

# **Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School**

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Dear Parents

## **Going back to Mass?**

It's a great Catholic parish here in Tamworth. Have a look at the parish website at:

<https://www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk/>

I really want to encourage families to consider going back to Saturday evening or Sunday Mass? You have lots of times to choose.

The Churches at Sacred Heart and St. John's are roomy and social distancing and appropriate safety measures are in place. As you know, the children have been able to have the experience of attending Mass in year groups at school. But as Fr. Michael would say - nothing compares to going to your own Church, to feel the presence of Christ.

Please consider going along to Mass on Saturday or Sunday with Fr. Michael and Fr. Subba. You do not have to book. Just turn up and let me know on the gate how you find it. Thank you.

## **"Up to You" campaign**

Staffordshire Council has launched the "Up to You" campaign.

The aim is to promote the continued threat from Covid 19 and encourage all of us to take individual responsibility and make sensible decisions to reduce the spread of the virus and to protect each other.

Key messages are:

- Choose to protect yourself and others by following guidelines
- Get tested regularly, especially if meeting others
- Being vaccinated is your best defence

## **Staffing**

Please be aware that ongoing sickness/illness and impact of Covid means there is a reality of us not having a full work force, from week to week.

St. Gabriel's have had 7 members of staff absent at some point, this week. We are therefore running with less than a full staff team at this time. Please be understanding and patient with us, given the current situations.

**PLEASE SEE SECTIONS BELOW FROM THIS WEEKS COVID SCHOOL UPDATE FROM STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Testing**

Everyone is encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) twice a week. A third of people who have the virus show no symptoms, so regular testing is the best way to identify more people who may unknowingly have Covid-19.

Anyone who has a positive LFT test should book a confirmatory PCR test via the national booking system. People who have one of the main three symptoms, feel generally unwell, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive should also take a PCR test. See our website for [advice on testing and self-isolation](#).

To help tackle the increase of cases in high schools, a Mobile Testing Unit is currently being deployed across the county, offering precautionary PCR tests to students. The PCR tests are more accurate than the LFT and results are sent to the labs for analysis.

**Sports Activities**

There have been reports that some children have continued to take part in out of school sporting activities, even though they have tested positive for the virus.

Everyone is reminded that people who test positive are legally required to self-isolate at home for 10 days. They should not be taking part or going out to support sports or leisure events. People who have one of the main symptoms should self-isolate and book a PCR test.

**\*\*\*"Squid Game" - SAFEGUARDING WARNING\*\*\***

There have been some concerning reports recently about children and young people playing "Squid Game" at schools across the county. It is also being viewed on platforms such as YouTube and Tiktok. This Netflix series is rated at 15.

Children **SHOULD NOT** be watching this. The show is graphic with a lot of violent content. Please talk to your children about why it is not appropriate and/or ensure parental control settings are correctly in place on devices used at home.

**Reader of the Week**

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Olivia
RJC	Lulu
1KG	Leo
1NH	Jacob
2JH	Lewis
2NT	Isabella
3CC	Clayton
3LH	Hollie
4HA	Amelia
4HB	Maja
5AC	Darcie
5SG	Summer-Skye
6BF	Alexis
6ST	Erin



**Well Done Readers  
of the Week!**

## October Half Term Reading Challenge

From reading in the bath to building a reading den and reading under the covers (or even outside) we had over ONE HUNDRED children complete the October Half Term Reading Challenge! Well Done to all those READING SUPERSTARS who took part! Everyone who took part in the Reading Challenge will bring home a certificate tomorrow (Friday). Thank you to all for taking part.

We did have a few challenge sheets returned without names – if you took part but haven't had your certificate yet please mention this to your class teacher in case we haven't managed to name your form.

## COP26



The UK is hosting the world leaders at the UN COP26 climate conference over the next couple of weeks and the eyes of the world will be on us to lead the way in combatting the climate emergency!

### **What is COP26?**

The UN holds a climate conference (COP) each year in different countries around the world, where world leaders gather to talk about climate change. This is the 26th year of the conference.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales have written a special prayer for COP26 to encourage us to pray for and raise awareness of the importance of the outcome of this year's crucial climate talks in Glasgow.

A poster titled 'A PRAYER FOR THE COP26 CLIMATE TALKS'. The text is in blue and green, matching the COP26 theme. It begins with 'Loving God, We praise your name with all you have created. You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures.' This is followed by 'We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation.' Then, 'May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.' The prayer concludes with 'We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son. Amen'. There are illustrations: a white dove with a green olive branch in its beak, a globe being held by two hands, and a small green tree.

