

The Saint Raphael's News

w/c 20th September 2020 / 25th Sunday, Year A, Matthew 20: 1-16

'The first shall be last and the last shall be first'



UPDATE ON SEPTEMBER WHOLE SCHOOL OPENING

It has been wonderful to have all our pupils back in school. The children have settled really well. The 'bubbles' in classes and social distancing along with hand hygiene continue to operate in order to minimize risk. Thank you for your help and understanding with the staggered start and finish times for year groups. Our priority, as always, is the safety of the pupils, parents and staff and we appreciate your support throughout this process. The class bubbles will also be maintained during playtimes and lunch time.

The current version of the school Risk Assessment is published on the school website.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

As you are aware we were not able to complete our Sacramental Programme last year. The children who were in Year 3 last year did not receive the sacraments of First Forgiveness or First Holy Communion. I appreciate that this was a disappointment for both the children and families as this is a special occasion in a family and in our school community. I have met with Father Philip and would like to thank him for his support with this matter. Due to the uncertainty of the current situation and the current limits on numbers in church it has been decided to postpone the Sacraments for last year's group who are now Year 4 until the Summer Term 2021.

The dates are below are for the current Year 4 children:

Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday, 19th May, 2021 @ 6.30pm at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church

Sacrament of First Holy Communion Saturday 26th June, 2021 @ 10am at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church

For children who are currently Year 3 the Sacramental Programme will begin in Summer 2021 with preparation work for the sacraments. This group will then receive the sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion in the **autumn term of 2021 when they are in Year 4.**

The dates are below are for the current Year 3 children who will be Year 4 when they receive the sacraments:

Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday, 29th September, 2021 @ 6.30pm at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church

Sacrament of First Holy Communion Saturday 16th October, 2021 @ 10am at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church

All dates are provisional and will obviously depend on the situation at the time.

SCHOOL MASSES Unfortunately at the current time we will not be able to have School Masses. We will review the situation in January 2021. Masses at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church have now resumed following the Diocesan guidelines. Please see the Parish website for details.

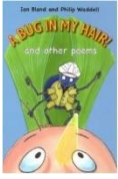
FRIDAY PRAISE ASSEMBLY: In the current climate we are unfortunately unable to have our weekly Praise Assembly in the usual way. However, we still want to celebrate the children's achievements. Therefore, Mr Matthews and myself will go around classes presenting Praise certificates and photos will be posted onto Seesaw or Tapestry. Also, if your child has any achievement from home that they wish to celebrate then they can bring this in to class on Friday's and the class can celebrate the children's many talents and achievements together. Similarly, birthdays will be celebrated in class.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP - YEAR 6: As always at this time of year, the Year 6 children are busy applying for a leadership role in school. We will be appointing Head Girl and Boy, House Captains and Sports Captains over the next few weeks. All children in Year 6 will have a role of responsibility. They are putting in a great deal of effort to explain how their skills will serve the school and we will be announcing the successful candidates on **Friday 25th September in class** and on Seesaw. They all have a great opportunity to contribute to school in a distinctive way and I am looking forward to seeing what innovative ideas they have.

PARENTS' MEETINGS: We are currently looking at how best to discuss the attainment and progress of the children with parents during the current restrictions. We will inform you soon of the arrangements.

May God's love shine in our lives as we care, share and learn together

ST RAPHAEL'S DAY CELEBRATIONS: This year unfortunately we will be unable to have our usual Mass to celebrate St Raphael's Feast Day. However, we do still want to ensure that this day is celebrated in school. The children will be finding out about St Raphael. Also, we have arranged for a poet Ian Bland to come into school on that day and work with individual class bubbles. The visit will follow our risk assessment procedures. Please note this day is not a non-uniform day and children will wear their uniform please.



If any parent wanted to buy an Ian Bland poetry book he will be selling these after school on Tuesday in the porch area outside the Parish Hall. The books are £6.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: Unfortunately, in the current climate we are unable to hold the MacMillan Coffee Morning in the way we usually do. However, we do still want to participate in this. Therefore, we will be having a cake sale within each class bubble. The children will be asked to donate cakes which are individually wrapped please at the start of the week beginning 28th September (before Wednesday please and then the cakes can be quarantined for 2 days) then the cake sale will take place within their class bubble on Friday 2nd

October. Children will be asked to send a donation for a cake. Miss Taylor will be sending home a letter soon with further details.

HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: Letters have been sent home today with our Year 6 children and include details of how parents make their applications via the Tameside Admissions portal. The deadline for admissions is the **31st October 2020**. All applications must be made online at <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions> and are managed by Tameside Council. All Saints Catholic College have sent details of their open day which will be an online virtual Open Evening on Tuesday 6th October. Please see information on the All Saints website.

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

If you have been abroad to a country that is on the Government's list as requiring quarantine on return please inform the school office and check the quarantine requirements which may be in place.

Latest information can be found on the Government website.

Before and After School Provision

The before and after school offer is working well in school. During the Autumn Term we will be offering the options below. The children will have a range of activities and be cared for by St Raphael's staff in the school hall from 8am until their class bubble starts. At the end of the day, children will do activities and be cared for from their bubble closing until 4.30pm.

Before School Care, including breakfast opens at 8am at £4.00 per session. After School Care, including snack closes at 4.30pm £4.00 per session. (Any subsequent sibling charged £3 per session) Places at each club will be limited to 25 children per day and children will be supervised by at least two members of staff throughout. If you require more information or a registration form for the Autumn Term please follow the link on the school website or contact the school office. Places must be pre-booked on a first come first served basis and club fees must be settled monthly in advance, these will be collected via the SchoolMoney Portal.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR POSSIBLE SCHOOL CLOSURE

Whilst we hope that we will not need to close a class bubble in school I do feel it is important to outline to parents and carers the procedures that would be followed if such a closure becomes necessary. We have been working in school on contingency plans for bubble closures if they become necessary.

- If a child or member of staff in your child's bubble receives a positive Covid test result we would contact every parent of a child in that bubble with a text message and a link to a letter advising parents of a closure to the bubble. This will outline the dates of the isolation period for the bubble. The affected classroom would be deep cleaned. We will take our advice from Public Health England and from Tameside LA.
- The homelearning provision for the children who are isolating will be via Tapestry (EYFS) or Seesaw (Yrs 1-6) The class teacher will post work each day at specific times for different subjects. (Details will be in the letter) The teachers have received training on illustrating worksheets or lessons via Seesaw. The class teacher will then be available during school hours to reply to questions via Seesaw or Tapestry. Please ensure that you have the necessary links to Tapestry and for Seesaw both class and family apps.
- The parents of children not in the affected bubble will also receive a text message and a link to a letter explaining that a child or staff member in school has received a positive Covid test result. In this case unaffected bubbles would remain open and we would continue to be thorough in our procedures for cleaning, social distancing and hand hygiene.

Please be assured that all the measures outlined in the previous newsletter and posted on the school website are continuing. However, we are aware that we can minimise but not completely eradicate risks during the current pandemic. Also due to the constantly changing situation guidance will be reviewed regularly.

PE KITS

We have reviewed our PE kits procedures. On days when Years 1, 2 and 3 have PE- which currently is Monday they will come in to school in uniform and change into their PE kit in the afternoon. Then after PE the children in Years 1, 2 and 3 will remain in PE kit and go home in the PE kit. They will bring their uniform home in their bag. The PE kit can then be returned to school during the week. The change is to allow bubbles to remain separate and social distancing to be maintained if children are having difficulty fastening buttons. If Year 6 may come home in kit on Friday too. Thank you for your understanding with this change. We will review this at Christmas. For all other classes PE kits can remain in school until half term.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM CORONAVIRUS:

Please be aware of the latest guidance in relation to coronavirus which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>.

NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS: Intrahealth will again be carrying out the Nasal Flu Vaccination programme at St Raphael's on **Monday 9th November 2020**. This covers all school age children from Reception to Year 6. Nursery age children are not included in the programme and you should consult with your own GP should you wish your child to receive a vaccine. Further information and consent forms have been sent home.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS: Individual School Photographs will take place in School on **Wednesday 14th October 2020**. All children are to be in their Winter Uniform with children in Years 1-6 wearing a shirt and tie. Unfortunately, due to the current situation with bubbles we are unable to accommodate sibling photographs this year.

SCHOOL MEALS: Please be aware that the school kitchen require 2 weeks notice if parents want their child to change from packed lunches to school dinners or from school dinners to packed lunches. This is to allow for the correct orders of food to be completed.

CHRISTMAS

We are discussing as a staff how we can best celebrate Christmas in school. We will still make this a special time for the children. More details will follow.

HOMEWORK

The CGP workbooks which were sent home during the period of school closure will be used from September as homework books. Teachers will be posting on Seesaw and Tapestry the work which is to be completed. Homework books will not be returned to school each week due to the current situation. There are also links on the school website to sites such as Prodigy, Times Tables Rock Stars, BBC Bitesize and the online reading sites which can all provide useful activities.

CONTACT WITH SCHOOL

Please could we ask that if you haven't already done so you complete an online data form updating us with any changes of contact details for each child in school, please complete this as soon as possible to ensure we have the correct details for every child in school. This is especially important for the mobile and email addresses we use to contact you via Text, Email, School Money etc

Thank you for all your support and understanding during these difficult times. Please be assured of our prayers as we work together. I hope that you and your families stay safe and well. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact school.

With best wishes and prayers,



Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)

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Diary dates

SEPTEMBER 2020		
Friday 25 th	Year 6 Leadership Roles Presentation in class	All Day
Tuesday 29 th	St Raphael's Day Poet Ian Bland in school	All day
OCTOBER 2020		
Friday 2 nd	Macmillan Cake Sale in classes	AM
Wednesday 14 th	Individual School Photographs	AM
Wednesday 14 th	Full Governing Board Meeting Virtual	4.30pm
Thursday 22 nd	School Closes for Half Term	3.15pm
Friday 23 rd	Staff INSET Day	All day
NOVEMBER 2020		
Monday 2 nd	School Opens Other Faiths Week	8.40am All Week
Monday 9 th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	All day
Monday 16 th	Anti-bullying Week	All week
Sunday 29 th November	First Sunday of Advent (Quiet Liturgies will be held in school during Advent)	
DECEMBER 2020		
	Christmas arrangements to follow	
Friday 18 th	School Closes for Christmas Holidays	Usual pick up times for bubbles 2.50-3.20pm
January 2021		
Monday 4 th	School opens	8.40am