



# St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024

*With Jesus Christ at the heart of our loving Catholic community*

#### Dates for Diary



#### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Non Uniform Day (Bottle Donations)  
Christmas Fayre

#### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Key Stage Two Carol Service (6pm, Sacred Heart)

#### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Early Years Christmas Nativity

#### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Key Stage One Carol; Service (6pm, Sacred Heart)

#### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

End of Term

**School closes at 1.30pm**

#### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Children return to school

Our Virtues this Half Term are Intentional and Prophetic. **Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's 'starting to look a lot like Christmas' here at school this week!

Tomorrow (Friday) we have our Christmas Fayre. Thank you to everyone for supporting our Christmas Raffle which will be drawn during the Fayre. The Friends of St Gabriel's are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the Fayre – all the details can be found further into this week's newsletter.

The children are busy preparing for our Nativities and Carol Services. KS1 and KS2 parents should have received an email with details of the arrangements for their two services.

Thank you for your very generous support of our Reversible Advent Calendars – our Mini-Vinnies have been doing a wonderful job promoting and co-ordinating the fantastic response we have had to this appeal.

We also continue to keep Father Michael in our prayers. Father Michael has shared that he is starting treatment this week. Like you, we will continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless

Mr Bright

Headteacher

**Places available for Reception September 2025 and in other Year Groups.** Visits to school are always welcomed and easy to arrange—please contact us to arrange your visit!

01827 213910 [office@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk) <https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/web>

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#### Attendance Superstars!

**Congratulations to class 2LG who are our Attendance Super Stars this Week!**



#### Weekly Attendance

| RC     | RK  | 1AP | 1KG | 2LG  | 2NH | 3LH/VN |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|--------|
| 88%    | 92% | 95% | 97% | 100% | 94% | 94%    |
| 3SO/AM | 4HB | 4JH | 5LM | 5SM  | 6AC | 6BF    |
| 91%    | 99% | 92% | 98% | 91%  | 91% | 95%    |

#### House Points

Well done to St Joseph house who earned over 833 house points last week!





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**Well Done to our Learners of the Week for impressing their teachers with their hard work and fantastic learning behaviours!**

| Learners of the Week             |                            |   |                             |                            |                             |                                 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>RC</b><br><b>Henry</b>        | <b>RK</b><br><b>Amari</b>  | <b>1AP</b><br><b>Ali-Rose</b>           | <b>1KG</b><br><b>Leo</b>    | <b>2LG</b><br><b>Lana</b>  | <b>2NH</b><br><b>Evelyn</b> | <b>3LH/VN</b><br><b>Georgie</b> |
| <b>3SO/AM</b><br><b>Scarlett</b> | <b>4HB</b><br><b>Jacob</b> | <b>4JH</b><br><b>Ronnie</b><br><b>K</b> | <b>5LM</b><br><b>Harper</b> | <b>5SM</b><br><b>Mason</b> | <b>6BF</b><br><b>Layla</b>  | <b>6AC</b><br><b>Rhys</b>       |

**Our Virtue Stars have been showing us how they are living out the virtues of being Intentional and Prophetic – Very Well Done!**

| Virtue Stars of the Week        |                              |                               |                             |                           |                            |                                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>RC</b><br><b>Theodore</b>    | <b>RK</b><br><b>Matilda</b>  | <b>1AP</b><br><b>Victoria</b> | <b>1KG</b><br><b>Olivia</b> | <b>2LG</b><br><b>Noah</b> | <b>2NH</b><br><b>Khloe</b> | <b>3LH/VN</b><br><b>Fredrick</b> |
| <b>3SO/AM</b><br><b>Freddie</b> | <b>4HB</b><br><b>Spencer</b> | <b>4JH</b><br><b>Penny</b>    | <b>5LM</b><br><b>Lauren</b> | <b>5SM</b><br><b>Max</b>  | <b>6BF</b><br><b>Mia E</b> | <b>6AC</b><br><b>Natan</b>       |



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**Message from the Mini-Vinnies:**

A huge **Thank you!**

Christmas Cards for Detained Refugees

"We would just like to say thank you to all the members of our school Community who wrote a Christmas card for the detained refugees. We have sent off these cards now and we hope that this helps to make them feel special this Christmas." Gabriella (Chair of the Mini Vinnies)



Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal

"We thank you for all your generous donations to help Fr Hudson's Caritas and the Heart of Tamworth (HoT). We have been overwhelmed with the support so far! Please can you continue to use the calendar to bring in one or two items to help others in need this Christmas, if you can."

**Natan (Communications Officer)**



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## Christmas Fayre

We are looking forward to our Christmas Fayre on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December!**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December will also be a non uniform day.**

**We are asking for voluntary Bottle Donations for the Christmas Fayre.**

The children will be taken to look around the Christmas Fayre during the afternoon on Friday, they can bring some spending money into school with them if they would like. Up to £3.00 will be plenty for them to buy something nice!! Please pop the money into a named envelope so it doesn't get lost.

Children will be dismissed as normal at the end of the day.

The Christmas Fayre will be open for you to visit after school, the Friends of St. Gabriel's will let you in as soon as they are ready to spread their Christmas cheer!!!!

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support!

## Sports Report

### Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics Tournament

We are pleased to report that children from year 5/6 participated in an indoor athletics tournament at Rawlett High School this Tuesday. The team's performance was truly exceptional, as they secured first place in all their races and demonstrated remarkable skill in both throwing and jumping events.

The team was: Izabela (c), Aubrey, Neive, Harriet, Darcie, Dollie, Isabella, Rosa, Khloe, Kasey, Maja, Layla, Rhys, Riley, Lenny, Archie, Piotr, Josh, Cian, Harrison, Ethan, Leon and Jenson. Many thanks to Mr Fowler and Mr Birtwistle for training and supervising the children at the event.





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#### Exciting News!

We are delighted to share some lovely news with you – Miss Gamon (one of our Year One teachers) is going to be having a baby in the Spring!

I know you will join us in sending our best wishes and prayers to Miss Gamon as she looks forward to welcoming baby into the world!

#### Parish News

**Touching the Robe:** An Advent Healing Service of Prayer and Reflection for all those in need of God's healing power. Sacred Heart Church **Sat 14th Dec at 2.30pm**, including Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an invitation to come and 'touch the robe' and kneel before Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament as we pray for our own intentions with an opportunity for the anointing of the sick.

**Journey in Faith:** If you have completed Alpha and are interested in continuing on the Journey in Faith Course to explore the Catholic Faith in more detail or to prepare to receive any of the Sacraments, please email [alex@tamworthrc.church](mailto:alex@tamworthrc.church) to discuss enrolling. Journey in Faith will continue on Thursday evenings from January at 7.30-9.00pm.

#### Track My Read - Helping children to love reading!

We now have 115 active pupils on Track My Read and between them they have accumulated 31,180 minutes read so far - a big Well Done to all those readers!

If we all work together, we could get the 30,000 minutes we need to reach our target in 2 weeks time!

If you are having any problems with your log in details please let your child's class teacher know and we can rectify this for you.

For more information on Track My Read visit [www.readforgood.org/track-my-read](https://www.readforgood.org/track-my-read)



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#### Sunday Gospel Reflection

#### Second Sunday of Advent - Luke 3:1-6 - Prepare the Way for the Lord

In our Gospel reading this Sunday, we encounter John the Baptist. John the Baptist helps us 'to prepare the way for the Lord.'

Preparations are a big part of Christmas! Preparing presents, gifts, food, homes, journeys – but we also need to prepare our hearts. Prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus. Prepare our hearts for welcoming our Saviour into our world and lives.



#### Advent Prayer

*Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.*

*Come, long-expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord.*

*I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen.*

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#### PE Days

Please see below for your child's 'PE Day.' Children should attend school in their PE kit on their PE day.



|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Reception Coakley | Thursday  |
| Reception Keeling | Friday    |
| Year One          | Wednesday |
| Year Two          | Wednesday |
| Year Three        | Tuesday   |
| Year Four         | Tuesday   |
| Year Five         | Thursday  |
| Year Six          | Monday    |

#### Extra – Curricular Clubs

Please see below for details of current extra- curricular clubs going on a school

**Please note – these are current clubs – information about additional KS1 Clubs coming soon!**

| Club                                     | Day                     |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Gymnastics Club</b> Year 1 and Year 2 | Tuesday 3:30 to 4:30pm  |
| <b>Multi-skills</b> Year 5               | Thursday 8:00 to 8:50am |
| <b>Choir</b> Key Stage 2                 | Thursday 3.20 to 4.15pm |
| <b>Choir</b> Year 5 and 6                | Friday 12.15-1pm        |

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| <b>Sacramental / Liturgical Dates</b>        |   |
|--|---|
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2024         | Mass in School – Key Stage Two (Led by Staff)   |
| <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b> | <b>Key Stage Two Carol; Service (6pm, Sacred Heart)</b>                                 |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December             | Early Years Christmas Nativity  |
| <b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b> | <b>Key Stage One Carol; Service (6pm, Sacred Heart)</b>                                 |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024        | Mass in School – Whole School – (Led by Y5)   |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025         | Mass in School – Whole School – (Led by Y5)   |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2025         | Mass in School – Whole School - TBC   |
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025</b>   | <b>School Mass at Sacred Heart (9am) (Year of Jubilee)</b>                              |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2025         | Mass in School Whole School (Led by Y4)   |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025        | Mass in School Whole School (Led by Y3)   |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025         | Ash Wednesday – start of Lent<br>Distribution of Ashes Service in school (Led by Staff) |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March                | CAFOD Family Fast Day (Lent)  |
| <b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>    | <b>Sacrament of Reconciliation (Y3, Sacred Heart, 6pm)</b>                              |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2025           | Mass in School (Whole School – Led by EY, Y1,)  |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025            | Mass in School (Led by Y2, (Y2, 4, 6)   |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025           | Mass in School Whole School (Led by Y6)   |
| Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2025              | Mass in School – Led by Y5  |
| <b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b>     | <b>First Holy Communion (10am, 12 noon; Sacred Heart)</b>                               |
| Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025             | Mass in School Whole School (Led by Y4)   |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025            | Mass in School Whole School – (Led by Chaplaincy)                                       |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2025            | Mass in School (Led by EY, Y1, Y2)  |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2025            | Mass in School – Thanksgiving for Sacraments (Led by Y3 + Y6)                           |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025            | Mass in School - <u>Whole School (Led by Y6)</u>  |

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| <u>Term Dates</u>  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b><u>Autumn Term 2024:</u></b><br><b>Term time:</b><br><b>Tues 3 Sept - Fri 25 Oct</b><br><b>Half Term:</b><br><b>Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov</b><br><b>Term time:</b><br><b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov – Fri 20 Dec</b><br><b>Holiday:</b><br><b>Mon 23 Dec – Fri 3 Jan</b> | <b><u>Spring Term 2025:</u></b><br><b>Term time:</b><br><b>Mon 6 Jan – Fri 14 Feb</b><br><b>Half Term:</b><br><b>Mon 17 Feb – Fri 21 Feb</b><br><b>Term time:</b><br><b>Mon 24 Feb – Fri 11 Apr</b><br><b>Holiday:</b><br><b>Mon 14 Apr – Fri 25 Apr</b> | <b><u>Summer Term 2025:</u></b><br><b>Term time:</b><br><b>Mon 28 Apr – Fri 23 May</b><br><b>Half Term:</b><br><b>Mon 26 May – Fri 30 May</b><br><b>Term time:</b><br><b>Mon 2 June – Mon 21 July</b><br><b>Holiday:</b><br><b>Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Aug</b> |
| <b>INSET Days:</b> 02/09/2024, 04/11/2024, 24/02/2025, 23/06/2025, 21/07/2025<br><a href="https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/term_dates">https://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk/term_dates</a>   |  |  |

## Community Information

Christmas isn't always a fun time for young people! Changes to their routine and over-excitement can cause anxiety, low mood and emotional meltdowns. Whilst these are very common, it isn't always easy to know the best ways to support young people with emotional regulation to help them overcome these issues. Mental Health Support Team Tamworth will be offering free advice and guidance to anyone who would like support relating to this. **THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 10AM TO 1PM**, The Saxon Suite, Tamworth Assembly Rooms. Pop in, chat with the team and enjoy a free tea or coffee.



Do you know that we have a hygiene bank in school? Always stocked with toiletries, cleaning products and baby supplies. All of our school community are welcome to visit in confidence. Please bring a bag.

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