

# Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

Wilnecote Lane, Tamworth, B77 2LF Tel: 01827 213910

E-mail: [office@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents and Carers

## Julie Martin - Rest in Peace



Dear friends and family,

As we come together to honour and remember our beloved Julie, we would like to express our gratitude for the outpouring of love and support during this difficult time.

The funeral will be held on:  
Friday 19th May  
12.00pm  
Sacred Heart Church  
Silver link road  
Gascote Heath  
B77 2EA

Followed by:  
Lichfield District Crematorium  
Fradley Lane  
Fradley  
Lichfield  
WS13 8GA

Following the service, there will be a gathering for us to remember Julie together at:

Polesworth working mens club  
9 High Street  
Polesworth  
B78 1DX

In lieu of flowers, we kindly request that donations be made to help support our family during this time of loss.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Your kindness means the world to us.

With love  
Adriana, Ian, and Emily



### **First Holy Communion - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 10am and 12 noon**

We look forward to First Holy Communions for both classes on Saturday.

Please do everything YOU can to create a prayerful and peaceful atmosphere inside the Sacred Heart Church.

The past few years have been particularly beautiful and moving events.

10am Miss Caswell's class

12 noon Miss O'Hanlon/Allen's class

Please make sure all family members are aware of the arrangements and expectations inside the church.

Follow the guidance and requests of all staff, parish wardens and volunteers present.

Thank you.

### **Year 6 - SATS**

Well done to Year 6 last week. Their four mornings of tests were taken calmly, in their stride. They gave their best and tried their hardest. That's all we could ask.

Special thanks to Mr Fowler, Miss Cunningham and all the adults involved in preparation for the tests and the running of the Year 6 breakfast club.

### **Laudato Si Week**

From Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May communities across the world will be celebrating Laudato Si Week 2023.

Laudato Si Week is celebrated each May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical (letter) also called Laudato Si.

Laudato Si Week is celebrated so that we can acknowledge the progress we've made in bringing Laudato Si to life and to commit ourselves to further prayer and action for Our Common Home.

In school we will be celebrating Laudato Si Week in school with special prayer services, planting seeds, Creation Walks and renewing our Laudato Si Pledges! Please keep an eye on our twitter account for updates as we progress through the week.

### **Year 4 Dodgeball**

Children from year 4 took part in a dodgeball tournament at Rawlett High School on Monday. The team played very well in all their games, and all worked hard to help and encourage each other and finished in fifth place overall. Many thanks to Mr Birtwistle for training the children and Mr Fowler for supervising them at the event. The team was: Lola, Riley, Oskar, Thomas, Franc, Lenny and Lucas.

### **Reception September 2023**

A number of reception places for our September 2023 remain available.

If you know of a family member or friend recently moved into the area, please ask them to make contact with us.

## Catholic Virtues

Our Gospel Virtues for this half term are Curious and Active: **Curious** about everything; and **active** in our engagement with the world, changing what we can for the better.



## Heart of Tamworth Firewalk Fundraiser - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

HoT Firewalk is a 5 metre sponsored walk. The only catch is it's on hot coals! It's on June 24<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart for the Heart of Tamworth Charity. They need 100 people, please email [margaret@heartoftamworth.org](mailto:margaret@heartoftamworth.org) if you want to know more.

Stay up to date with all parish matters by searching "Catholic Tamworth" or at <https://www.tamworthrc.church>

## St. Gabriel's Firewalkers

Miss Townsley, Miss Cunningham, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Brindley have bravely decided to take on the firewalk challenge, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The firewalk is being held to raise much needed funds for the work of Heart of Tamworth. Please consider sponsoring our team if you are able to - any donation, no matter how small, will be very much appreciated. Donations can be made through the Just Giving page:

[St.Gabriel's Firewalkers - Just Giving](#)

## 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 94.71% (5/9/22-05/05/23)

R - 92.91%	Y3 - 95.85%	Y6 - 94.95%
Y1 - 92.76%	Y4 - 95.24%	
Y2 - 95.47%	Y5 - 95.12%	

Attendance overall, as shown above, is slowly creeping upwards.

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

## **Parking**

Local Councillor Paul Thompson and a representative of the local police team visited school on Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup>. Developments are expected as a result.

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.

## **Enrichment Activities and Attendance**

It is really encouraging to see the amount of enrichment activities the children are attending at weekends and evenings and this is something that we actively encourage for every child.

However, we are noticing more and more that after these activities, children are not attending school because they are over-tired.

Whilst we fully appreciate that children will be tired, it is important to ensure that their attendance at school is not affected. Additionally, it is an ideal opportunity to build resilience, as we all recognise that there are things we need to do, as adults, even when we are over-tired!

I would really appreciate your support and understanding with this issue.

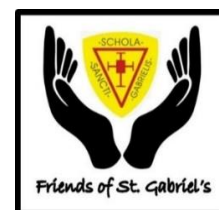
## **Family & Community Information Hub**

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

## **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 [HERE](#)



## Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RJC	Zachary
RAD	Kaion
1KG	Willow
1NH	Lottie
2BL	Andrew
2NT	Gabrielle
3CC	Alanna
3LH	Max
4HB	Roseanna
4LM	Mia E
5SM	Oliver
5ST	Jessica
6AC	Anita
6BF	Darcie



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**



## Bee-friendly plants

Are you taking part in [#NoMowMayStaffs](#) this month and leaving your grass to grow to help pollinators and biodiversity?

If you are unable to, or don't have grass to cut, you can introduce some bee-friendly plants to your outdoor space.

- Lavender
- Sunflowers
- Coneflowers
- Salvia
- Bee Balm
- Wildflowers

Take a step back and let nature do its thing this May while you enjoy the beauty of a thriving bee-friendly garden.

Selected libraries in Staffordshire are giving free signs to stick in your garden - [find a library near you](#).

Remember to share your pictures using [#NoMowMayStaffs](#) or on our [Facebook group](#).

### **Whitsun Soccer Schools | Aston Villa Foundation**

**Dates:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

**Time:** 9:30 - 15:30

**Price:** £70

**Ages:** 5 - 12 year olds

**PRE BOOK NOW VIA THE LINKS BELOW**

[Aston \(Academy Building, Villa Park\)](#)

[Bodmoor Heath \(Aston Villa Training Ground\)](#) \* limited spaces available \*

[Harborne \(Lordswood Girls School\)](#)

[Sutton Coldfield \(Sutton Coldfield Town FC\)](#)

### **Spital Tennis Club**

During the upcoming Whitsun Holidays, Spital Tennis Club are running their half term holiday tennis camps for ages 4 to 16. **Venue:** Spital Tennis Club, Wigginton Road, Tamworth, B79 8RH. Bookings can be made [HERE](#)

They have also set up some super exciting new tennis sessions for 4-10 year olds at both Spital Tennis Club and Tamworth Castle Grounds starting after half term. Children will get 6 lessons, plus a racket, tshirt, wristbands and balls, all for £35! This is run by an experienced coach, and is a great way for new or returning players to get into the game.

Spital Tennis Club session information:

**Saturdays 09:00-10:00** 4-9 years [Book Here](#)

**Saturdays 10:00-11:00** 8-11 years [Book Here](#)

Tamworth Castle Grounds session information:

**Tuesdays 17:00-18:00** 4-7 years [Book Here](#)

**Fridays 17:00-18:00** 4-7 years [Book Here](#)

**Fridays 18:00-19:00** 8-10 years [Book Here](#)

Please email [yasmin@micro-sports.co.uk](mailto:yasmin@micro-sports.co.uk) if you have any questions.

### **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](mailto: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

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> May	First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Miss O'Hanlon's/Miss Allen's class
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> May to Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> May	LAUDATO SI WEEK "Hope for the Earth, hope for humanity"
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Urban Street Artist working with Year 3
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School Photos, from 8.15am
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for half term
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens for children and staff
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Sacrament of Confirmation - Sacred Heart @ 7pm
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Mass for end of term and end of school year. Children finish for Summer

*Bread of life, truth eternal,  
Broken now to set us free.  
The risen Christ, his saving power,  
Is here in Bread and Wine for me.*

God Bless

Yours sincerely

*John P Hayes*

John P Hayes  
Headteacher