

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

Wilnecote Lane, Tamworth, B77 2LF Tel: 01827 213910

E-mail: office@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

Website: www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

4th November 2021

Volume 13 Number 8

Dear Parents

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.

COP26

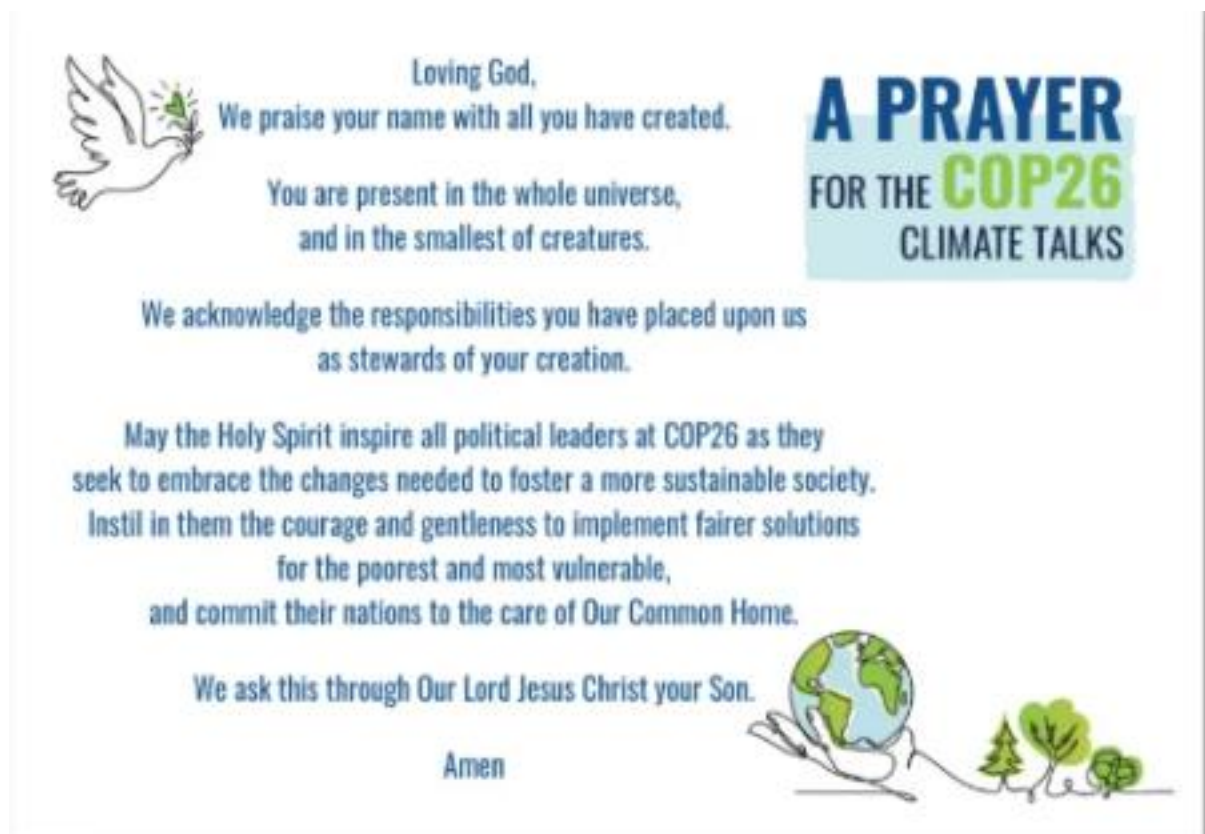


The UK is hosting the world leaders at the UN COP26 climate conference over the next couple of weeks and the eyes of the world will be on us to lead the way in combatting the climate emergency!

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.



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/>

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Marcel
RJC	Zachary
1KG	Darcy
1NH	Darcy
2JH	Elsie
2NT	Bentley
3CC	Ava
3LH	Harriet
4HA	Daniel
4HB	Sebastian
5AC	Corey
5SG	Maja
6BF	Thaddeus
6ST	Ava



Well Done Readers of the Week!

Half Term Reading Challenge

We have had a fantastic response to our Half Term Reading Challenge! Well Done to everyone who took part! Everyone who took part will receive their Challenge certificate shortly and we will also be revelling who the Class Champions are!

Flu Vaccination Programme – Tuesday 9th November 2021

The School Age Immunisation Team will be in school on Tuesday 9th November 2021 to deliver the Childhood Nasal Flu Programme for children from Reception-Year 6.

An email was sent out to all parents on Tuesday 12th October 2021 with information and a link for you to complete e-consent.

PLEASE GIVE YOUR CONSENT BY FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2021

If your child is asthmatic and there are any changes to their health 14 days before the vaccination date **YOU MUST** contact the immunisation team on 0300 124 0366 as your child may not be well enough to receive the vaccination.

These include, if your child:

- Becomes wheezy
- Has required oral steroids
- Has increased their asthma medication

If you have any further questions or need more information, please contact the School Age Immunisation Team rather than the school on 0300 124 0366 or school.immunisation@mpft.nhs.uk

Wear It Pink – Non-Uniform Day Friday 22nd October 2021

Thank you for the efforts made and for your kind donations, which raised £318.00.

Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2022

The application system will open on 1st 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 1st November 2021.

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2022.

Thursday 11th November 11.00am - Remembering our shared history

As we have done for many years, the children will observe a period of silence next Thursday morning to recognise Armistice Day on 11th November and Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 14th November. We will think back to the first Armistice Day - 11th 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.

Poppy Appeal

We shall be selling poppies and other items provided by The British Legion at school, during breaktime, in the run up to Armistice Day on November 11th. Please support this most noble of causes if you can in the coming week.

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. Please see attached poster for further information.

Alpha - In person or Online

A choice of two Alpha courses. One on Thursday evenings at Sacred Heart 7.30-9.00pm from 30th 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 or phone 01827 769403

Youth Band

Starting on Friday 24th September 6.15-7.00pm at Sacred Heart Church in the Modwen Room. New members welcome. It is open to all young people in Year 6 and above. If you enjoy singing or can play an instrument, why not give it a try we'd love to see you.

Please contact Alex Parker alex@tamworthrc.church for more details and to register your interest or feel free to just turn up! Parental Consent forms will need to be completed with contact details at the first practice. The Youth Band leads the music at one Mass probably about once every month to six weeks and meets during term time. Thank you.

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 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 8th November will be:

Monday:	Pizza, Sweetcorn and Doughballs
Tuesday:	Chicken Pie, Peas and Mash
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Spaghetti Bolognese and Garlic Bread
Friday:	Fish Fingers and Chips





Remember, remember to be eco-friendlier...

Check out our top tips for having a more sustainable Bonfire Night this year.

Go to a public display A gathering in one place will result in fewer emissions than lots of small, private ones. Staffordshire has some amazing displays, why not see which ones are local to you?

Avoid using sky lanterns Parts of sky lanterns can take more than a year to completely biodegrade, making them anything but eco-friendly! Instead, opt for simple fairy lights that are just as pretty and won't harm wildlife.

Burn the right materials

It can be tempting to burn unwanted furniture or even household rubbish, but burning the wrong waste can cause pollution and harm health. You can take most of your unwanted waste to your local home waste recycling centre.

Choose eco-friendly fireworks

To make the vibrant colours in fireworks, lots of harmful toxins are used. If you are having a private display, opt for white fireworks which contain fewer chemicals.

Clean up the fireworks

If you see fallen debris at your own firework display or at a public display, put it in the bin to keep greenery clean and safe.

Dates for your Diary

Tues 9 th November	Childhood Flu Vaccinations in school Reception-year 6
Fri 17 th December	School finishes for Christmas Break 3.20pm

November - Month of the Holy Souls and the Faithful Departed

Through the Feast of All Saints - 1st November and All Souls Day - 2nd November, we remember family members and friends who have died.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher