

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

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Dear Parents

## **Christmas Events**

Well done to all our children, in the various ways they have read, sang or performed for us in recent days. They have made us stop and think.

Never underestimate how big an achievement it is for children to stand up and speak, act, sing, recite or perform. Opportunities such as these may give confidence or light an interest that is taken up and followed throughout their life. Thank you to parents and carers for help with costumes and encouraging knowledge of lines and words. Thank you to all staff involved in making these events take place. Much additional work takes place in staff's own time. I commend all the staff to you for their patience, energy and dedication at this time of the year.

## **Strep A Infections**

Infections caused by Group A strep bacteria are usually mild with symptoms like a sore throat or skin infections. The bug can also cause scarlet fever. Dr Colin Brown, Dep.

Director of the UK HAS has advised that there are a range of symptoms which may be a sign of an invasive infection including high fever, poor appetite, dehydration and altered behaviour. An invasive infection can result in much more serious consequences.

**\*\*IN ALL INSTANCES, IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN, SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ADVICE FROM A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.\*\***

Please also see separate letter sent by email yesterday, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Mrs Holmes**

Congratulations to Mrs Holmes, who gave birth to beautiful baby boy recently. Both Mom and son are doing well. We wish Mrs Holmes and her family well at this special time.

## **Mrs Hawker**

Mrs Hawker continues to receive a range of treatment. All being well it is actually hoped that Mrs Hawker will get home for Christmas. Mr Hawker wishes to pass on his thanks to all parents for their support and good wishes. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



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

## Catholic Virtues - Faith Filled and Hopeful

Pupils are growing to be Faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future. Catholic Schools help their pupils grow by passing on the living and faith-filled tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering faith in the pupils, and by encouraging them in turn, to have faith and hope in themselves and others.



## Winter Approaching

The first cold snap of the year is with us. 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 -

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/sln/schoolclosures/>

St. Gabriel's website -

[https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/emergency\\_school\\_closure\\_procedure/568432](https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/emergency_school_closure_procedure/568432)

## Sacred Heart Church

Keep up to date with what's going on in your parish [HERE](#)

As Christmas approaches try to spend a little time still each day, in the presence of God. If you are lucky enough to have a Crib, put the figures in a special place in your home. Make it your business to go along and share in the joy of Christmas Mass at the Sacred Heart.

## 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.

## The Wildlife Trust - 12 Days Wild

A post-Christmas dinner stroll, spotting robins in the park, recycling your Christmas tree - your #12DaysWild activities don't have to be big, but they'll make a big difference to your wellbeing! Join The Wildlife Trusts in doing one WILD thing a day for the traditional 12 days of Christmas, starting 25 December until 5 January. You can sign up now to receive lots of inspiration for wild, wintery activities at: [www.wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild)



## Winter Reading Challenge



The Reading Agency launched this year's Winter Reading Challenge earlier this month. The Winter Reading Challenge follows a similar format to the very popular Summer Reading Challenge - children are challenged to read at least three books between 1<sup>st</sup> December and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and can collect rewards along the way. Lots more details are attached to this newsletter email. The Winter Reading Challenge is a fantastic way to encourage children to keep reading over the holidays - please do take a look!

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>

### Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Joey
RJC	George
1KG	Franklin
1NH	Erik
2BL	Amiyah
2NT	Weronika
3CC	Abbie
3LH	Kiera
4HB	Grace
4LM	Jacob E
5SM	Georgia
5ST	Celeste
6AC	Ariah
6BF	Misha



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

### CAFOD World Gifts

Thank you for all of your generous donations, we have currently raised £281.00. In the New Year we will be purchasing some of the gifts chosen by the children. We will update you all further in January.

### **Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2023 - closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January**

The application system opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 for September 2023 Reception places. If you/a family member/friend have a child of school age in September 2023, 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 2022. The closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023. DO COMPLETE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**\*\* PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU RECORD ST. GABRIEL'S AS A FIRST PREFERENCE TO SECURE A PLACE \*\***

Please note that non Catholic children and families are very welcome to attend St. Gabriel's.

### **Twitter**

Currently we have 101 active followers, an increase from last week. We would love more followers! Parents who have taken the easy steps to follow our account have enjoyed seeing some lovely moments of every day school life captured through this means. In order to follow the school Twitter account please:

1. **Make a request via Twitter AND**
2. **Ensure that you email [twitter@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:twitter@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk) confirming your personal twitter details so that we can then approve your Twitter request.**

This process ensures our account stays safe. Thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding.

### **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.

### **Dogs on the school grounds**

A reminder please that dogs must not be brought beyond the school gates and onto school premises. Dogs are banned from all school grounds because of the danger of toxicariasis in dog waste. This is in line with County Council guidelines. Please respect this request at all times. Thank you.

### **Resilience/Independence**

Do encourage your child to organise themselves properly each morning. Encourage them to carry their own bag and belongings. Talk to them about organising their belongings, so they are not misplaced. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Supporting us - supporting your child**

As parents and carers you send your children to us to be educated and to prepare them for their future, the world of work and how to behave and act.

You would of course expect us to remind children when their behaviour falls short of what is expected. When a teacher does speak with a child, deals with a child or gives advice, support your child by not allowing them to dwell on that issue. Trust in us is important. Encourage resilience in your child by encouraging them to learn from their experience and to move forward positively. Thank you.

### **Attendance**

The attendance of our children at school has received a massive blow due to the 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. Thank you.

### **Parking**

Please continue to be aware of the need to park responsibly in the local area ad 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.

### **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.

[www.facebook.com/friendsofstgabriels](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofstgabriels)



### **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.

## Dates for your Diary

### **December**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Whole School Mass for end of term (led by Year 5) 9.15am  
Break up for Christmas holidays 3.20pm

### **January**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Pupils and Staff return to school  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Mass - Whole school led by Y6 9.15am  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Y3 Mass 9.15am  
Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Full Governing Board meeting 6pm  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY 3

### **February**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Whole school Mass at Sacred Heart Church 9am  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Y2 Mass 9.15am  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Break up for Half Term  
Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, during Half Term  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Return to school

### **March**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Mass - Whole school led by Y3 9.15am  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Mass - Early years and Y1 9.15am  
Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Year 3 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacred Heart Church 6pm,  
Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Mass - Whole school led by y4 9.15am  
Break up for school holidays  
Easter Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>

Lord,

When you came among us, you were rejected by many.

So many did not want to know you, and closed the door of their hearts.

Lord, let us open our hearts to you always, especially this Christmas.

Let us let you into our world, to shape our lives, actions and thoughts.

Amen

Wishing you all a happy, holy and restful Christmas with your family and friends.

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes  
Headteacher