

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Advent

The season of preparation for the birth of Christ starts on Sunday next. The children will bring home an Advent Calendar. Consider putting this up at home and refer to it each day. It is also a good time to think about going back to Mass if you have not been able to attend for a while. See below. Thank you.

Whole School Advent Mass - Sunday 27th November 2022

You are all welcome to celebrate our Whole School Advent Mass this Sunday, 27th November, at the Sacred Heart Church at 9am.

Miss Townsley has sent a separate email regarding child volunteer readers and for the offertory procession. Thank you.

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.



Sacred Heart Church

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

Please be aware of the opening times of the café at the Sacred Heart. A pleasant space with a wide range of food and drink available.

Catholic Life Survey

Please be aware of an electronic survey to follow tomorrow to seek feedback on Catholic Life. Thank you

Thank you - Mrs Hughes writes

A huge thank you to the Friends of St Gabriel's who have made a substantial contribution for the purchase of some wonderful new Collins Big Cat reading books. This will really benefit our early reading provision and support us in our endeavour to make our children confident and fluent readers. Thank you, parents, for your ongoing contributions and support of Friends of St Gabriel's events which have helped to make this possible.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



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

Message from The Governing Board – Parent Governor Vacancies

Nominations for Parent Governors: As mentioned in previous newsletters we have 2 vacancies on our Governing Board for Parent Governors. We would now like to invite parents and carers to apply for one of these vacant positions. If you receive this newsletter electronically you will also have 2 attachments - a notification letter which gives notice of the availability of the positions and the eligibility criteria, and a nomination form which you should complete and return to the school office if you wish to put yourself forward. If you would normally get a paper copy from the office, a hard copy of the letter and form will be available to collect from the office. Any person wishing to be considered must have 2 named people to nominate. All nomination forms must be received in to school by 10am on December 6th. If we receive more than 2 nominations an election must be held and this would follow on straight after if needed. The nomination form includes space for a 'pen portrait' which you should complete and tell us a little about yourself, why you want to be a parent governor and what you feel you can bring to the role. This will be circulated if the election is needed. The governing board will be more than happy to discuss the role with anyone interested in putting themselves forward. If you would like a chat about the role please email chair@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk and we will arrange a time.

Rob Vernon and Theresa Miller (Co-chairs of Governors, St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School)

Red Wednesday

On Wednesday we marked **Red Wednesday**.

Red Wednesday is an annual event organised by Aid to the Church in Need. Red Wednesday aims to promote awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians around the world.

We marked Red Wednesday in school by wearing red and praying together for people around the world who are being persecuted or discriminated against because of their beliefs.

Thank you to everyone for taking part and, especially, wearing lots of very eye - catching red clothing! If you would like to find out more about Red Wednesday and the work of Aid to the Church in Need, please visit - <https://acnuk.org/>

CAFOD World Gifts



Following our CAFOD World Gifts assemblies last week, the children have been deciding in their classes which World Gift they would like to raise money for.

Over the next few days, the children will bring home some information about the World Gift they have chosen.

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.

Christmas Fayre - Friday 2nd December 3.30pm-5.00pm

Children will be taken to the Christmas Fayre between 2-3pm, they may bring a small amount of spending money (no more than £3 please) in a named purse or envelope. School will end with normal dismissal of children.

If attending the Christmas Fayre please form an orderly queue onto the Key Stage 2 playground and follow the advice given for entry. Please be patient and make the most of the choir who will perform on the playground as per 2019 and before.

Thanks in advance to all of you who will attend, we hope to see as many parents and carers as possible. With thanks to all those giving their time to make the event happen.

Please park responsibly in the local area at this time. Thank you.

KS2 and KS1 Carol Services

We will be holding our KS2 Carol Service on Thursday 8th December at 6pm and KS1 Carol Service on Tuesday 13th December at 6pm, both at the Sacred Heart Church.

Please look out for a separate email asking for children who would like to read or be part of the service by taking up a candle or a figurine to the altar. Thank you, Miss Townsley.

Message from the kitchen

Christmas Dinner this year will be on Wednesday 14th December (please see menu attached). For catering purposes, it is **VITAL** that we know accurate numbers **by Friday 2nd December** at the latest. Please see separate email sent out and reply as soon as possible. **If you do not reply we cannot guarantee a Christmas dinner for your child.** Thank you

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	George
RJC	Noah
1KG	Austin
1NH	Esme
2BL	Leo
2NT	Isabella
3CC	Nandi
3LH	Cerys
4HB	Lucas
4LM	Jasmine
5SM	Brooke
5ST	Jack
6AC	Alex
6BF	Oliver



Well Done Readers of the Week!

Free Parent Webinar on Building a Resilient Family

Please find details below of a free webinar hosted by Role Models and Presented by Laura Kay - Head of Character Education at Role Models.

Topic: **How to Build a Resilient Family** When: **29th November 2022 @ 07:30 PM**

A 45-minute webinar followed by Q&A, exploring how to build a resilient family in the modern world. Ideas shared are relevant for parents of children of all ages.

What you'll learn:

- Why resilience is such an important skill to foster in your family in 2022.
- What it means to be resilient.
- Ways to develop resilience.
- How embedding resilience can support your family.

Register in advance for this 45-minute webinar: [Register Here](#)

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.

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.

Twitter

Currently we have 85 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 from mother and toddler groups to free courses as well as job and training opportunities. It also provides information for parents of children with additional educational needs along with opportunities available to them for example short breaks. There will also be 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.

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 ****

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. **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.

St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School



OPEN MORNING ADDITIONAL SESSION FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2022 9.30AM-10.30AM

This is aimed particularly at parents/families who may be thinking about St. Gabriel's for their child in September 2023. If you know of any family member or friends who might be considering us then please encourage them to come. This is a valuable opportunity to view the school during the working day.
We pride ourselves on good relationships and the care given to our pupils.
We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 25 th November	Open Morning Additional Session 9.30am-10.30am
Sunday 27 th November	Whole school Mass for start of Advent Sacred Heart Church @ 9.00am
Friday 2 nd December	Non Uniform Day - Bottle donations for the Christmas Fayre Christmas Fayre 3.30pm-5.00pm
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

To you my God, I lift up my soul.

I trust in you: let me never come to shame.

Do not let my enemies laugh at me.

No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.

Amen.

God Bless

Yours sincerely

John P Hayes

John P Hayes

Headteacher