Ten Ten has also created a short video for children about the COP26 summit, leading to prayer which you might find helpful:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/the-hub/cop26-public/>

## **Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2022**

The application system will open on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 for September 2022 Reception places. If you/a family member/friend have a child of school age in September 2022, please make sure applications are submitted. The easiest way to apply is online and a link to the online system will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021. The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

## **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 11.00am - Remembering our shared history**

As we have done for many years, the children observed a period of silence this morning to recognise Armistice Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November and Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. We think back to the first Armistice Day - 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, and the many lives sacrificed in the past so that we can have our freedom today. Please talk to your children at this time, about the significance of this in our history and in our lives.

## **Peter Armitage MBE**

Year 6 were very lucky last Thursday, when Peter Armitage MBE came into school to give a presentation on the Post Office's involvement during World War One and Two. The children had the opportunity to try on army uniforms and handle historical artefacts from the period as well as learn about the hardships faced by soldiers fighting in the trenches. He was also very kind and organised a competition for the children to complete in and win trophies and medals. With thanks to Mr Fowler for organising and Mr Agnew for passing on the contact.

## **Wow Active**

Children took part in the first round of fitness tests last month with Wow Active and performed very well together in the different tests. Well done to all the children and in particular, the following children for achieving the highest scores.

<b>Year group</b>	<b>Highest Scorers</b>
Year 3	Sebastian K / Archie B
Year 4	Ella G / Haitham M
Year 5	Samuel B / Lenny H
Year 6	Sam S / Lucas T

## **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.

We again ask you take this advice and requests on board. Thanks to those parents who were supportive of PCSOs and PCs present at the school recently.

### Home Start Family Group

Home-Start Tamworth is a local charity which supports ordinary parents in and around Tamworth, Staffordshire, who are going through challenging times. They are running a Family Group on Thursday mornings during term time at Sacred Heart 9.30am-11.00am.

### Alpha - In person or Online

A choice of two Alpha courses. One on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart 7.30-9.00pm from 30<sup>th</sup> September or one online on Zoom- day and time to be confirmed. So it's meeting up or Zooming in? The choice is yours. Watch an inspiring video and follow with discussion! Why not give it a try? Please book so that we know numbers via email [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) or phone 01827 769403

### Journey in faith

Are you, or do you know anyone else, interested in becoming a Catholic or finding out more about the Catholic Faith? Please get in touch with us soon as the course starts at the end of September. Email [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) or phone 01827 769403 to speak with Fr Michael or Alex Parker to book a place and find out more.

### Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the week commencing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November will be:

Monday:	Pizza, Pasta and Sweetcorn or Salad
Tuesday:	Sausage, Mash, Peas and Gravy
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Jacket Potato with Cheese and Beans
Friday:	Fish Fingers and Chips



## Battery late than never...

What to do with your dead batteries

All household batteries can be recycled. BUT, don't throw them into your household recycling bin or your general waste bin. [They can cause explosions!](#)

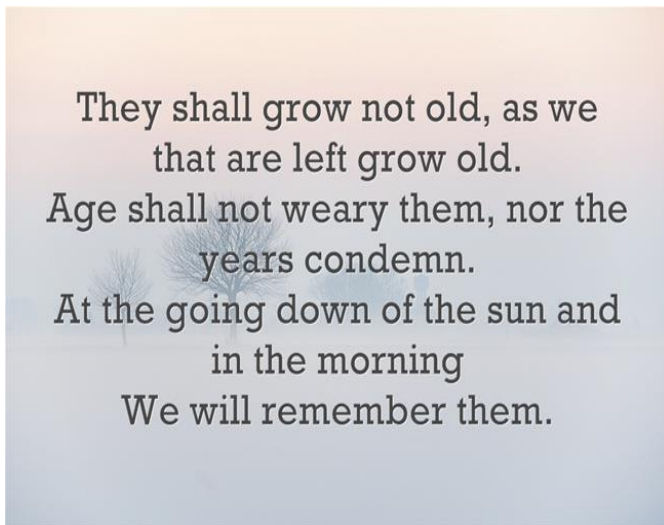
Take them to a [recycling centre](#) or a collection point at School in a supermarket or instead.

**Top tip:** Create a Tupperware battery bin in your house and fill it up. When it is full take it to the [household recycling centres](#).

**What else can I do?** Try and use rechargeable batteries wherever possible.

## Dates for your Diary

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> December      School finishes for Christmas Break 3.20pm



God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher