

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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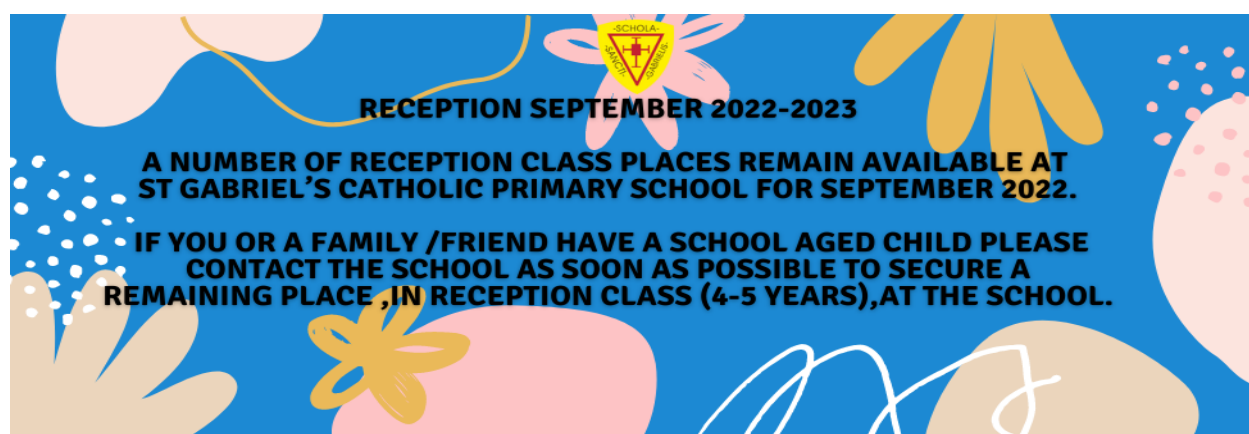
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17th March 2022

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Dear Parents



SCHOOL CLOSED FOR INSET DAY 4 - Monday next, 21st March 2022

School will be closed to pupils on Monday next, 21st March 2022 to all pupils for INSET Day 4.

Ukraine - Humanitarian crisis situation

The March For Ukraine Campaign has been set up in Tamworth to collect essential supplies for refugees. It involves numerous organisations that includes Heart of Tamworth and The Parish of St. John the Baptist. They are helping as members of the organising group, collecting supplies, being a delivery centre and some transport.

They are strictly only collecting new or nearly new items from the following list: Nappies, wipes, children's colouring books and pencils/crayons. Large blankets and sleeping bags. First aid items. Protein bars, baby food pouches (without milk or meat), sterilising tablets and dried food (pasta, rice, tea, biscuits etc). New nests, socks and pants. Toiletries. Donations can be dropped off at Sacred Heart Church.



Catholic Virtues

This half term children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be learning to be **INTENTIONAL** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience, and **PROPHETIC** in the example they set to others.

Cafod Family Fast Day

Thank you for your kind donations, we raised £262.00 for Cafod.

Our Parish

It's a good time to think about going back to Church if you have been away due to Covid.

There are many opportunities to be involved in the Catholic parish in Tamworth.

Have a look at www.tamworthrc.church Think seriously about going along to one of the Masses at the times shown.

A celebration of Holy Mass takes about 50 minutes. Many people find it spiritually lifting to sit in the peace of the Sacred Heart Church and listen and feel God around them. You will not know that unless you try it. Try it and tell me of your experience. Thank you.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Confession - Wednesday 15th March

Well done to all those children and families who took part in this special Sacrament on Wednesday evening. Parents and carers, thank you for the example that you set for the children in the prayerful way you took part. With thanks to Mrs Holmes and Miss Caswell for their work in preparation. Thank you to Mr Bright, Miss Townsley, Mrs Buckroyd, Mr Fowler and Mrs Wood for their attendance on the evening.

Year 4 Indoor Athletics Tournament

Well, they say lightning never strikes twice but for our athletics teams it certainly seems to! Well done to the year 4 Athletics team who won the Tamworth competition last Thursday and equalled the year 6 teams' achievement, earlier this year. The children in year 4 did very well in all their events and were able to finish in first place out of seven other primary schools - a great achievement! A huge thank you to Mr Birtwistle for training and preparing the children and Mr Fowler for supervising them at the event. The team was Ella, Jessica, Neya, Chloe, Georgia, Celeste, Haitham, Daniel, Joshua, Jake, Ronnie, Marcus and George. The team qualified for the county finals in Stoke and competed in the competition today - we will let you know how they did in next week's newsletter.

St Gabriel's Twitter

Please join our closed Twitter account - @GabrielsPrimary

We will be trialling our Twitter account with our Reception classes.

This will be used to show a screenshot of various activities throughout their day. We will be expanding upon this, over the coming months to include all other year groups in school. We hope you will find this useful.

We would like to increase our followers to all parents and grandparents that are known to us. Our Twitter account is a closed account (private); therefore in addition to your request to follow the Twitter account we will need your own Twitter account username details to be sent to us, via the following email address: twitter@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

This will allow us to accept you into the group and ensure the security of the account.

Please be aware - this account will only be used to share information and snapshots of your child's learning - please do not use this as a means of direct contact. There will be no facility to comment.

Emergency Contact Details Update - Please check the details we hold are correct

It is vital that we retain up-to-date Emergency Contact details for all children. Please inform school immediately if your mobile number or email address changes. We use Teachers2Parents text and email system to communicate with you and keep you informed about what is happening at school. Please ensure all 1st Priority Emergency Contact mobiles are fully charged and switched on during the school day so we can contact you in an emergency. Thank you.

Punctuality and Being on Time

Thanks to all those families who get your children down to school on time.

We open for business at 8.50am. Currently about half of the children are in school getting started with their day within 3 minutes. The flexi start allows less congestion outside at the start of the day.

A very small number of families are still arriving after the registration bell at 9.10am. A lot of important, key work takes place in the first few minutes. Please do get your children down to school before the bell so that they DO NOT MISS OUT. Thank you.

Attendance

Further to the email sent to all parents on Monday 22nd November 2021. Please assist by:

- Not taking holidays in term-time, no period of leave for holiday can be authorised
- Only request a leave of absence when absolutely necessary
- Book routine appointments where possible outside of school times
- Not taking time off school for minor ailments - ask yourself if you would stay off work for the same
- Be on time for school - lateness disrupts the start of the day for your child and many key interventions take place in the first few minutes of the day
- Remember there are 175 non-school days per year, plenty of time for holidays, visits, days out and routine appointments

Living with Covid

The Government has announced their Covid 19 response "Living with Covid-19" strategy for England.

It means that most of the measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus are no longer required.

National guidance now urges us all to take personal responsibility so that our actions minimise the risks of transmission.

In school we will continue to:

- Offer frequent and proper handwashing for staff and pupils
- Encourage good respiratory hygiene - this includes continuing to follow "catch it, bin it, kill it"
- Have additional cleaning of major touch points
- Have additional ventilation

If your child feels unwell and has any symptoms associated with the covid virus, I ask you to take NHS advice and get them tested where necessary.

IMPORTANT

IF YOU TAKE A CHILD FOR A PCR TEST THEY MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE AWAITING A RESULT, FOR THE SAFETY OF OTHER PUPILS AND STAFF. THANK YOU.

IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE COVID 19 VIRUS, YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO ISOLATE FOR AT LEAST 5 DAYS AND ONLY RETURN TO SCHOOL ONCE THE VIRUS AND SYMPTOMS HAVE PASSED.

Get the basic principles of virus controls done well as part of your behaviour.

The spread of ALL variants will be reduced by:

- Limiting your mixing
- Keeping your distance
- Good hand, nose and mouth hygiene
- Good ventilation

IF YOU ARE INVITED INTO SCHOOL FOR A MEETING PLEASE

- Wear a mask if you can
- Sanitise hands on arrival
- Respect social distancing

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Lottie
RJC	Harlow
1KG	Kaia
1NH	Nikosh
2JH	Romeo
2NT	Sebastian
3CC	Grace
3LH	Jacob E
4HA	Jack
4HB	Emily
5AC	Lucas
5SG	Eleanor
6BF	AJ
6ST	Alfie + Evie



Well Done Readers of the
Week!



Walk against Hunger

Are you ready to change your life and transform someone else's this Lent?

This Lent CAFOD are launching their Walk Against Hunger campaign:

Challenge yourself to walk 200k this Lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time.

You can walk, roll, skip or stroll your way to 200k. You can boldly go it alone and take it on 5k a day for 40 days, or you can smash the target all at once as a team.

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to conquer 200k, and help give hunger its marching orders.

If you would like to find out more about Walk against Hunger please visit:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Forthcoming Dinner Supervisor Position

If you are interested in a possible role in the future as a Dinner Supervisor please pass your interest via notice to the school office. You would be notified in due course of any availability. Thank you.

Message from the kitchen

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 21st March will be:

Monday:	INSET DAY
Tuesday:	Sausage, Mash, Peas, Broccoli and Gravy
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Cottage Pie
Friday:	Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas



Week commencing 7th March

Well done to class 1KG who achieved 100% attendance.

Belgrave Community Allotment and Garden - Working Party Day Saturday 26th March

Belgrave Community Allotment and Garden, which is situated between the Community Fire and Police Station and St. Gabriel's School, are calling for volunteers to help with hard landscaping projects. They are looking for help to build a Fruit Cage, Poly Tunnel and a small patio.

They will be holding a Working Party Day on Saturday 26th March 2022 between 9.00am-2.00pm.

If you are interested in helping you can register your interest with Etheline on 07971 187911.

Dates for your Diary

Mon 21 st March	INSET DAY 4 - School closed to pupils
Tues 22 nd March to	
Fri 25 th March	Vocations Week
Thurs 7 th April	Tempest Photography - Vista Group Photographs Reception & Y6
Fri 8 th April	School closes for End of Term
Mon 25 th April	School reopens to staff and pupils
Mon 25 th April to	
Weds 27 th April	Y6 Alton Castle Residential Trip
Mon 2 nd May	MAY DAY - School closed
Weds 4 th May	Y3 First Holy Communion Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Mon 9 th May to	
Thurs 12 th May	KS2 SATS - Y6 pupils must be in school each morning
Sat 21 st May	First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Mrs Holmes' class
Tues 24 th May	Y6 Confirmation Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Fri 27 th May	School closes for half term
Mon 6 th June	School reopens to staff and pupils
Fri 10 th June	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School photos

"The Lord is my light and my help.
O Lord, hear my voice when I call
have mercy and answer."

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher