

Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Mrs Hawker - Year 2 Teacher

Sadly, and very unexpectedly, Mrs Hawker has been diagnosed with a tumour in the head. This was only confirmed last weekend.

Mrs Hawker had major surgery on Tuesday 17th May.

I realise that this will be as big a shock for you as it is for us.

The shock is nothing compared to the huge shock for Jo and her family.

The medical team and family are in the very early stages of trying to confirm what they are dealing with.

Please keep Mrs Hawker and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Mr Dave Gooch - husband of Mrs Gooch

Mrs Gooch is one of our teaching assistants in year 2. Her husband Dave was diagnosed with lung cancer last summer.

Sadly Dave died on Sunday evening last.

May Dave rest in peace.

Please remember Mrs Gooch and her family at this very tough time of loss.

IF ANY PARENT IS WORRIED OR CONCERNED ABOUT PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE AT THIS TIME THEN PLEASE DO APPROACH ME OR THE SCHOOL OFFICE IN CONFIDENCE, WE WILL ALWAYS TRY TO HELP IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN.

Please be aware of the wide range of food available from the Heart of Tamworth shop on the grounds of Sacred Heart Church. One generous bag of shopping for £3.00

Year 5 Mass

Tomorrow, Friday 20th May, parents and carers of Year 5 are invited to join the children in the school hall for Holy Mass at 9.15am.

First Holy Communion - Saturday next, 21st May 10am and 12noon

We look forward to the First Holy Communions on Saturday next.

Please do everything to create a prayerful atmosphere in the Sacred Heart Church.

10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Mrs Holmes' class

Please refer to the email sent recently. Please make sure all family members are aware of the arrangements and expectations.

Please follow the requests and guidance of the parish wardens present. Thank you.



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

Friday 27th May - Non Uniform Day

Please note children may wear red, white and blue to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee.

End of Term - Friday 27th May 1.30pm

Please note the email from the Governing Board last Friday, 6th May, notifying all of a 1.30pm finish on Friday 27th May.

Family & Community Information Hub

Please could I draw your attention to the new 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 and keep checking in - there will be new information added most weeks, as and when we get it, we will post it.

Year 3 Urban Artist Visit

Yesterday, Year 3 created a brand new street art mural on the side of the music room. Children were tutored by Steven Edwards from Graffolarge about the different street art techniques that he uses to create large scale murals. He showed children a range of work that he had been commissioned to create by Dudley Zoo, British Waterways and Banks Brewery to name but a few. The children were inspired by the different techniques that he uses, for example, some work was created entirely by graffiti lines that when overlayed created a 3D large scale version of Yoda. Steven Edwards then chose his favourite design, to place on the mural. The winning designs came from Ava C in 3CC and Jasmine B in 3LH. Children worked under the careful eye of Steve to spray paint the design to life, I am sure you will agree, the finished piece (below) is a fantastic colourful addition to our school. Many thanks to Steven Edwards for sharing his talent and expertise with us.



Catholic Virtues

This term children and staff at St. Gabriel's are growing to be **GRATEFUL** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **GENEROUS** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others

Our Parish

It's a good time to think about going back to Church if you have been away due to Covid.

There are many opportunities to be involved in the Catholic parish in Tamworth.

Have a look at www.tamworthrc.church Think seriously about going along to one of the Masses at the times shown.

A celebration of Holy Mass takes about 50 minutes. Many people find it spiritually lifting to sit in the peace of the Sacred Heart Church and listen and feel God around them. You will not know that unless you try it. Try it and tell me of your experience. Thank you.

Online Safety

We have been made aware of a number of online videos featuring a character called 'Huggy Wuggy.' Huggy Wuggy is an animated teddy bear with razor sharp teeth who sings worrying songs about hugging and killing. The character appears to feature in a number of videos on a number of different online platforms, including You Tube.

Due to the name children may come across the character and watch a video expecting a bear. The character's name also means that some internet filtering tools may not identify the videos as inappropriate for children.

Please, as always, be extra vigilant when your child is online and continue to talk to them about how they keep themselves safe on the internet and what they should do if they encounter something or someone who upsets them/worries them online.

To find out more about how to support your child in staying safe online please visit the <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> website for advice, guidance and resources for parents/carers.

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 verges 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 continue to follow this up. We again ask you take this advice and requests on board. Thank you.

Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

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|-----|-----------|
| RHK | Esme |
| RJC | Isla-Bleu |
| 1KG | Amiyah |
| 1NH | Emilia H |
| 2JH | Alanya |
| 2NT | Ethan |
| 3CC | Hugo |
| 3LH | Jakub B |
| 4HA | Marcus |
| 4HB | Brooke |
| 5AC | Sam |
| 5SG | Izzy |
| 6BF | Maisie |
| 6ST | Nikola |



**Well Done Readers of the
Week!**

Attendance

Further to the email sent to all parents on Monday 22nd November 2021. Please assist by:

- Not taking holidays in term-time, no period of leave for holiday can be authorised
- Only request a leave of absence when absolutely necessary
- Book routine appointments where possible outside of school times
- Not taking time off school for minor ailments - ask yourself if you would stay off work for the same
- Be on time for school - lateness disrupts the start of the day for your child and many key interventions take place in the first few minutes of the day
- Remember there are 175 non-school days per year, plenty of time for holidays, visits, days out and routine appointments

Punctuality and Being on Time

Thanks to all those families who get your children down to school on time.

