

# **Saint Gabriel's Catholic Primary School**

Wilnecote Lane, Tamworth, B77 2LF Tel: 01827 213910

E-mail: [office@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.st-gabriels.staffs.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents

## **Ofsted Visit**

By now you will have realised that we have had a visit from Ofsted this week. A Section 8 inspection has been carried out over 2 days, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, by Ofsted Lead Inspector, Helen Morrison.

Once the report is prepared and finalised we will of course make it available to you.

Can I particularly thank all those parents and carers who completed questionnaires or took the time to speak to the Ofsted Inspector on Wednesday.

Can I also draw your attention to the continued hard work of the whole staff team. They have again this week, in so many ways done their very best to provide for the children in their care.

## **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.



## **Cafod Family Fast Day**

The Lent Cafod Family Fast Day is tomorrow, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. This will be a non-school uniform day to raise money for Cafod's Lenten appeal.

We will be asking for non-uniform donations to be paid via ParentPay as we are no longer able to accept cash payments into school. Thank you.

### **Catholic Virtues**

This half term children and staff at St. Gabriel's will be learning to be **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.

### **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](http://www.tamworthrc.church)

Think seriously about going along to one of the Masses at the times shown.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Confession - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 6pm @ Sacred Heart Church**

Fr. Michael and Fr. Subba look forward to celebrating this very special Sacrament for the children and their families.

Children are asked to wear their school uniform and to arrive in good time. Thank you.

### **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.

### **Attendance**

Further to the email sent to all parents on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **Governors Fund**

Thank you to the families who have already made payments to the Governors Fund this year.

The governors suggest a voluntary contribution of £50 per year, per family. This can be paid in instalments as you wish via ParentPay.

Your children attend a good school and your funds will directly impact on our ability to ensure continued success and allow the governors to attend to urgent matters of upkeep. It would be timely to thank those parents who already contribute various amounts regularly - thank you so much for your loyal support, month in, month out, year in, year out.



### **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](mailto: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.

### **Living with Covid**

The Government has 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

If your child feels unwell and has any symptoms associated with the covid virus, I ask you to take NHS advice and get them tested where necessary.

## IMPORTANT

**IF YOU TAKE A CHILD FOR A PCR TEST THEY MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WHILE AWAITING A RESULT, FOR THE SAFETY OF OTHER PUPILS AND STAFF. THANK YOU.**

**IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR THE COVID 19 VIRUS, YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO ISOLATE FOR AT LEAST 5 DAYS AND ONLY RETURN TO SCHOOL ONCE THE VIRUS AND SYMPTOMS HAVE PASSED.**

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**

## Reader of the Week

This week's Readers of the Week are:

RHK	Imogen
RJC	Elizabeth
1KG	Ronnie
1NH	Spencer
2JH	George
2NT	Ethan
3CC	Rhys
3LH	Jenson
4HA	Celeste
4HB	James
5AC	Oliver
5SG	Izzy
6BF	Jessica
6ST	Evie A



**Well Done Readers of the  
Week!**



## Walk against Hunger

**Are you ready to change your life and transform someone else's this Lent?**

This Lent CAFOD are launching their Walk Against Hunger campaign: Challenge yourself to walk 200k this Lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time.

You can walk, roll, skip or stroll your way to 200k. You can boldly go it alone and take it on 5k a day for 40 days, or you can smash the target all at once as a team.

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to conquer 200k, and help give hunger its marching orders.

If you would like to find out more about Walk against Hunger please visit:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

### **Emergency Contact Details Update**

It is vital that we retain up-to-date Emergency Contact details for all children. Please inform school immediately if your mobile number or email address changes. We use Teachers2Parents text and email system to communicate with you and keep you informed about what is happening at school. Please ensure all 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Emergency Contact mobiles are fully charged and switched on during the school day so we can contact you in an emergency. Thank you.

### **Message from the kitchen**

The school lunch menu for the school week commencing Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March will be:

Monday:	Pizza, Pasta and Sweetcorn
Tuesday:	Chicken Filo Pie, Mash, Peas and Broccoli
Wednesday:	Roast Dinner
Thursday:	Beef Pasta Bolognese and Sweetcorn
Friday:	Fish Fingers, Chips and Peas



Week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> February

Well done to class 1KG who  
achieved 100% attendance.

### **Mrs Birtwistle**

Please be aware that Mrs Gill Birtwistle will be retiring at Easter time.

This will bring to a conclusion 34 years of work at St. Gabriel's.

We thank Mrs Birtwistle sincerely for her dedicated service to the children in her care.

We wish Mrs Birtwistle well for a happy and healthy retirement.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> March	TOMORROW - CAFOD Family Fast Day - Non Uniform Day
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> March	School Nursing Team NHS - Reception and Y6 heights and weights
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Sacrament of Reconciliation - Sacred Heart Church 6pm
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> March	INSET DAY 4 - School closed to pupils
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> March to	
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Vocations Week
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Tempest Photography - Vista Group Photographs Reception & Y6
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for End of Term
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens to staff and pupils
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> April to	
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Y6 Alton Castle Residential Trip
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	MAY DAY - School closed
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Y3 First Holy Communion Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> May to	
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS - Y6 pupils must be in school each morning
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> May	First Holy Communion Masses 10.00am Miss Caswell's class 12noon Mrs Holmes' class
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 Confirmation Retreat Day in school - Dan and Emily from One Life Music
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> May	School closes for half term
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens to staff and pupils
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Tempest Photography - Individual/Family/Pre School photos

## **Prayer for Ukraine**

God of peace,

Your prophet Isaiah promised swords would be turned into ploughshares,  
and your Son's mother Mary proclaimed the mighty would be put down  
and the humble exalted.

Visit the people of Ukraine:

Deliver them from fear, violence, attack, injury, destruction and death;

And give them courage, solidarity, and allies in their hour of vulnerability and sorrow.

Turn the hearts of those bent on war and invasion.

Strengthen the hand of all seeking to halt conflict, restore order, and pursue justice.

And make this moment of peril an occasion for your Holy Spirit to show your world  
the cost of conflict, and our dependence on one another.

In Christ our Lord who went to his death because of our hatred,

and rose again because our hatred is never stronger than your indomitable love.

Amen.

(Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.)

God Bless

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P Hayes".

John P Hayes

Headteacher