

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

Volume 14 Number 12

1st December 2022

Dear Parents

Non Uniform Day - tomorrow Friday 2nd December

Children are asked to bring a bottle donation for the Christmas Fayre, thank you.

Christmas Fayre - tomorrow, Friday 2nd December 3.30pm-5.00pm

Children will be taken to the Christmas Fayre between 2-3pm, they may bring a small amount of spending money (no more than £3 please) in a named purse or envelope. School will end with normal dismissal of children.

If attending the Christmas Fayre please form an orderly queue onto the Key Stage 2 playground and follow the advice given for entry. Please be patient and make the most of the choir who will perform on the playground as per 2019 and before.

Thanks in advance to all of you who will attend, we hope to see as many parents and carers as possible. With thanks to all those giving their time to make the event happen.

Please park responsibly in the local area at this time.

Please note - no primary school age child will be admitted on their own without an adult.

Thank you.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner this year is on Wednesday 14th December. For catering purposes, it is **VITAL** that we know accurate numbers by **TOMORROW, Friday 2nd December**. Please see separate email and texts sent out and reply if you have not already done so. **If you do not reply we cannot guarantee a Christmas dinner for your child.** Thank you

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.



Catholic Life Survey

Thank you to those of you who have already completed the Catholic Life Survey. Please see email and complete online for our information by the deadline of Thursday 8th December.

Thank you.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Sacred Heart Church

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

Responding to the Call of Creation Advent Calendar

Perhaps you would consider using an alternative Advent calendar this season to prepare for a climate-conscious Christmas. The Archdiocese has produced a beautiful calendar with sustainable ideas for you and your family to use, please see attached. Thank you, Miss Townsley.

A Live Simply Advent and Christmas

This Advent and Christmas we are looking for different ways we can 'Live Simply' and help Care for Our Common Home.

One way we can live more simply is by looking at Christmas Card alternatives.

Did you know that if every child in a class of 30 wrote a card for all their classmates, there would be 870 cards written in just one class! For our school that could be more than 12,000 cards in total! Nationally ONE BILLION CHRISTMAS CARDS are thrown in the bin each year - very often ending up in Landfill.

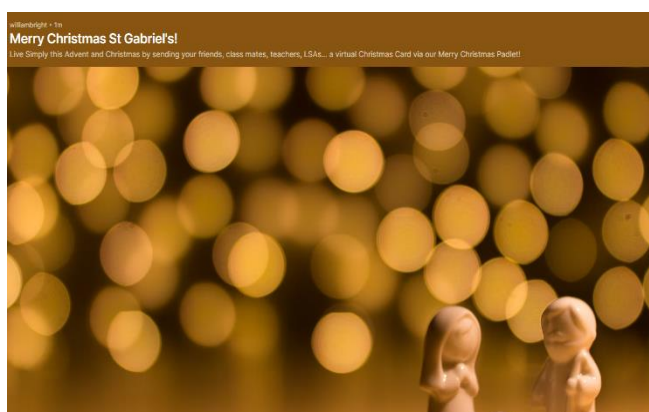
This year we are encouraging all members of our school community to - rather than sending individual Christmas Cards - look for a Christmas Card alternative.

You could write one class card instead of individual cards.

Donate to a charity or food bank instead of buying cards.

Draw a Christmas picture for friends on some scrap paper instead.

More suggestions for Christmas Card alternatives are attached to the newsletter email. You could also send your friends, class mates, teachers, LSAs... a virtual Christmas Card by visiting our new Merry Christmas padlet at [Merry Christmas St Gabriel's!](#)



CAFOD World Gifts



Starting School packs, teaching someone to read, terrific toilets, emergency water and shelter kits, homes for life and marvellous moo cows are just some of the CAFOD World Gifts our classes have chosen to raise money for this Christmas!

The children have drawn pictures, written letters and made posters to help raise funds for these World Gifts

If you would like to support their fundraising, you can do so by making a donation via Parent Pay.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and support with this project.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Cesc
RJC	Harrison
1KG	Kody
1NH	Erik
2BL	Florence
2NT	Macie
3CC	Alanya
3LH	Ethan
4HB	Archie
4LM	Elsie-Mai
5SM	Drew
5ST	Nikola
6AC	Dominika
6BF	Harry



**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

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.

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.

Admissions to Primary Schools - Reception September 2023 - closing date 15th January

The application system opened on 1st 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 1st November 2022. The closing date for applications is 15th 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 86 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 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.

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. **BOTH THE LOCAL POLICE AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE HAVE TOLD US THIS WEEK THAT "IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO PARK OUTSIDE A SCHOOL ENTRANCE OR IN A WAY THAT BLOCKS EMERGENCY SERVICES". THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO CONCERN SOME PARENTS.**

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.

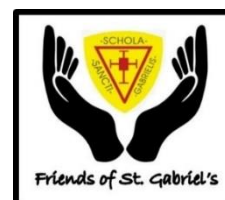
Please never park up on the footpaths in the surrounding roads. You are also asked to please show consideration to local home owners and do not block garages and driveways. Please do not become abusive to local home owners. Parking on the grass verge along Wilnecote Lane has been raised as a COMPLAINT 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

Many thanks to The Friends of St Gabriel's volunteers for helping on the Rotary Club Santa sleigh collection on the evening of Wednesday 30th November 2022. Thank you to Rachel Charles and her mum Julie Charles, Sharon and John Taggart, Rob and Louise Vernon, Georgina Devlin, Michaela Devlin, Amy Edwards, Michael, Lisa Agnew, Lucas and Daniel. The Tamworth Roundtable & Friends of St Gabriel's are joining Santa again when he visits Belgrave on 14th December from 6pm. We'd love to have parents come with us and help Santa. If you can help please contact Michael Agnew on 07972 834187.

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



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

Friday 2 nd December	Non Uniform Day - Bottle donations for the Christmas Fayre Christmas Fayre 3.30pm-5.00pm
Thursday 8 th December	Key Stage 2 Carol Service Sacred Heart Church @ 6.00pm
Tuesday 13 th December	Reception Nativity Service @ 9.30am Key Stage 1 Carol Service Sacred Heart Church @ 6.00pm
Wednesday 14 th December	Non Uniform Day - Christmas Jumpers Christmas Dinner
Friday 16 th December	Whole School Mass for end of term (led by Year 5) 9.15am Break up for Christmas holidays 3.20pm
Tuesday 3 rd January	Pupils and Staff return to school

Laudato Si

Following Pope Francis' letter to the world regarding our duty to the planet - a film has been made.

This is called "The Letter" and is available on You Tube. It's a very moving film which is really worth watching. View it [here](#)

God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Take away the things that stop us from
from welcoming Christ with joy.
Let us show Christ's love
through simple acts of kindness
for one another.
Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely



John P Hayes
Headteacher