

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Message from CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

"Thank you to everyone at St. Gabriel's Catholic Primary School. We were delighted to receive the £344.16 that you sent to us on 11th November 2021. It means so much to us that you have reached out to our brothers and sisters around the world, when life at home is quite changed." Michelle Oakford - Head of Supporters Relations CAFOD.

Going back to Mass?

It's a great Catholic parish here in Tamworth. Have a look at the parish website at:

<https://www.stjohnrctamworth.org.uk/>

I really want to encourage families to consider going back to Saturday evening or Sunday Mass? You have lots of times to choose.

The Churches at Sacred Heart and St. John's are roomy and social distancing and appropriate safety measures are in place. As you know, the children have been able to have the experience of attending Mass in year groups at school. But as Fr. Michael would say - nothing compares to going to your own Church, to feel the presence of Christ.

Please consider going along to Mass on Saturday or Sunday with Fr. Michael and Fr. Subba. You do not have to book. Just turn up and let me know on the gate how you find it. Thank you.

Parents in Year 6 are asked to consider the letter sent home from Fr. Michael last week. Regarding a meeting at Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 30th November at 6pm for those parents wanting their child to be confirmed. Thank you

Red Wednesday - 24th November

On Wednesday 24th November we will be marking "Red Wednesday". Red Wednesday is an annual event organised by the charity Aid to the Church in Need. The aim of the day is to raise awareness of people - in particular Christians - who are persecuted for their faith. We will be having assemblies and prayer in school to help us think about people who have suffered because of their faith and beliefs. We will be asking the children to come into school dressed in red/wearing an item of red clothing to help mark "Red Wednesday". Thank you.

"Up to You" campaign

Staffordshire Council has launched the "Up to You" campaign. The aim is to promote the continued threat from Covid 19 and encourage all of us to take individual responsibility and make sensible decisions to reduce the spread of the virus and to protect each other. Key messages are:

- * Choose to protect yourself and others by following guidelines
- * Get tested regularly, especially if meeting others
- * Being vaccinated is your best defence

Staffing

Please be aware that ongoing sickness/illness and impact of Covid means there is a reality of us not having a full work force, from week to week.

St. Gabriel's have had 5 members of staff absent at some point, this week. We are therefore running with less than a full staff team at this time. Please be understanding and patient with us, given the current situations.

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.

*****Online game "Among Us" - SAFEGUARDING WARNING - Mr Fowler advises**

Just to make all parents aware that we have had reports of children who are using the online game 'Among Us', being targeted for grooming and online abuse. Although the game is rated 9 years and over it has a feature where players can chat to each other online whilst playing on the app. Some people using the game are asking other players to contact them via other apps like 'Snapchat' and share personal information and images.

Please talk to children about the dangers of playing with complete strangers online or people they or you have never met. If they find themselves in a situation where they feel scared or pressured to do something by someone online, they should stop playing with that person and speak to you or a responsible adult.

*****"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.

Year 6 Girls Football tournament

Well done to the year 6 girls football team who competed in a girl's tournament at Rawlett High School. They finished second in their league and were awarded runners up medals. The team played very well and worked hard together. Our captain Cherry said "I am very proud of the girls, especially Lilly for producing some amazing saves in goal."

The team was: Cherry E, Holly M, Isabelle C, Ella M, Ava B, Daniella P, Evie A, Lilly D, Jessica M, Freya W and Jasmine G.

Nine primary schools took part with over 90 girls involved. This was great to see as this is the first sporting activity possible for Tamworth schools since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

Wow Active Login details - KS2

Children in KS2 will be bringing home login details for their own WOW Active Fitness account tomorrow. The login, which is on the WOW Active website, will show you how your child has fared in the fitness tests that they took part in before half term. It will also direct you and your child to a training card with different exercises they could do at home to help improve their overall fitness levels. These training cards are specifically chosen for your own child's needs and if practiced weekly, could have a real impact on their fitness levels. Thank you.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Bobby
RJC	Archie
1KG	Konrad
1NH	Myla
2JH	Ryder
2NT	Harry
3CC	Darcie
3LH	Joshua
4HA	Ella
4HB	Scott
5AC	Lucy
5SG	Lenny
6BF	Georgie
6ST	Veronica



**Well Done Readers
of the Week!**

October Half Term Reading Challenge

A very big WELL DONE to all our friends in Class 2JH who are the October Half Term Reading Challenge Whole School Champions! 2JH had the highest number of completed challenge sheets - no less than 19 children in 2JH took part - a fantastic effort! WELL DONE 2JH!

We Love Words!

This morning (Thursday) we celebrated all things words! We had a special vocabulary morning called We Love Words. The children listened to poetry, Shakespearean diary entries and even some made up words from the teachers and then spent the morning building their word power through word hunts, challenges and investigations! We shared all our fantastic work in a TEAMS Celebration Assembly just before lunchtime! It was a busy but very enjoyable morning! We will be adding some examples of our We Love Words work to the school website soon so please do have a look!

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.

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.

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

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 22nd November will be:

Monday:	Pizza, Pasta and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Spanish Chicken, Potatoes and Broccoli
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Beef Meatballs, Pasta and Sweetcorn
Friday:	Fish Fingers and Chips



WEEE can make a difference

Have you got a broken electrical item that you no longer want?

We are on a mission to give your broken electricals a new lease of life!

We are working with local prisons to give your broken waste electrical and electronic equipment (**WEEE**), such as kettles, speakers and toys, a new lease of life and to stop them from being thrown away.

You'll be able to drop off items at your recycling centre or one of the participating libraries. The full list of items you can drop off and where you can take them [can be found here.](#)





Congratulations to class 3LH who achieved 100% attendance last week. Well done children, keep up the good work!!!!

Dates for your Diary

Tues 30 th November	Information meeting for parents regarding Confirmation - Sacred Heart Church 6.00pm
Fri 17 th December	School finishes for Christmas Break 3.20pm
Tues 4 th January	School re opens to staff and pupils
Sat 15 th January	Closing date for Reception 2022 admissions

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher