



St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Thursday 28th November 2024

With Jesus Christ at the heart of our loving Catholic community

Dates for Diary



Friday 29th November

Non Uniform Day
(Chocolate Donations)

Sunday 1st December

School Mass at Sacred Heart
(9am)

Friday 6th December

Non Uniform Day (Bottle
Donations)
Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 10th December

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

Monday 16th December

Early Years Christmas
Nativity

Tuesday 17th December

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

Friday 20th December

End of Term

School closes at 1.30pm

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,

This Sunday marks the start of the Season of Advent. A time of preparation and prayer as we journey towards the Birth of Our Saviour at Bethlehem.

As a school and parish community, we will celebrate the start of Advent by joining together for Holy Mass this Sunday at the Sacred Heart (9am). Both school and the parish are looking forward to welcoming families to Mass on Sunday morning.

In school, our Mini-Vinnies are helping to organise a Reversible Advent Calendar and we are also collecting Christmas Cards for the Jesuit Refugee Service Christmas appeal. Details of both these projects are shared in this newsletter.

We wish all our parents, carers and families a very blessed, peace-filled and prayerful Advent.



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!

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Attendance Superstars!

Congratulations to class 1 KG who are our Attendance Super Stars this Week!



Weekly Attendance

RC	RK	1AP	1KG	2LG	2NH	3LH/VN
98%	94%	95%	100%	94%	96%	97%
3SO/AM	4HB	4JH	5LM	5SM	6AC	6BF
83%	94%	95%	99%	96%	95%	98%

House Points

Well done to St Francis house who earned over 800 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						
RC Simon	RK Summer	1AP Simon	1KG Havannah	2LG Finley	2NH Vivien	3LH/VN Autumn
3SO/AM Nina	4HB Leon	4JH Joseph	5LM Olly	5SM Harry	6BF Mia L	6AC Darcie

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						
RC Violet	RK Leo	1AP Mataya	1KG Winnie	2LG Harrison	2NH Harry T	3LH/VN Ignancy
3SO/AM Austin	4HB Tate	4JH Noah	5LM Mia	5SM Harper	6BF Neive	6AC Clayton



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Reverse Advent Calendar 2024

A message from the Mini Vinnies:

We would like to ask for your help during Advent so that we can support two charities, the Heart of Tamworth and Father Hudson's Caritas. Please see below a reverse Advent calendar with a year group under each day. If you are able to, please could you bring these items into school on your year groups day, so that we can donate them to the charities. We would really appreciate your help. Thank you

Reverse Advent Calendar 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1/12 Cereal & UHT Milk 	2/12 Toothbrush & Toothpaste 	3/12 Biscuits & Chocolate 	4/12 Handwash & Washing up liquid 	5/12 Spaghetti & Pasta sauce 	6/12 Pasta & Tinned tomatoes 	7/12
Staff	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2	
8/12	9/12 Tuna & Baked Beans 	10/12 Noodles & Soup 	11/12 Sanitary Products 	12/12 Tea bags & Coffee 	13/12 Shampoo & Deodorant 	14/12
	Year 1	Reception	Staff	Year 6	Year 5	
15/12	16/12 Rice & Tinned Meat 	17/12 Tinned fruit & Vegetables 	18/12 Washing Powder 	19/12 Bodywash 	20/12 Cakes 	21/12
	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1	Reception	

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Christmas Fayre



We are looking forward to our Christmas Fayre on **Friday 6th December!**

Last week, the children brought home raffle tickets – our raffle includes some fantastic prizes donated by local businesses and included in the top prizes is a £100 cash giveaway! We hope the tickets are selling well – please return any completed counterfoils, payments and any unsold tickets to your child's class teacher by **Friday 29th November.**

In preparation for the Christmas Fayre, we are asking for donations of chocolate and bottles – please see below for details. On each of the dates, we will have a non-school uniform day!

Friday 29th November – Chocolate Donations

Friday 6th December – Bottle Donations

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support!





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Track My Read - Helping children to love reading!

We now have 108 active pupils on Track My Read who have logged an amazing 24,370 minutes read so far - a huge Well Done to all those readers!

We still have a way to go to reach our target so please keep tracking those reads!

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.

Parish News

The Christmas Day Dinner will take place at Sacred Heart this year. If you know anyone who is lonely, feels isolated, or people who are homeless or don't have anywhere to go. Ask them if they would like to join us on Christmas Day. For more information contact jen@heartoftamworth.org.

Volunteers also needed, please.