We open for business at 8.50am. Currently about half of the children are in school getting started with their day within 3 minutes. The flexi start allows less congestion outside at the start of the day.

A very small number of families are still arriving after the registration bell at 9.10am. A lot of important, key work takes place in the first few minutes. Please do get your children down to school before the bell so that they DO NOT MISS OUT. Thank you.

St Gabriel's Twitter

Please join our closed Twitter account - @GabrielsPrimary

We will be trialling our Twitter account with our Reception classes.

This will be used to show a screenshot of various activities throughout their day. We will be expanding upon this, over the coming months to include all other year groups in school. We hope you will find this useful.

We would like to increase our followers to all parents and grandparents that are known to us. Our Twitter account is a closed account (private); therefore in addition to your request to follow the Twitter account we will need your own Twitter account username details to be sent to us, via the following email address: twitter@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk

This will allow us to accept you into the group and ensure the security of the account.

Please be aware - this account will only be used to share information and snapshots of your child's learning - please do not use this as a means of direct contact. There will be no facility to comment.

Ukraine - Humanitarian crisis situation

The March For Ukraine Campaign has been set up in Tamworth to collect essential supplies for refugees. It involves numerous organisations that includes Heart of Tamworth and The Parish of St. John the Baptist. They are helping as members of the organising group, collecting supplies, being a delivery centre and some transport. They are strictly only collecting new or nearly new items from the following list: Nappies, wipes, children's colouring books and pencils/crayons. Large blankets and sleeping bags. First aid items. Protein bars, baby food pouches (without milk or meat), sterilising tablets and dried food (pasta, rice, tea, biscuits etc). New nests, socks and pants. Toiletries. Donations can be dropped off at Sacred Heart Church.



Do you know of any families who have moved into Tamworth? We currently have a small number of spaces in some other year groups. If a family you know is interested please ask them to contact the school office in the first instance. Thank you

Forthcoming Dinner Supervisor Position

If you are interested in a possible role in the future as a Dinner Supervisor please pass your interest via notice to the school office. You would be notified in due course of any availability. Thank you.

Living with Covid

The Government recently announced their Covid 19 response "Living with Covid-19" strategy for England. It means that most of the measures in place to prevent the spread of the virus are no longer required.

National guidance now urges us all to take personal responsibility so that our actions minimise the risks of transmission.

In school we will continue to:

- Offer frequent and proper handwashing for staff and pupils
- Encourage good respiratory hygiene - this includes continuing to follow "catch it, bin it, kill it"
- Have additional cleaning of major touch points
- Have additional ventilation

SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT ADVICE

UPDATED FROM 1ST APRIL 2022 ONWARDS

- Staff or pupils who are unwell, particularly with a fever or high temperature, **SHOULD STAY OFF SCHOOL** until they are feeling well and temperature has returned to normal.
- It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for Covid unless directed to by a health professional.
- Pupils who do test positive, after following direction to take a test by the NHS or GP, **SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL FOR 3 DAYS** (This is the day of the test plus 3 clear days). After the 3 days they should continue to stay off/away until they are feeling well and temperature is back to normal.
- Adults who test positive **SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL FOR 5 DAYS** ((This is the day of the test plus 5 clear days). After the 5 days they should continue to stay off/away until they are feeling well and temperature is back to normal.

IMPORTANT

IF YOU TAKE A CHILD FOR A PCR TEST, FOLLOWING DIRECTION FROM NHS OR YOUR GP, THEY MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE AWAITING A RESULT, FOR THE SAFETY OF OTHER PUPILS AND STAFF. THANK YOU.

Get the basic principles of virus controls done well as part of your behaviour.

The spread of ALL variants will be reduced by:

- Limiting your mixing
- Keeping your distance
- Good hand, nose and mouth hygiene
- Good ventilation

IF YOU ARE INVITED INTO SCHOOL FOR A MEETING PLEASE

- Wear a mask if you can
- Sanitise hands on arrival
- Respect social distancing

Dates for your Diary

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|------------------------------|--|
| Fri 20 th May | Year 5 Mass |
| Sat 21 st May | First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Mrs Holmes' class |
| Tues 24 th May | Y6 Confirmation Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music |
| Fri 27 th May | Non Uniform Day - children can wear red, white and blue for Queen's Platinum Jubilee School closes for half term. PLEASE NOTE 1.30pm finish |
| Mon 6 th June | School reopens to staff and pupils |
| W/c Mon 6 th June | Y1 Phonics Screenings Y4 Multiplication tables check |
| Fri 10 th June | Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School photos |
| Mon 27 th June | INSET DAY 5 - School closed to pupils |

"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