

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

My word.... what a start to the day.

Thanks to everyone who made the effort to get in. Our attendance was actually very high today so thank you. Please be aware that a decision to close school is only taken as a last resort and after conversations between the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors and the Caretaker. In reaching a decision many factors are considered, such as;

- Heating availability and temperature inside school
- Condition of water pipes in school and availability of running water
- Condition of the immediate local roads
- Ensuring the playground and paving around school can have secure, clear pathways to allow safe movement
- Ability of adequate staff numbers to reach school.

Closing school is only a last resort!

If school is closed you will receive an emergency text message. (PLEASE ENSURE YOUR UP TO DATE NUMBERS ARE HELD BY THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO RECEIVE SUCH A MESSAGE). The school website and county council website page for school closures will be updated.

[St Gabriel's Emergency School Closures](#)

[Staffordshire Emergency School Closures](#)

## **Catholic Virtues - Learned and Wise**

This half term the children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be growing to be LEARNED through finding God in all things and WISE in the ways we use our learning for the common good.



## **World Book Day**

Thank you to Miss Cunningham and Mrs Hughes in their efforts to organise this opportunity for us last week. It was a really great day.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



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

### **Book in a Box**

Once again, very well done to the children for their wonderful Book in a Box creations - we were delighted by all the thought and effort that has gone into making them.

Congratulations to the following children, who have received the book prize:

RC	Harrison
RK	Frank
1NH	Georgia
1KG	Nina
2NT	Vittoria
2BL	Marcel
3CC	George
3LH	Selena
4LM	Jasmine
4HB	Orla
5ST	Ruby-Rose
5SM	Ethan
6AC	Lola-Rose
6BF	Danielle

Thank you once again to the Friends of St Gabriel's for funding the lovely books we were able to give as prizes and thank you parents for your continued support.

### **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% (5/9/22-03/03/23)

R - 92.33%                                      Y3 - 96.08%                                      Y6 - 95.48%

Y1 - 92.30%                                      Y4 - 95.23%

Y2 - 94.85%                                      Y5 - 94.93%

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

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

### Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Khloe
RJC	Logan
1KG	Zachary D
1NH	Esme
2BL	Spenser
2NT	Darcy
3CC	George L
3LH	Zoe
4HB	Charlie
4LM	Layla O
5SM	Maksymilian
5ST	Ava
6AC	Daisy-May
6BF	Amelia



**Well Done Readers of the Week!**

### School Meal Price Increase from Monday 13th March 2023

We regret to inform you in these difficult times that the School Meal Prices will increase from £2.53 per meal to £2.79 per meal from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023. These are the charges that Chartwells (our catering provider) charges the school.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to be able to have a Free School Meal as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).

Pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) will continue to be able to have a Free School Meal. If you feel your child/children may be entitled to Free School Meals but you have not applied then see the information [HERE](#) . You can also ask any member of the Office Staff in strict confidence for assistance. This is particularly important if your child is in Year 2 this year receiving a Free School Meal as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) but not entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) at present as from September 2023 you will have to pay for meals taken in school. Thank you

### Lost Property

The lost property trunk is once again full to the brim! Unfortunately the majority of the clothing is unnamed and therefore impossible to return. Please do come along and have a look through the lost property and reclaim any missing items. Any unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable cause over the Easter Holiday. Thank you.



### 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.

### Parking

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.

### Message from Gabriel's Angels

If you wish to book your child/ren into holiday club over Easter, please do so by **Monday 20th March AT THE LATEST**. If we do not receive enough bookings by this date, then the club may be closed.

We will be open on the following dates:

Week 1 - Monday 3rd - Thursday 6th April

Week 2 - Tuesday 11th - Friday 14th April

Our opening hours are 9am to 3pm, and the cost will be £20 per child, per day.

All places must be booked in advance. Please do not just turn up without having booked a place, as we may not be able to look after your child/ren. There will only be enough staff on site to look after the amount of children booked in. If you no longer need the place after booking, please let us know, otherwise you will still be charged.

To book in, please contact Julie Smith on 07772943655.

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](#)

### **Easter Fun! Free #HolidayActivities and Food (HAF)!**

Keep your children entertained over the Easter holidays with #HAF2023

There will be lots of different holiday clubs offering Easter themed activities.

Plus, the favourites including dodgeball, cooking, horse-riding, dance, football, swimming, bushcraft and lots more!! They'll get a chance to socialise, have fun and be fed a healthy meal!

✓ **FREE** for eligible children aged 5-16 years in receipt of benefits related free school meals.

✓ Eligible children will get a code to register.

✓ Registration opens at 4pm on 17th March 2023.

Find out more on the Staffordshire County Council website [HERE](https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities)



### **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

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

"May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you."

(The response from last weeks psalm says so much in one short sentence.)

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes

Headteacher