Hygiene Bank Appeal thank you to everyone who supports this. We desperately need the following items: period pads, tampons, roll-on deodorant (M & F), disposable razors, baby wipes.

Teas and Toys after 9.00am Mass at Sacred Heart in the Upstairs Kenelm Room.

First Sunday of Advent

This Sunday (1st December) – the First Sunday in Advent – our children will be helping to lead Mass at the Sacred Heart (9am service).

During Advent, we watch and pray in joyful hope for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas. Joining together as a parish and school community will give us a very special opportunity to begin our Advent journey together.

If you have not attended a Mass at Sacred Heart before please do not worry – do come along as there will be lots of people there to make sure you feel very welcome and have everything you need.

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Sunday Gospel Reflection

First Sunday of Advent - Luke 21:25-36 - Stay Awake!

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus encourages His disciples to 'stay awake!'

Jesus wants us to stay awake so that we are ready for His Coming. Jesus also wants us to 'stay awake' to the needs of the world around us. Awake to those who are sad, lonely, hungry or suffering at this time of year. Awake to the Holy Spirit who will send us opportunities every day to help those who need us.

And then we will be truly 'awake' to Jesus.



Pray As You Go

Pray As You Go is a prayer app, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly whilst travelling to and from work, study, etc. The sessions consist of music, Bible readings, reflection and time for prayer.

During Advent, Pray As You Go are sharing an online Advent Retreat called Pilgrims of Hope. Each week of Advent, a 20-minute session will be released (via the Pray As You Go app) inviting you to look forward to the birth of Jesus as the source of all hope for our world.

If you like to find out more please visit <https://pray-as-you-go.org/series/70-pilgrimsofhopeadvent2024>
The sessions might be a great way to give yourself some time during Advent to reflect and prepare for the birth of Christ.



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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
Athletics Year 4	Monday 3:30 to 4:30pm
Multi-skills Year 4	Tuesday 8:00 to 8:50am
Gymnastics Club Year 1 and Year 2	Tuesday 3:30 to 4:30pm
Multi-skills Year 5	Thursday 8:00 to 8:50am
Choir Key Stage 2	Thursday 3.20 to 4.15pm
Choir Year 5 and 6	Friday 12.15-1pm
Athletics Year 5 and 6	Friday 3:30 to 4:30pm

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Sacramental / Liturgical Dates	
Friday 22 nd November 2024	Mass in School – (Led by Y2) (EY + KS1)
Sunday 1st December 2024	School Mass at Sacred Heart (9am) Advent)
Friday 6 th December 2024	Mass in School – Whole School (Led by Staff)
Tuesday 10th December 2024	Key Stage Two Carol; Service (6pm, Sacred Heart)
Monday 16 th December	Early Years Christmas Nativity
Tuesday 17th December 2024	Key Stage One Carol; Service (6pm, Sacred Heart)
Friday 20 th December 2024	Mass in School – Whole School – (Led by Y5)
Friday 10 th January 2025	Mass in School – Whole School – (Led by Y5)
Friday 24 th January 2025	Mass in School – Whole School - TBC
Sunday 2nd February 2025	School Mass at Sacred Heart (9am) (Year of Jubilee)
Friday 7 th February 2025	Mass in School Whole School (Led by Y4)
Friday 28 th February 2025	Mass in School Whole School (Led by Y3)
Wednesday 5 th March 2025	Ash Wednesday – start of Lent Distribution of Ashes Service in school (Led by Staff)
Friday 14 th March	CAFOD Family Fast Day (Lent)
Tuesday 18th March 2025	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Y3, Sacred Heart, 6pm)
Friday 21 st March 2025	Mass in School (Whole School – Led by EY, Y1,)
Friday 4 th April 2025	Mass in School (Led by Y2, (Y2, 4, 6)
Friday 11 th April 2025	Mass in School Whole School (Led by Y6)
Friday 9 th May 2025	Mass in School – Led by Y5
Saturday 17th May 2025	First Holy Communion (10am, 12 noon; Sacred Heart)
Friday 23 rd May 2025	Mass in School Whole School (Led by Y4)
Friday 13 th June 2025	Mass in School Whole School – (Led by Chaplaincy)
Friday 27 th June 2025	Mass in School (Led by EY, Y1, Y2)
Friday 11 th July 2025	Mass in School – Thanksgiving for Sacraments (Led by Y3 + Y6)
Friday 18 th July 2025	Mass in School - <u>Whole School (Led by Y6)</u>

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

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 12TH 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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