

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Holy Mass Year 3 – tomorrow, Friday 3rd March 2023 9.15am

Parents and carers of year 3 are invited to attend Holy Mass tomorrow morning which is being celebrated by Fr. Ramesh.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Non Uniform Day Friday 3rd March 2023

The Lent CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 3rd March 2023.

This will be a non-school uniform day to raise money for CAFOD's Lenten appeal and this year's theme is 'Bright Colours'.

We will be asking for non-uniform, voluntary donations to be paid via ParentPay as we are no longer able to accept cash payments into school.

Fundraising for Julie Martin and family – Non Uniform Day Friday 17th February

Thank you for the huge response to this. We raised an amazing £771 which will be passed on to the Martin family.

Please keep Julie and her family in your prayers.

Catholic Virtues – Learned and Wise

This half term the children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be growing to be LEARNED through finding God in all things and WISE in the ways we use our learning for the common good.



Parents' Evening

How lovely to see so many parents on Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th February.

As a school we have decided to keep going with a face to face approach for parents' evening.

We feel in person contact is so important at these moments. We appreciate your positive feedback on these opportunities.



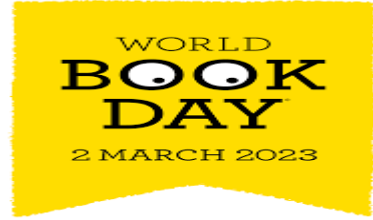
SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

World Book Day

The children have enjoyed our World Book Day celebrations today and it was lovely to see so many of you in school - the children thoroughly enjoyed having you join them for a story. Well done to all the children who have created a Book in a Box as part of our World Book Day celebrations. We



have been absolutely delighted with the beautiful, wonderfully creative boxes the children have produced and can really see the thought, time and effort that have gone into making them. The children have really enjoyed sharing their boxes with each other in school today. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Janitor Vacancy

We have a vacancy at the School for a Janitor to start Tuesday 02/05/2023.

The working hours are 4.00pm to 6.00pm Monday to Friday - 10 hours a week (although there can be some flexibility with these hours).

The role will include: - Closing the school each evening, filling the Toilet Roll and Paper Towel Dispensers, cleanliness of external bins and outside areas and being a Key Holder for emergency call outs (when Caretaker is not available).

Informed telephone contact to find out more is available with Headteacher John Hayes or Bursar Steve Swatton, on Monday, Wednesday or Friday on 01827 213910.

Full details and application form can be found on Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School website under Our School then Vacancies. Direct link [HERE](#)

Application deadline is Friday 3rd March 2023 @ 9.00am.

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 94.52% (5/9/22-28/02/23)

R - 92.17%

Y3 - 96.06%

Y6 - 95.47%

Y1 - 92.18%

Y4 - 95.18%

Y2 - 94.78%

y5 - 94.94%

Attendance overall is slowly creeping upwards.

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

Lost Property

The lost property trunk is once again full to the brim! Unfortunately the majority of the clothing is unnamed and therefore impossible to return. Please do come along and have a look through the lost property and reclaim any missing items. Any unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable cause over the Easter Holiday. Thank you.



Live Simply - Responding to the Call of Creation

Did you know that if you reduce your shower times by 4 minutes you will save an estimated 45 litres of water every time you take a shower! By the end of Lent that would be 1800 litres! For more facts, ideas and activities to help you and your family Live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with God's Creation please check out the March edition of the Archdiocese of Birmingham's 'Responding to the Call of Creation' newsletter. A copy is attached to the Newsletter this week.

Ten:Ten Parental Newsletter



The March Ten:Ten Parent Newsletter is now available on our school website [HERE](#)

The newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout March and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Marie
RJC	Stephen
1KG	Harley
1NH	Marcel
2BL	Karol
2NT	Tobenna
3CC	Oscar
3LH	Cian M
4HB	Poppy
4LM	Aubrey
5SM	Bella
5ST	Ruby-Rose
6AC	Lola-Rose
6BF	Seb



Well Done Readers of the Week!

The Game

We have been alerted to "A game" being circulated via Facebook to children which contains several different actions for them to complete, including the encouragement of self-harm and hurting others.

Lisa Farmer, Education Safeguarding Lead for Staffordshire said "Whilst many of our children will, I am sure, be confident in ignoring these messages, I am also conscious that around the country there have been several incidents where dares via social media have led to a child's death."

If you have any queries about how to talk to your child about this and being safe online, there are useful resources on the NSPCC website [HERE](#)

Traffic

Obviously, we can all see there is greater congestion on local roads at the moment. The closure of the slip road off the A5 nearest to the M42 has added to traffic using Marlborough Way. Reduction of the A5 to one lane in places and speed restrictions have now added to delays.

Please do factor this in to your journeys and try to leave some extra time at the start and end of the day, to drop off and collect in time. Thank you.

Parking

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.

Tamworth and District Children's Centres - Mrs McKay writes

Please see attached the timetable of activities and events for Tamworth and District Children's Centres, which take place at Leyfields and Glascote Children's Centres.

Families on low incomes may be eligible for a free pass - if you are interested, please call in to either Centre and enquire.

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.

Easter Fun! Free #HolidayActivities and Food (HAF)!

Keep your children entertained over the Easter holidays with #HAF2023

There will be lots of different holiday clubs offering Easter themed activities.

Plus, the favourites including dodgeball, cooking, horse-riding, dance, football, swimming, bushcraft and lots more!! They'll get a chance to socialise, have fun and be fed a healthy meal!

✓ **FREE** for eligible children aged 5-16 years in receipt of benefits related free school meals.

✓ Eligible children will get a code to register.

✓ Registration opens at 4pm on 17th March 2023.

Find out more on the Staffordshire County Council website [HERE](#)



Message from the Friends of St. Gabriel's

The friends of St. Gabriel's are looking for any unwanted Christmas gifts that could be used for Mother's Day. The blue bin will be out by the office and labelled for items to be dropped off if you have anything to donate. Please join their Facebook page and keep up to date with events being run by the Friends of St. Gabriel's [HERE](#)



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.

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

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.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 3 rd March	Non Uniform Day - CAFOD Family Fast Day Y3 Mass 9.15am
Friday 17 th March	Early years and Y1 Mass 9.15am MOTHER'S DAY SALE - TOILETRIES/PERFUME etc 2pm-3pm - <u>Children</u> visit the hall with an opportunity to buy. 3.30pm-4pm - Open to ALL families after school
Thursday 23 rd March	Year 3 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacred Heart Church 6pm
Thursday 30 th March	Tempest Photography Reception & Y6 Vistas and Year Groups
Friday 31 st March	Mass - Whole school led by y4 9.15am Break up for school holidays
Sunday 9 th April	Easter Sunday
Monday 17 th April	School reopens for children and staff



God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher