

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents

## INSET DAY 3 - Tomorrow, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Reminder that tomorrow is an INSET DAY. School will be closed to all pupils. Thank you.

## Whole School Mass - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at Sacred Heart Church

St. Gabriel's children will be leading the Mass on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at the Sacred Heart Church. We are looking for readers and volunteers to take up a gift in the offertory procession.

You will have received an email this week to add your child(ren's) names to the form if they are interested in participating in the parts of Mass. We will need all replies by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January to allow time to allocate and prepare the readers for Mass. Thank you, Miss Townsley.

## 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.



## 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.

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."



SCHOOL  
MEMBER



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

### **Safer Internet Day**

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, St Gabriel's and schools around the country and will be taking part in the global event to encourage children and young adults on how they can be safe and responsible online. The theme of this year's event is: 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.'

For more information, please go to <https://www.saferinternetday.org/home>

### **NEU Strike Action - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

Parents are reminded to note the detail provided in the email sent on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, regarding strike action affecting school.

### **School Disco**

Please note for you diaries that the next school disco will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Rec/KS1: 4.45pm - 5.45pm

KS2: 6.00pm - 7.00pm

More info to follow

### **Big Garden Birdwatch 2023**

During the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the RSPB will be holding their annual Big Garden Birdwatch - and you can take part! All you need to do is to spend an hour counting the birds you see in your garden and then tell the RSPB what you have seen. Taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch helps the RSPB to build up a national picture of our garden bird population. It is open to experienced twitchers and absolute beginners! If you would like to sign up please visit - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>



### **Reader of the Week**

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Harrison
RJC	Hudson
1KG	Kody
1NH	Erik
2BL	Primrose
2NT	Liberty
3CC	Willow
3LH	Kadey-Mae
4HB	Darcie
4LM	Isabelle
5SM	Vinnie
5ST	Flynn
6AC	Joey
6BF	Lucy



**Well Done Readers of the Week!**

### **Attendance**

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

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 as of 20.01.2023 - Overall 94.23%

R - 91.93%	Y3 - 95.92%	Y6 - 95.15%
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Y1 - 92.03%	Y4 - 94.85%
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Y2 - 94.01%	Y5 - 94.85%
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We need to improve the attendance of our pupils, particularly our youngest pupils. Thank you.

### **White Rose Maths**

I'd like to signpost parents and carers to a series of free maths films on 'White Rose hub' called Maths with Michael. Please have a look at this mini-series with Michael Underwood that explains how maths is taught at school. Thank you, Mrs Taggart.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/maths-with-michael>

### **Long Hair**

Please can we remind you that if your child's hair is long enough to be tied back then it should be tied back neatly for school. Loose hair can be a health and safety concern and also greatly increases the chances of head lice. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Electronic Devices in school**

Children SHOULD NOT bring electronic devices, such as Smart Watches, into school. These can be very distracting during lessons and there is also the risk of expensive property being lost or misplaced. Thank you.

### **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 -

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

## **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](https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web/emergency_school_closure_procedure/568432)

## **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 toxocarasis 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.

## **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.

### **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. [www.facebook.com/friendsofstgabriels](http://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.

### **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.

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **January**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY 3 - School CLOSED to pupils

#### **February**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Whole school Mass at Sacred Heart Church 9am

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> School Disco

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Y2 Mass 9.15am

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.00pm

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Break up for Half Term

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, during Half Term  
(START OF LENT)

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Return to school

#### **March**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Mass - Whole school led by Y3 9.15am

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Mass - Early years and Y1 9.15am

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Year 3 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacred Heart Church 6pm

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Tempest Photography Reception & Y6 Vistas and Year Groups

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Mass - Whole school led by y4 9.15am

Break up for school holidays

Easter Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup>

Lord our God,  
help us to love you with all our hearts  
and to love all men and women as you love them.  
Through simple acts of kindness for others  
let us spread your message of hope and goodness.  
Amen

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher