

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Julie Martin - Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Julie Martin aged 11, a former pupil who was attending St. Elizabeth's (in Year 6) and who died on Good Friday. Please pray for her sister Emily. To Mr and Mrs Martin and the wider family we pass on our sympathy and condolences at their huge loss. May Julie rest in peace.

Julie's funeral Mass will take place at 12 noon on Friday 19th May at Sacred Heart Church. This will be followed by a cremation at Lichfield and District Crematorium at 1.30pm.

If you would like to make a donation to help the family with the funeral costs, please use the following link.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-to-support-family-towards-funeral-costs>

Catholic Virtues

Our Gospel Virtues for this half term are Curious and Active: **Curious** about everything; and **active** in our engagement with the world, changing what we can for the better.



Friends of St. Gabriel's - Summer Fayre Planning Meeting

The Friends of St. Gabriel's wish to invite any parents along to our meeting after school tomorrow, Friday 28th April at 3.30pm. This is to begin planning our school Summer Fayre. Thank you.

Heart of Tamworth Firewalk Fundraiser - Saturday 24th June

HoT Firewalk is a 5 metre sponsored walk. The only catch is it's on hot coals. It's on June 24th at Sacred Heart for the Heart of Tamworth Charity. A pack is attached which tells you more. They need 100 people. email margaret@heartoftamworth.org if you want to know more.

Stay up to date with all parish matters by searching "Catholic Tamworth" or at

<https://www.tamworthrc.church>



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Enrichment Activities and Attendance

It is really encouraging to see the amount of enrichment activities the children are attending at weekends and evenings and this is something that we actively encourage for every child. However, we are noticing more and more that after these activities, children are not attending school because they are over-tired.

Whilst we fully appreciate that children will be tired, it is important to ensure that their attendance at school is not affected. Additionally, it is an ideal opportunity to build resilience, as we all recognise that there are things we need to do, as adults, even when we are over-tired!

I would really appreciate your support and understanding with this issue.

Attendance

Parents of children with attendance below 90% have been written to recently.

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

Current attendance for the school year so far

Overall 94.49% (5/9/22-21/04/23)

R - 92.73%	Y3 - 95.41%	Y6 - 95.05%
Y1 - 92.45%	Y4 - 95.20%	
Y2 - 95.07%	Y5 - 94.95%	

Attendance overall, as shown above, is slowly creeping upwards.

We need to improve the attendance of our pupils, particularly our youngest pupils. Thank you.

Snapchat

We have been made aware of a feature within the SnapChat app, called My AI Robot, which may not be completely safe. This feature may be able to access users location, regardless of whether the location identification tool has been disabled.

If you child has access to this application, we recommend that parents/carers check the use of the app in view of this.

Please be clear, children in primary should not have access to SnapChat as it has a recommended user age of 13+.

Parking

Local Councillor Paul Thompson and a representative of the local police team visited school on Thursday March 30th. Developments are expected as a result.

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

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RJC	Harrison
RAD	Cesc
1KG	Sofia
1NH	Olivia
2BL	Kaia
2NT	Sebastian
3CC	Harper
3LH	Isabella
4HB	Ivy
4LM	Izabela
5SM	Max
5ST	Tymon
6AC	Lenny
6BF	Tymoteusz



Well Done Readers of the
Week!

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.

Whitsun Camp at Spital Tennis Club

During the upcoming Whitsun Holidays, Spital Tennis Club are running their half term holiday tennis camps for ages 4 to 16. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Venue: Spital Tennis Club, Wigginton Road, Tamworth, B79 8RH

Bookings can be made [HERE](#)

Message from the Kitchen

On Thursday 4th May we will be serving a special menu to celebrate the King's Coronation. Please see the menu attached.

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 [HERE](#)



Safe Haven

Safe Haven is a Crisis Cafe situated at Sacred Heart Church, for people aged 18 plus with mental health problems. This service will run between 5pm to 11pm Wednesdays to Fridays and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays, and Bank holiday 1.30pm to 9pm.

Safe Haven will provide a safe, supportive, and therapeutic environment helping individuals in their recovery through promotion of self-empowerment and independence. It will be relaxed, informal and supportive, considerate of risk and safety, but focused on de-escalation and recovery. Safe Haven are currently looking for volunteers, for more information email

Claire.Griffiths@burtonmind.co.uk

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.

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.

Mr Jeff Orme - Janitor

The school janitor, Mr Orme, is retiring tomorrow. Mr Orme has been our school janitor for 13 years. We thank him for his work in the school over the years.

We wish Mr Orme health and happiness in his retirement.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 1 st May	BANK HOLIDAY - May Day
Monday 8 th May	BANK HOLIDAY - King's Coronation
Tuesday 9 th May to Friday 12 th May	KS2 SATS - Y6 pupils must be in school each morning to take their tests
Saturday 20 th May	First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Miss O'Hanlon's/Miss Allen's class
Sunday 21 st May to Sunday 28 th May	LAUDATO SI WEEK "Hope for the Earth, hope for humanity"
Friday 26 th May	Break up for half term
Monday 5 th June	School reopens for children and staff
Tuesday 27 th June	Sacrament of Confirmation - Sacred Heart @ 7pm
Friday 21 st July	Mass for end of term and end of school year. Children finish for Summer

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said "I give you a new commandment:

Love one another, just as I have loved you"

Alleluia.

Let us try to do so, with simple acts of kindness to and for one another.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes

Headteacher