

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

## High levels of flu, Covid and scarlet fever

Flu and Covid are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in the coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

"It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Remember that the flu vaccination is the best protection against the virus. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late."

## Catholic Virtues - Eloquent and Truthful

This term the children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be growing to be **ELOQUENT** and **TRUTHFUL** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people and the world.



## Phonics Workshop - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January - Reception

Thank you to the parents and carers who took up the opportunity to join us in Reception on Tuesday afternoon. Thank you to Mrs Coakley and the staff team for organising.

## White Rose Maths

I'd like to signpost parents and carers to a series of free maths films on 'White Rose hub' called Maths with Michael. Please have a look at this mini-series with Michael Underwood that explains how maths is taught at school. Thank you, Mrs Taggart.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/maths-with-michael>



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



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

### **Y5/6 Indoor Athletics Team**

Congratulations to the athletics team who won the local Tamworth competition last Thursday at Rawlett High School. The event tests the children in running, jumping and throwing events and our captain Inez said, "The whole team did very well, and I am very proud of them."

The team will now go on to represent the school at the county finals in March. The team was: Inez, Izzy, Ella, Celeste, Nikola, Eleanor, Faith, Lola, Seraphine, Maja, Dominika, Amelia, Ruby, Lenny, Jake B, Oskar, Joel, Ronnie, Jake S, Haitham, Lucas, Sam B, Sam E, Dawid and Tymoteusz. Thanks to Mr Fowler and Mr Birtwistle for training the children and Mr Fowler for supervising them at the event.

### **Reader of the Week**

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Harry D
RJC	Janice
1KG	Ava
1NH	Freya
2BL	Evie M
2NT	Tate
3CC	Edward N
3LH	Dominik
4HB	Tymon
4LM	Jenson
5SM	Emily
5ST	Tymon
6AC	Theo
6BF	Caleb



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**

### **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 - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

## **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.** 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)

## **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.

## **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 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. Thank you.

### **Change to School Menu - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Please note that there will be a change to the school menu on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the kitchen will be serving an All American menu, please see poster attached. Thank you.

### **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. [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.

### **Free Community Cares Events**

Community Cares are pleased to announce that their "Smiley Space" is back!

Free Community Cares Events are running EVERY Saturday 11am-3pm at the Exley Community Centre, Belgrave (Gated building opposite John the Butcher and the Chemist)

All of the Warm Space events are completely FREE and that is inclusive of:

- \* Food & Drink (plus free fresh goodies)
- \* Family Room full of toys, games, craft, learning corner, and fun!!
- \* Signposting and Information to empower you with options.
- \* A friendly Face and a compassionate ear, for those needing to unload or just fancy a natter!

All you need to bring is yourselves and a smile!

All of the events are inclusive of all and are disability friendly, whether physical or hidden, especially those with Autism, Asperger's and ADHD.

A safe space for you and your loved ones whatever your needs.

If you are interested in volunteering, helping the community cause or would like more information, please contact us on [support@oursmileyspace.co.uk](mailto:support@oursmileyspace.co.uk)

## **Sacred Heart Church**

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

## **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 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 - School <u>CLOSED</u> to pupils
<b>February</b>	
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 (START OF LENT)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Return to school
<b>March</b>	
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>

As we start 2023 Pope Francis asks us to pray for educators - "that they may be credible witnesses - teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all."

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes  
Headteacher