AI Robot, which may not be completely safe. This feature may be able to access users location, regardless of whether the location identification tool has been disabled.

If your child has access to this application, we recommend that parents/carers check the use of the app in view of this.

Please be clear, children in primary should not have access to SnapChat as it has a recommended user age of 13+.

### Parking

Local Councillor Paul Thompson and a representative of the local police team visited school on Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RJC	Finley
RAD	Callie-Anne
1KG	Zachary E
1NH	Harlow
2BL	Freya B
2NT	Jacob
3CC	Jack
3LH	Cerys
4HB	Lenny
4LM	Harry S
5SM	Freddie
5ST	Travis
6AC	Oskar
6BF	Amelia



Well Done Readers of the  
Week!



## No Mow May

We're inviting garden owners to resist mowing their lawns during May.

To take part and give wildlife a much-needed boost throughout summer, why not lock up your lawnmower for the month? Doing so benefits wildlife, provides more nectar for pollination, and can even store carbon underground.

We're giving away free signs that you can stick in your grass to show you are taking part!

You can collect yours from selected libraries. [Find the nearest library to you and more information about the campaign here.](#)

### 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.

### Whitsun Camp at Spital Tennis Club

During the upcoming Whitsun Holidays, Spital Tennis Club are running their half term holiday tennis camps for ages 4 to 16. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

**Venue:** Spital Tennis Club, Wigginton Road, Tamworth, B79 8RH

Bookings can be made [HERE](#)

### Message from the Friends of St. Gabriel's

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

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY - King's Coronation
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> May to Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS - <b>Y6 pupils must be in school each morning to take their tests</b>
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> May	First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Miss O'Hanlon's/Miss Allen's class
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> May to Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> May	LAUDATO SI WEEK "Hope for the Earth, hope for humanity"
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Urban Street Artist working with Year 3
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School Photos, from 8.15am
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for half term
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens for children and staff
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Sacrament of Confirmation - Sacred Heart @ 7pm
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Mass for end of term and end of school year. Children finish for Summer

Jesus said to his disciples

"Do not let your hearts be troubled,  
Trust in God still, and trust in me."

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher