

# The Saint Raphael's News

w/e 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021 / 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Year B, Mark 10:46-52

*Jesus said to the blind man 'Go your faith has saved you'*



**FIRST HALF TERM:** As we approach the end of the first half term the children have made a wonderful start to the new school year. They are showing positive attitudes and are working really hard. We are very proud of the way that the children come into school every day ready to learn and ready to fulfil the Gospel values at the heart of our school life. As a whole community we continue to work together with for the safety of the pupils, parents and staff and we appreciate your support throughout this process.

The current version of the school Outbreak Management Plan is published on the school website.

**During the half term holiday if your child or a member of your family tests positive for Coronavirus please could you inform school so that we can ensure the safety of all our pupils. Please contact [head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk)**

**STAFFING:** Mrs Parker is leaving us this week and we wish her well in her new school and thank her for all her care and hard work during her time at St Raphael's.

**YEAR 6 LEADERS:** Our Year 6 all have their leadership roles now and are approaching these with great enthusiasm.

**PRESENTATION OF RECEPTION CLASS BY THEIR BUDDIES:** We welcomed the reception children to St Raphael's as they were each presented by their buddies. Well done to all the children and thank you for joining us on the virtual link in this celebration.

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

**CATHOLIC LIFE:** It has been lovely to resume small assemblies where we look at the Gospel theme for that week. (3 classes at a time with social distancing) While we still cannot have our usual Praise Assembly please be assured that we are still celebrating the children's achievements with Mr Matthews and myself going 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.

The worship leaders in Year 6 have done a wonderful job recording a collective worship on the theme of October the month of the Holy Rosary and all classes have used this for their collective worship.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME:** We were delighted to be able to celebrate the sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion with our Year 5 children and their families. Both were wonderful celebrations and the children received their sacraments with great joy and reverence. We were very proud of them as I am sure their families were.

The sacraments for the current year 4 children will be held in Spring 2022. I will be sending a letter out after half term for families to enrol on the sacramental programme. I would like to thank Father Philip and Deacon Antony for all their help and also all the staff who prepared the children so beautifully.

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

The dates below are for the current Year 4 children.

Sacrament of Reconciliation                      Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 @ 6.30pm  
St Peter's and St Raphael's Church

Sacrament of First Holy Communion      Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 @ 10am  
St Peter's and St Raphael's Church

For children who are currently **Year 3** dates and arrangements will follow but currently we are planning that this group of children will receive their Sacraments in Autumn 2022.

**All dates are provisional and will obviously depend on the situation at the time. We appreciate your understanding and patience with this.**

**PARENTS' EVENINGS: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2021** We are holding virtual meetings with parents in November. We will be continuing to use the online ParentsEvening booking system to enable you to make your appointments with the only change that this time the meetings will be conducted by video call instead of a phone call. Full details on how to book and access your appointment video call will be sent home after the half term holiday.



**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:** Thank you for your donations of cakes and money for the MacMillan Cake sale. We raised £281.00. Thank you to Miss Taylor for organising this.

**HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - FINAL REMINDER:** The deadline for admissions for High School for our Year 6 children is fast approaching and falls during the half term holidays. Applications are via the Tameside Admissions portal. The deadline for admissions is the **31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**. All applications must be made online and are managed by Tameside Council - <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions>

**RECEPTION ADMISSIONS:** The Tameside Admissions Portal will open for applications to Reception for September 2022 on 1<sup>st</sup> November. All nursery children have been given details of how to apply and further information is available at <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions>

**HARVEST:** We are all aware that this remains a very difficult time for many families. If we are able to we would still like as a school to hold our Harvest Food collection when the children bring in a tin or dried food which will then be taken to the Foodbank in Stalybridge. If you would like to donate we will put a box at the school gate so that the children can put their tin into the box on their way into school. Thank you for helping if you are able to but obviously please don't worry if you are not able to help at this time.

**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION:** The before and after school offer is working well in school. The children have a range of activities and are cared for by St Raphael's staff in the school hall from 8am until their class starts. At the end of the day, children will do activities and be cared for 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 Autumn Term 2 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.



**POPPY APPEAL:** We will be selling Poppies after half term on behalf of the Royal British Legion Annual Poppy Appeal. Please send a small donation with your child if they wish to purchase a Poppy.

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**PE KITS:** During winter months the children can wear tracksuit bottoms for PE over their shorts.

**NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS:** Intrahealth will again be carrying out the Nasal Flu Vaccination programme at St Raphael's on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021**. Thank you for your support in returning the consent forms, these have now been collected by Intrahealth and only children who have returned a consent form will receive the vaccination in school. 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.

**SCHOOL MEALS:** Please be reminded 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. **If your child takes a school meal these are charged at £2.40 and the total cost of meals for Autumn Term 2 will 35 meals and total £84.00. School Meals must be paid online at <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/schoolmeals>**

**CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS:** More details about Christmas activities for the children will follow in the next newsletter

Thank you for all your support and understanding during these challenging times. Please be assured of our prayers as we work together. I hope that you and your families stay safe and well during the half term break. 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)**

**[head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk) / 0161 338 4095**

## Diary Dates

OCTOBER 2021		
Thursday 21st	School Closes for Half Term	3.15pm
Friday 22nd	Staff INSET Day	All day
NOVEMBER 2021		
Monday 1st	School Opens Other Faiths Week	8.45-8.55am All Week
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bikeability - Year 6	In School
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	All day
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-bullying Week - One Kind Word	All week
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	First Sunday of Advent (Quiet Liturgies will be held in school during Advent)	
DECEMBER 2021		
<b>CHRISTMAS NEWLETTER TO FOLLOW!</b>		
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	School Closes for Christmas Holidays	3.15pm
JANUARY 2022		
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Opens	8.45-8.55am

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