

The Saint Raphael's News

Spring 2 2018 / John 2:13-25

To those who sold doves he said,

"Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"



THE WEATHER: Thank you for your understanding with school closure last week. The 'Beast from the East' affected the whole country; however we do take the decision to close the school very carefully. We have to take into account the forecast, the safety of the roads, the safety of pupils and staff and the difficulty regarding children getting home too. Before a decision was made I consulted with the Chair of GB and other local schools.

CAFOD OWN CLOTHES - WORLD BOOK DAY AT ST RAPHAEL'S: Due to the weather, we have rearranged the Book Day. As before we will combine fundraising for this year's campaign with World Book Day. Therefore on **Friday 16th March** the children can dress up as their favourite book or character and make a donation to CAFOD. Again there is no set amount - if we all give a little, we can raise a lot! Remember simple costumes can be very effective! For more information about World Book Day visit the website www.worldbookday.com.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME PRAYER SPONSORS: Below is the list of Prayer Sponsors for the children who are receiving the Sacraments of Forgiveness and Communion for the first time. In addition we ask our prayer sponsors to pray for their Year 3 classmates who, although not receiving Sacraments, will be supporting the children through the process. It is an important year for all the children and we will remember to keep all the children in our prayers. On the 17th April we will also be having a Prayer Sponsors' Tea Party!



CHILD	PRAYER SPONSOR	CHILD	PRAYER SPONSOR
James Bardsley	John Holland	Keira Lee	Jean Clarke
Thomas Barrientos-Lowry	Joan Anton	Hunter Melville-Terry	David Bancroft
Maisie Brookes	Melissa Hughes	Oscar Newton	Kath Hughes
Matilda Costello	William Plunkett	Lois Detheridge	Clare Stewart
Riley Norton	Barbara Robinson	Frankie Dutton	Honor Murray
Tremaine Norton	Barbara Robinson	Poppy Evans	Moya Evans
Thomas Rothwell	Stella Mackie	Belle Forrest	Ann Fletcher
Amelia Uryasz	Maria Luisa Greenhalgh	Bethany Gibbons	Eileen Bancroft
Harvey Wade	A Price	Riley Halpin	Joan Jones
Wiktoria Weglerek	Dilys Hurst	Bethan Hillier	Helen Rogers
Jacob Winterbottom	Michelle Taylor	Jesse Kyeyune	Carol Kleban
Katie Wright-Borges	Fliss Holland	Ruben Laird	John Pajak
Bartkomiej Charles Gielo	Stella Brennan	Jonathan Lashley	Margaret McCutcheon
Freya Sibson	Jean Clarke		

We also ask all our Prayer Sponsors to pray for all the children in Year 3 who are supporting their classmates in their preparation for the First Sacraments.

SCHOOL MONEY: The service is now being launched in phases - thank you to those in Year 4 and 5 and EYFS for being our first users! As the service continues to be launched to whole school we will become a cashless environment and money will no longer be accepted at the office where you have been asked to pay online using your SchoolMoney account - it's as easy as online shopping!

If you are struggling with using School Money and have sent money in for the Halle trip or EYFS Snack fund please contact the office for support (Mrs Fletcher & Mrs Heywood) to ensure that you are able to login to your account - all parents must activate their account when requested as consent for trips etc will also be done via SchoolMoney. Passwords can be re-sent via school, cash payments can be taken by card at the office and a PayPoint Barcode can be printed for those who require this service.

A support page will also be available on the School Website by the end of this week.

CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AND DIARY AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

BRIDGEWATER PERFORMANCE: Good luck to our Year 5 children who are performing with artists from the Halle! The children have been working hard practising their dance and making costumes for their performance on March 13th at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. We are sure that they will make us very proud. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this exciting project.

PARENTS' EVENING: On March 13th and 14th you can meet with the teachers to discuss your child's progress at our second Parents' Evenings of the year. A letter was sent home on Monday (05.03.18) regarding appointment details.

It is important that you attend these meetings as we work together to aid each child's progress to ensure they can all reach their full potential. We anticipate that all parents will be seen over the two nights and if you cannot make the night originally given, please contact school so we can arrange the meeting for the alternative night. As in November, the meetings will take place in the hall and you will also have a chance to look at the work in books in the classroom.

On the night you will be told if your child is on track to meet Age Related Expectations and we will also give you an attendance breakdown up to that date. We would also welcome your views on school and will have a Parents' questionnaire available on both night. Your views and feedback are much appreciated.

KS1 SATS INFORMATION MEETING: On Wednesday, 7th March at 2.45pm we would like to invite the parents of our Year 2 pupils to school for an information meeting about the KS1 SATS. Miss Anderton will discuss what will happen during the SATS in May and will be able to answer any questions that you may have.

PHONICS WORKSHOP On Monday 26th March @ 3.15pm we will be having a Phonics workshops which is aimed at our Reception and Year 1 parents. This will give you an explanation of how we teach Phonics (the decoding strategies for reading) and the assessments that will take place in June. We will be able to answer any questions that you may have. The children will be supervised by members of staff while parents attend the meeting.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST RE: GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: Following the information and request in the previous newsletter, I wrote to Jonathon Reynolds MP. He has written to school in response to our letter saying that he will take on board the concerns raised and use them if he has opportunity.

SATS WEEK: 14th-17th MAY 2018 - This is a key assessment time for all the children in school not just those in Year 2 and Year 6. The Year 2 children will have assessment tests administered throughout May while the Year 6 have a set timetable for their SATS. It is vital that children are not off during this week and are in school, on time having had a good breakfast so they are at their best and ready to learn. With this in mind breakfast club will be available free of charge for Year 6 children during SATS week, thank you in advance to Mrs Thorp and Mrs Jones in the kitchen for helping with this.

Date	Activity
May 2018	Key stage 1 testing period.
Monday 14th May	Key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation & spelling test, Paper 1, short answer quest. Key stage 2 English grammar, punctuation and spelling test, Paper 2, spelling.
Tuesday 15th May	Key stage 2 English reading test, reading booklet and associated answer booklet.
Wednesday 16th May	Key stage 2 mathematics, Paper 1 arithmetic test. Key stage 2 mathematics, Paper 2 reasoning.
Thursday 17th May	Key stage 2 mathematics, Paper 3, reasoning.

FRIENDS OF ST RAPHAEL'S EASTER EVENTS: The Friends of St Raphael's have exciting events planned for Easter. A separate letter will follow giving details however, we will be asking everyone to bring a donation of an Easter Egg into school. Thank you for your continued support for our events.

ECO WEEK: We are having a week of Eco Activities throughout school in the week beginning 19th March. During the week the children will engage in a variety of activities to raise awareness about environmental issues and we will be enjoying lots of outdoor learning. We will also be enhancing our Garden area.

Activities will include:

- Rubbish free snacks and lunches all week to promote environmental awareness i.e. We will try to limit our use of plastics and packaging for snacks and lunches
- Thursday 22nd March - The Woodland Trust will give an Assembly at 1.30pm in the School Hall. This will be followed by a tree planting session to plant the trees kindly donated by the Woodland Trust. Any parents or grandparents who would like to volunteer to help plant trees are very welcome. Also any wheelbarrows or spades that could be loaned for the day will be appreciated.
- Friday 23rd March - Wear Green Be Green day. (Non-uniform Day) The children are encouraged to wear something green for the day.

SWIMMING: After Easter the children will begin their swimming lessons. In the first half term the lessons will be for the Year 3 and 4 children, and from June they will be for the Year 5 and 6 children. The children will need:

- a one-piece swimsuit for girls (no bikini please)
- swimming trunks for boys
- a towel and a bag
- the children are not allowed an aerosol.
- a swimming cap for any child with long hair (contact Copley Centre with any questions **NOT** school)
- goggles where required with a letter from the parents given to school for the swimming instructors

PARISH MASSES: Masses in school will continue to be on Thursday at 10am. The timetable for this half term is below. St Peter's and Raphael's Church, Castle Hall Close, weekend Masses are on Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 11.00am. If you wish to contact Father Philip his phone number is 0161 338 2575.

Date	Mass Class	Date	Mass Class
Thursday 8 th March	Year 3	Thursday 22 nd March	Year 5
Thursday 15 th March	Year 4	W/C 25 th March	Whole School Mass - TBC

LENT: Again we have much planned this year as Lent is a key time for prayer, abstinence and service. The Year 6 Lent Leaders will be leading prayer sessions in each class and will be opening the School Chapel every Wednesday morning at 8.30am for Prayer and Reflection. Also a Penitential Service is be planned for children in Year 4 to 6 on Tuesday 6th March in the afternoon in school.

Children will also be completing reflection and work in classes and houses based on Lenten themes. We will be observing a special Lenten reflection session each week where there will be a time for a reading and silent prayer - all parents are welcome to join us for each session which will last approximately 10-15 minutes. These sessions will take place every Monday morning starting at 9.30am. Why not commit to this, this Lent?

