

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Feast of the Epiphany – Holy Mass for KS2 (Y3, 4, 5 & 6) tomorrow 9.15am

Parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Please note Fr. Michael is currently on his own as Fr. Subba has returned to India.

Mass will go ahead tomorrow, but for Y3, 4, 5 and 6 only to allow Fr. Michael to get off promptly for other duties.

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. 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 AND ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

High levels of flu, Covid and scarlet fever

Flu and Covid are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in the coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

"It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading. Remember that the flu vaccination is the best protection against the virus. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late."

Catholic Virtues - Eloquent and Truthful

This term the children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be growing to be **ELOQUENT** and **TRUTHFUL** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people and the world.



Winter

Please be aware that at times the ground, playground and surrounding footpaths can be very icy. Please do remind the children to take care coming to and leaving school. **Parents and Carers are reminded to keep to the gritted footpaths around the perimeter of the school building at all times.** It is imperative that pedestrians do not walk across the car park at any time. During icy weather the footpaths are gritted for your safety. Thank you
If for any reason the school has to close due to adverse weather, a text message will be sent to all parents and the county council website page for school closures will be updated.
Staffordshire County Council -

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/sln/schoolclosures/>

St. Gabriel's website -

https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/emergency_school_closure_procedure/568432

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Vivien
RJC	Emilia
1KG	Archie
1NH	Georgia
2BL	George
2NT	Spencer
3CC	Freya
3LH	Jenson
4HB	Riley
4LM	Gian
5SM	Teresa
5ST	Evie
6AC	Ruby
6BF	Inez



Well Done Readers of the Week!

Twitter

Currently we have 104 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.

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.

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. Thank you.

Sacred Heart Church

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

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.

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 6 th	Mass - KS2 led by Y6 9.15am
Friday 20 th	Y3 Mass 9.15am
Thurs 26 th	Full Governing Board meeting 6pm
Friday 27 th	INSET DAY 3 - School <u>CLOSED</u> to pupils

February

Sunday 5 th	Whole school Mass at Sacred Heart Church 9am
Friday 10 th	Y2 Mass 9.15am
Tuesday 14 th	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm
Thursday 16 th	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm
Friday 17 th	Break up for Half Term
	Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 22 nd , during Half Term
	(START OF LENT)
Monday 27 th	Return to school

March

Friday 3rd

Mass - Whole school led by Y3 9.15am

Friday 17th

Mass - Early years and Y1 9.15am

Thurs 23rd

Year 3 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacred Heart Church 6pm,

Fri 31st

Mass - Whole school led by y4 9.15am

Break up for school holidays

Easter Sunday April 9th

Lord,

You make all things new.

You bring hope alive in our hearts.

You cause our spirits to be born again.

Thank you for the new year.

For all the potential it holds.

Let us spread your good news through our actions to and for one another.

Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P Hayes".

John P Hayes

Headteacher