

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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8th December 2022

Dear Parents

KS2 Carol Service - Tonight, Thursday 8th December 6.00pm at Sacred Heart

The children and teachers in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will tonight, through music, song and readings tell the story of Christmas. In the recent years before the pandemic this had become a particularly memorable experience for all who attend. The atmosphere that has been created in church has been very spiritual. It is important that we all recognise and respect the moments and times of silence needed. They add to the atmosphere. This is not a performance but a religious experience for us all. We look forward to a great event.

Thanks to all the staff involved and to the children for their work in preparation.

A collection will be taken towards the local Heart of Tamworth Charity.

****PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARRIVE FOR THIS BY 5.40PM****

Christmas Fayre - Friday last, 2nd December

How wonderful it was to have so many people back in the school for our first Christmas Fayre for 3 years. The atmosphere was wonderful. Thank you to everyone who attended.

So many people made huge efforts in so many ways to make the event possible, donating time, money, materials and energy. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to such a great event. Appreciation to the members of the Friends of St. Gabriel's in preparing, running and tidying up into the evening.

Strep A Infections

Infections caused by Group A strep bacteria are usually mild with symptoms like a sore throat or skin infections. The bug can also cause scarlet fever. Dr Colin Brown, Dep.

Director of the UK HAS has advised that there are a range of symptoms which may be a sign of an invasive infection including high fever, poor appetite, dehydration and altered behaviour. An invasive infection can result in much more serious consequences.

****IN ALL INSTANCES, IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN, SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ADVICE FROM A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.****

Please also see separate letter sent by email yesterday, Wednesday 7th December.

Catholic Virtues - Faith Filled and Hopeful

Pupils are growing to be Faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future. Catholic Schools help their pupils grow by passing on the living and faith-filled tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering faith in the pupils, and by encouraging them in turn, to have faith and hope in themselves and others.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Message from The Governing Board

Congratulations to our 2 new parent governors, Claire Buckley and Paul

Whitehouse. Nominations were received by 10am on December 6th and Claire and Paul were elected unopposed. We welcome our new governors and hope they will be a great addition to our Board.

Reception Nativity Performance – Tuesday 13th December 9.30am

The children have, as you will well know, been practicing eagerly for their performance. We look forward a great event. Special thanks to our staff for all their extra work in preparation.

However the performances go on the day, please be positive with your children and realise what a great achievement it is for a 4 or 5 year old to stand up and speak or sing in front of an audience. Thank you

KS1 Carol Service – Tuesday 13th December – Sacred Heart at 6.00pm

Fr. Michael looks forward to welcoming families from years 1 and 2 into Church next Tuesday 13th. The children have prepared fully for this over the past few weeks.

Thanks to all the staff involved and to the children for their work in preparation. Please be reminded that this is not a performance, but a religious experience. It is important that we create a prayerful atmosphere in Church. We look forward to a wonderful event and a memorable experience for our children in their local Church.

A collection will be taken at the end, with all voluntary contributions going to the local Heart of Tamworth Charity.

Winter Approaching

The first cold snap of the year is with us. 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

Catholic Life Survey

Thank you to those of you who have already completed the Catholic Life Survey. Please see email and complete online for our information by the deadline of Thursday 8th December, today. 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.

CAFOD World Gifts



Starting School packs, teaching someone to read, terrific toilets, emergency water and shelter kits, homes for life and marvellous moo cows are just some of the CAFOD World Gifts our classes have chosen to raise money for this Christmas!

The children have drawn pictures, written letters and made posters to help raise funds for these World Gifts

If you would like to support their fundraising, you can do so by making a donation via Parent Pay.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and support with this project.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Callie-Anne
RJC	Lana Rose
1KG	Maximus
1NH	Bruno
2BL	Emmerson
2NT	Mason
3CC	Yannis
3LH	Isabella
4HB	Gabriella
4LM	Harry S
5SM	Lily-Grace
5ST	Lucy
6AC	Dexter
6BF	Sam



**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

Supporting us - supporting your child

As parents and carers you send your children to us to be educated and to prepare them for their future, the world of work and how to behave and act.

You would of course expect us to remind children when their behaviour falls short of what is expected. When a teacher does speak with a child, deals with a child or gives advice, support your child by not allowing them to dwell on that issue. Trust in us is important. Encourage resilience in your child by encouraging them to learn from their experience and to move forward positively. 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.

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 and a link to the online system will be available from 1st November 2022. 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.

Twitter

Currently we have 95 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.

Parking

Please continue to be aware of the need to park responsibly in the local area ad in and around the school. Thank you to the majority of parents who continue to park lawfully and sensibly.

BOTH THE LOCAL POLICE AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE HAVE TOLD US THIS WEEK THAT "IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO PARK OUTSIDE A SCHOOL ENTRANCE OR IN A WAY THAT BLOCKS EMERGENCY SERVICES". THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO CONCERN SOME PARENTS.

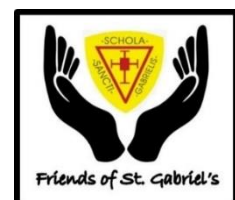
Parking is not allowed in front of the school gates, the yellow lines and zig zags are there to stop people parking there and to protect and keep all of our children safe.

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

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

Thursday 8 th December	Key Stage 2 Carol Service Sacred Heart Church @ 6.00pm
Tuesday 13 th December	Reception Nativity Service @ 9.30am Key Stage 1 Carol Service Sacred Heart Church @ 6.00pm
Wednesday 14 th December	Non Uniform Day - Christmas Jumpers Christmas Dinner
Friday 16 th December	Whole School Mass for end of term (led by Year 5) 9.15am Break up for Christmas holidays 3.20pm
Tuesday 3 rd January	Pupils and Staff return to school

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes
Headteacher