RETREAT WEEK: This will be a very short but very busy half term so at the end of term we will have a Retreat Week. This is a week when the children can get together in their Houses, reflect on their Lenten journey and prepare for Easter. We will send more information out closer to the time. The week will conclude with a Stations of the Cross service at 9.30am on the last day of term, Thursday 29th March. School will also finish at 1.30pm on this day.

MIND-EMOTIONAL & WELLBEING SESSION: As part of the work we have been undertaking with MIND, Amy from MIND will be in school hosting a parent's workshop on Thursday 8th March. The meeting will be from 2.30-3.15pm and the aim is to provide guidance to parents with supporting their child's mental health and well-being and offering advice on transition for Year 6 children to Secondary School. All are welcome.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES: Please put the following Friday morning dates in your diary now regarding assemblies.

Year Group	Date	Year Group	Date
EYFS	22/06/2018	Year 4	TO BE RE-ARRANGED
Year 1	27/04/2018	Year 5	WELL DONE
Year 2	09/03/2018	Year 6	WELL DONE
Year 3	WELL DONE		

ATTENDANCE 2017-18: Well done to Year 6 who will be visited by Ambrose the Attendance Owl. Remember you need to be in every day to be entered into our half termly Attendance Prize Draw.

MONTH: ATTENDANCE FIGURES FROM 1 ST FEBRUARY - 16 TH FEBRUARY 2018									
	Nursery	Rec - Y6	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance %	94.19	95.40	92.82	97.76	97.12	98.12	94.35	89.44	99.69
Unauthorised Absence %	0.43	0.69	0.86	0.32	0	0.13	0.74	2.78	0

YEAR TO DATE: ATTENDANCE FIGURES FROM 5 TH SEPTEMBER TO 16 TH FEBRUARY 2018									
	Nursery	Rec - Y6	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance %	95.35	96.33	96.20	95.71	95.74	97.35	96.20	95.76	97.63
Unauthorised Absence %	0.18	1.02	1.72	1.29	1.50	0.50	0.85	1.30	0.59

SCHOOL DIARY: Please use the current newsletter as dates may be subject to slight alterations.

MARCH 2018		
Wednesday 7 th	Year 4 and Year 5 Halle Trip to Bridgewater Hall KS1 SATS Information Meeting for Year 2 Parents	Morning 2.45pm
Thursday 8 th	Resilience/Transition Workshops from MIND Year 5 and Year 6	2.30pm - 3.15pm
Friday 9 th	Year 2 Assembly Tameside Catholic Schools Swimming Gala @ Denton Baths	9.15 am 6.30pm
Monday 12 th	Lenten Quiet Liturgy - The Lepers	9.30am
Tuesday 13 th	Parents' Evening	3.30pm - 6.00pm
Wednesday 14 th	Parents' Evening	3.30pm - 6.00pm
Friday 16 th	NON -UNIFORM - World Book Day and CAFOD Fundraiser Day	9.15am
Monday 19 th	Lenten Quiet Liturgy - Woman who Touched Jesus' Cloak	9.30am
W/C Monday 19 th	Eco Week (See details in Newsletter)	All week
Thursday 22 nd	Planting trees from Woodland Trust-Parents, grandparents welcome	1.30pm
Friday 23 rd	NON UNIFORM - Wear Green Day for Eco Week	All Day
Monday 26 th	Retreat Week Lenten Quiet Liturgy - Gethsemane & The Passion Year 5 @ All Saints Catholic College - School of Rock Phonics Workshop for Parents of Reception and Year 1	All Week 9.30am Afternoon 3.15pm
Thursday 29 th	Stations of Cross in school All welcome End of Term	9.30am 1.30pm
APRIL 2018		
Wednesday 11 th	School Starts	8.55am
Tuesday 17 th	Swimming Lessons at Copley Begin Year 3 & 4 Prayer Sponsors Party	Afternoon 2.15pm
Tuesday 24 th	Thumbs Up Tuesday	9.00am - 9.30am
Friday 27 th	Year 1 Assembly	9.15am
MAY 2018		
Tuesday 1 st	Key Stage 1 Assessments Begin	All Month
Monday 7 th	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	
Monday 14 th	Key Stage 2 SATS Week - See Timetable in Newsletter	All Week
Saturday 19 th	First Holy Communion	10.00am
Monday 21 st	Assessment Reward Day for the children - they will have worked hard!	All Day
Tuesday 22 nd	Quiet Liturgy - The Wedding at Cana	9.30am
Friday 25 th	End of Term	3.15pm

Next Newsletter May 2018

All Blessings, Peter Johnson (Executive Headteacher)/ Lynn Lakner (Head of School)

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CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AND DIARY AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!