

The Saint Raphael's News



November 2018/ 31st Sunday Year B, Mark 12:28-31

'Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbour.'

ST RAPHAEL'S DAY & MACMILLAN COFFE MORNING: We had a brilliant celebration of our 50 years at the St Raphael's Day Mass last half term. Thank you to Bishop Mark, Father Philip and other visiting priests for celebrating Mass. Thank you also to all the staff, parents, governors and parishioners who helped make the day go so extremely well. We had a fantastic community day that really showed St Raphael's at its' very best. It was lovely to see so many past staff, governors and parishioners. Photographs from the day will be on the school website soon.

Thank you also to Miss Taylor and all who helped make our Macmillan Coffee Morning such a success, the coffee morning and cake sale raised over £550.00.



HARVEST: Well done to the Year 6 children who organised the Harvest collection this year and the Harvest class assembly. It is not too late to donate and if you have any spare tins or dried food goods, please feel free to bring them into school. We will be taking the food to the foodbank in the week beginning 12th November. Part of our Mission as a Catholic School is to help the poor and this simple act of kindness will result in somebody not going hungry. Thank you.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP & SERVING OTHERS: Please look at the table below showing our Year 6 leadership roles, including Head Boy and Girl, House Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Captains and Prefects for 2018-2019. The Year 6 children applied for their chosen position and underwent a thorough application process to achieve their status; the standard of applications was very high. All these roles in school are elected by the children and we congratulate all the candidates who put themselves forward to serve the school. The children are already doing a great job in their roles and are coming up with some great ideas.

Head Boy	Head Girl	Y6 Councilors	
Oliver Dent	Taylor Williams	Lily-Grace Rankin	Jade Ball
Houses	House Captains	Vice Captains	Sports Captains
St Andrew's	Apolonia Renoso	Alfie Jones	Ben Goggins
St David's	Elizabeth Kerr	Courtney Hampson	George Cassidy
St George's	Ann Bardsley	Harry Rothwell	Finlay McCoy
St Patrick's	Ben Cawley	Jayden McNulty	Amelia Fox
Year 6 Prefects & Other Roles			
Elizabeth Kerr - Raphael's Reader Editor			
Ben Bancroft, Nathan Kayode-Ojo and Emilia Borawska - Worship Leader			
Laura Maj- Librarian			
Ellie Halpin, Max Beasley, Olivia Dryden - Prefect			
George Batty, Kyro Storm Khan, Jaidon Roper, Freya Wrigley - Lunchtime/Student Leaders			
Thomas Booth - Digital Lead			

SCHOOL COUNCILLORS: Mrs Fletcher will be working with each year group to elect School Council members for this academic year. All the school councillors will be asked to present their manifestos to their classmates and in turn the councillors will be elected by the children.



CURRICULUM AT ST RAPHAEL'S: The curriculum half term overviews for each class will be sent home this week, these will also be on the website.

BULBS4KIDS: As part of our gardening work we have registered for a Bulbs4Schools Kit which we expect to receive this week. We will receive 600 bulbs! Therefore, any help you can provide in terms of old pots, leftover compost and even a few hours to help plant would be much appreciated! Please let the office know if you can help in any way!



POPPY APPEAL: Year 6 have been selling Poppy's and other items on behalf of the Royal British Legion Annual Poppy Appeal this week. Please send a small donation with your child if they wish to purchase a Poppy. On Friday 9th November, Year 5 will be leading a Remembrance Assembly at 9.10am. All are welcome.

PARENTS' EVENING: On November 13th and 14th you can meet with your children's teachers to discuss their progress at our first Parents' Evenings of the year. We have introduced an online booking system this year and hope that this has made booking and managing your appointments easier. If you have encountered any issues using this new service please provide feedback at the school office. 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 attend on these nights, please contact school so we can arrange the meeting for an alternative time. Please note that 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.



LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK: At Parents' Evening we will be asking you to complete a questionnaire via the school iPads. We do take your comments onboard and responses to our questionnaires have led to changes in a number of areas.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS: As part of our constant school development and listening to feedback from parents we continue to improve ways of communicating with parents and carers with these channels becoming increasingly important as follows:

Text Messaging - We hold one primary contact for all children in school and since updating our service in November 2017, we are now able to send unlimited text messages out to your child's primary contact throughout the school year.

Website - Accessible 24/7 the website holds up to date information relating to our school and community. You will find term dates, newsletters, class half term overviews and much more. We also have a very comprehensive e-safety section on our website as part of our safeguarding policies and procedures: http://www.st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk/?page_id=3206

Twitter - We use Twitter with our approved follower to live tweet from Friday praise assembly and other key events and activities throughout the year.

SchoolMoney - We introduced SchoolMoney to support moving to a cashless environment from January 2018 and have just added Breakfast Club to the service. Most payments are now managed using this service which eliminates the need to have cash or a cheque book as parents make payments via card or at pay point locations and are issued with a receipt for all transactions.

Email Service - We have also added an email service to our portfolio, this means we can send longer messages and attach letters ensuring key information is delivered straight to your inbox from the office. As we embed this service up to the Christmas holidays you will receive electronic and paper copies of information. After Christmas we will start to solely use the email system for certain things including this newsletter to save paper and be more environmentally friendly! Paper copies will be available on request from the School office. As we introduce this we will be installing a communication board in the main entrance where parents will be able to see the latest newsletter etc. on display.

All of these services are reliant on school having the correct contact details for you at all times. Therefore, if there are any changes to your mobile numbers and/or email addresses please inform us as soon as possible to ensure we have the correct contact information on our systems, not only to support all the above communication tools but also in case we need to speak to you urgently in the school day.



NEW PARENTS' OPEN MORNING: We will be holding this Year's open morning for prospective parents to visit the school on Wednesday 14th November 2018 from 9.15-11.15am. This provides parents with children due to start Nursery or Reception Class in 2019 the opportunity to visit school and meet the Nursery and Reception Staff. There will be a short presentation by the head of school about life at St Raphael's at 9.30am and then the opportunity to have a look around school accompanied by a member of staff. Please let any prospective parents know of the morning.

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

Year Group	Date	Year Group	Date
EYFS	21.06.2019	Year 4	15.02.2019
Year 1	03.05.2019	Year 5	09.11.2018
Year 2	15.03.2019	Year 6	19.10.2018 Well done!
Year 3	01.02.2019		



PLAYTIME SNACKS: Children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a break time snack as part of Nursery Snack Fund and the Fruit in School initiative. Children in Years 3-6 can choose to bring in a break time snack which should be a piece of fruit (no snacks from packets please). Children in EYFS also have milk at morning break with their fruit.

EYFS FUND: Firstly, thank you for your support with EYFS Fund on the return to school in September. The EYFS fund enables the nursery and reception children to enjoy extra curriculum-based enrichment activities throughout the week such as baking, craft projects, little bikers etc. and supplements the EYFS Snack provision with the fund giving children a variety of additional snacks including crumpets, toast with jam, cheese, yoghurts and fruit. The fund asks for a voluntary donation of £1.50 per week.

You will be able to make a single payment for each full half term or pay in weekly instalments of £1.50. You will be notified of the payment at the start of each half term and reminded by text each week. If you feel you will struggle with making the donation payments, please speak to a member of the EYFS team.

FRIENDS OF ST RAPHAEL'S: Thank you to parents who attended the meeting last half term. The action plan for this academic year is available on the website and the next meeting will be scheduled for the Spring Term.

SCHOOL MEALS: Our school kitchen is now under the management of Tameside Council and Robertson's FM and will continue to deliver a freshly prepared school dinner each day for those children who wish to have a school meal. From September 2018, the price of a school meal is £2.25 per day.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the UIFSM programme.
Children in Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 can have a school meal which is charged at £2.25 per day.

School meals must to be paid regularly and are payable to TMBC not the School. We recommend that parents pay online for school meals using the Tameside website at www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/meals. The advantages of using this service are that you can make a cashless payment for school meals which is instantly receipted to yourself and the school. School then log the payment against your child. If you are unable to make an online payment you may send cash into school with your child in a clearly labelled envelope. Cheques are no longer accepted. Dinner Monies are not able to be paid using the SchoolMoney portal due to the income being receivable by TMBC and not St Raphael's.

Please remember that it is your responsibility as parent/carer to ensure you are paying dinner money regularly. Please be aware that outstanding payments above £30.00 are referred to Tameside and will have to be paid to Tameside and not the school, once any debt reaches £30.00 it is automatically referred to the LA.

If your child is in Year 3-6 and you feel you meet the criteria to receive a Free School Meals please visit www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/meals for more information or speak to the school office.

PACKED LUNCH: Children may bring a packed lunch from home as an alternative to a cooked school meal, please provide a healthy balanced lunch for your child. We ask that you do not include fizzy drinks or cans, breakable containers, sweets or chocolate. Please ensure the lunch is in a lunch bag, clearly marked with name and class.

We ask for two weeks' notice to change from school meals to sandwiches or sandwiches to school meals; this applies to all pupils in school and should be given in writing to the school office please.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AT ST RAPHAEL'S: Below you will find an outline of the areas of School Development for this year:

Area		Priority
1	RE and Catholic Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure assessment procedures are consistent across the school Increase pupil involvement in the many opportunities provided for Collective Worship and further develop the role of worship leaders
2	Achievement & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, maximize learning to ensure that outcomes in school are well above national figures in each area. Embed the aspirational target of 95% ARE and published measures being 10% above national comparisons Further improve the use of assessment data by middle leaders to enhance curriculum and outcomes. (See Leadership for more detail)
3	Teaching and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the teaching of SPAG to ensure that all children are able to reach age related expectations by the time they finish in Year 6. To further develop a Reading Culture in school. To evaluate and further enhance the Big Read introduced last year and monitor impact and progress through assessment Utilize the assessment system to ensure consistency of practice and progress with a specific focus on the Foundation subjects. Continue to monitor presentation and handwriting to ensure consistency across the whole school Target key groups for progress and attainment including PP, EAL, B/G, CLA, specific cohorts eg Yr 6
4	EYFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the continued development of EYFS with the new staffing provision Embed the AfL cycle to ensure that rigorous assessments have explicit links with planning and provision (practice to include gap analysis, Learning Journals, next steps wall, next steps planning) Further develop the outdoor provision ensuring that outdoor opportunities have a clear purpose, are linked to AfL and extend learning activities. Ensure clear baseline established and key groups targeted
5	Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the review of Exec HT, working across two schools, to ensure practice is enhanced at both schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the accountability and embed the roles of middle leaders in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse pupils' progress using key data and improve knowledge of key pupil groups improve knowledge of T&L in their subject and enhance the quality of teaching by working with SLT on book scrutinies and learning walks for Middle Leaders to lead feedback and developments in staff meetings and monitor/evaluate/initiate next steps To continue to report to SIP and GB regarding their areas outlining key priorities and impact of actions in their subject (Casual position statement) To further review the curriculum breadth and depth by the class teacher and make links to best fit needs of pupils Continue to embed a distinct St Raphael's Curriculum making purposeful cross-curriculum links where possible
6	Behaviour and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the new My Concern safeguarding system has an impact on practice in school. To continue to closely monitor persistent absence and further develop strategies to improve attendance data Continue to further develop and deliver parent workshops to support parents in supporting their children in reading and phonics To further develop EHWP across school including developing Mental Health links with MIND

PARKING: Please could we remind parents not to park on the school drive when dropping off or picking up children. This also includes picking up children from after school clubs. Parking is available on the church car park and at the Revive Church. Revive Church have always allowed us to use their space as a goodwill gesture. However, this is currently under review due to a small number of parking issues. We will continue to work with Revive and monitor the situation.

SAFE DROP OFF/COLLECTION OF CHILDREN: School has a breakfast club which opens at 8.30am at a cost of 50p per day. Funtasia Kids Club is also based on site in the Parish Hall offering before and after school child care. Alternatively, children are supervised from 8.45am on the playground, children dropped off before this time remain your responsibility until staff are outside on duty at 8.45am. Please ensure that your class teacher knows the collection arrangements for your children. For safeguarding purposes, we cannot hand children over to adults we do not know.

BREAKFAST CLUB: Breakfast Club is now cashless with payments collected using SchoolMoney. You can either settle payments when you receive a payment request at the end of each week from SchoolMoney or top up the club's section on the SchoolMoney section to add credit to your child's account. Children are now marked in electronically on SchoolMoney by Miss Gavin each morning.

SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDERS: Please be reminded of the following;

Jewellery: Is not permitted at any time, this includes earrings as agreed by the Governing Board. Please ensure any earrings are removed before your child comes into school each day, plasters were temporarily permitted until the end of September. After this date, if your child comes into school with earrings and they are not able to remove them themselves you will be contacted to come and remove them by the school office.

Hair: Children with long hair should ensure this is tied up neatly each day. No extreme hair-styles are allowed, eg, bleach, tram-lines, highlights, spikes etc. Finally, we request that children refrain from using hair products.

ATTENDANCE 2018/19: On Friday morning Miss Southworth will report on attendance in Praise assembly and each newsletter we will provide an update on attendance figures, our target for this academic year is 97%.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES: 04.09.2018-25.10.2018									
	Nursery	Rec-Y6	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance %	92.10	97.27	96.29	98.82	97.46	96.83	97.28	98.86	97.74
Unauthorised Absence %	0.64	0.90	0.61	0.70	0.68	0.83	2.08	0.75	0.65

100% ATTENDANCE: We are continuing in our efforts to improve our attendance figures with our attendance prizes. Well done to Year 5 who had the best overall attendance in Autumn Term 1. In addition, classes with 100% attendance for a full week will receive a badge for their attendance bear in Friday assembly. Those children who had 100% attendance in Autumn Term 1 were treated to an extra playtime and a small treat in the last week of term, they will also get an attendance badge.

SCHOOL BUILDING FUND: Thank you to parents who have contributed to the voluntary Diocesan School Building Fund. Each academic year, all parents with children attending a school in the Diocese are asked to make a voluntary contribution to the Schools Building Fund, the suggested contribution is £15 per child per annum, but you are free to give more or less than this - your child will not be treated differently. This year we will be using the SchoolMoney Portal to collect your voluntary contributions. The payment invitation was sent out in September and will remain online until 31st December 2018, after this date it will be removed.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME DATES: For any eligible child in year 3 who wishes to join the sacramental programme, dates are as follows. Please attend the January meeting for further details or speak to Father Philip or Mrs Lakner if you have any questions about the programme.

Sacramental Programme	Date
Parent Meeting (School)	Wednesday 16 th January 2019 @6pm
Mass of Presentation (Church)	Sunday 27 th January @ 11.00am
First Forgiveness Service (Church)	Tuesday 19 th March @ 6.30pm
First Holy Communion Mass (Church)	Saturday 11 th May @ 10.00am

PARISH MASSES: Masses in school will take place every Thursday at 10.00am in the school Chapel. Weekend masses at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church, Castle Hall Close are on Saturday 6.30pm and 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 November	Year 6	Thursday 29 th November	Year 4
Thursday 15 th November	No Mass in school	Thursday 6 th December	Whole School Advent Mass
Thursday 22 nd November	Year 5	Thursday 13 th December	Year 3
Friday 21 st December 10.45am		Whole School Mass	



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER: We will soon be sending home our Christmas Newsletter. This will have all the details for services, events and activities during Advent and ahead of the Christmas Holidays. A copy will also be emailed to you and available on the school website.

AND FINALLY... GOODBYE: As you know, at Christmas I am leaving St Raphael's after 8 very happy years. To be a leader of St Raphael's and the community we represent has been a very humbling experience. The talents of the children are immense, and the warmth of the community can never be underestimated. I have enjoyed my time at school greatly, made countless friends and will always look back with great affection. Thank you to every child, parent, staff member, governor, parishioner and member of the wider community for making me my time here truly memorable. I always say to children and staff when they leave that they can always take a part of St Raphael's with them, and I know that I will too.



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

NOVEMBER 2018		
Friday 9 th	Year 5 Remembrance Assembly led by Year 5	9.10am
Monday 12 th	Anti-Bullying Week	ALL WEEK
Friday 16 th	Anti-Bullying week assembly	9.10am
Tuesday 13 th	Parents' Evening - Book Online	3.30pm-6.10pm
Wednesday 14 th	Parents' Evening - Book Online	3.30pm-6.10pm
Wednesday 14 th	Open Morning for new parents	9.15am-11.15am
Wednesday 21 st	Olympian Naomi Ogbeta in School	1.15pm

DECEMBER 2018		
Monday 3 rd	Quiet Advent Liturgy 1 - All Welcome Children's Pantomime - Jack & The Beanstalk	9.30am 1.45pm
Monday 3 rd	Hour of Code Week	All week
Thursday 6 th	Advent Mass	10.00am
Friday 7 th	Non-uniform (Chocolate Donation for Christmas Fair please)	All day
Monday 10 th	Quiet Advent Liturgy 2 - All Welcome	9.30am
Thursday 13 th	Non-uniform (Bottle Donation for Christmas Fair please)	All day
Friday 14 th	EYFS Christmas Production Christmas Fair	9.10am 2.00pm
Monday 17 th	Quiet Advent Liturgy 3 - All Welcome	9.30am
Tuesday 18 th	Christmas KS1 Production and KS2 carols Christmas KS1 Production	1.30pm 6.30pm
Wednesday 19 th	Christmas Party Day - Non-Uniform!	All day
Thursday 20 th	FOSR Christmas Disco (Details to follow in Christmas Newsletter)	4.30pm & 6.00pm
Friday 21 st	Whole School Mass School closes	10.45pm 1.30pm

School Re-Opens for Spring Term on Monday 7th January 2019 at 8.55am!

Next Newsletter: January 2019

All Blessings, Peter Johnson (Executive Headteacher)/ Lynn Lakner (Head of School)
admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk/ 0161 338 4095