



The Saint Raphael's News

Spring 1 January 2019 / John 1:35-42

"Behold, the Lamb of God."

WELCOME BACK: It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week. Hopefully everybody has had a wonderful Christmas. We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! It is the start of another busy, exciting year.

As you are aware Mr Johnson has now taken up his new Headship at St Anthony's, Wythenshawe. At St Raphael's, Mrs Lakner is now Acting headteacher and Mr Matthews is Acting Deputy headteacher. The recruitment process is now underway for permanent appointments and we will keep you informed.

NEW STAFF: We welcome to school Miss Hadfield and Mrs Parker who are working in our office with Mrs Fletcher. Miss Hadfield will work from 8.30am to 12.30pm and Mrs Parker will work from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. Please drop by to say hello and welcome them to St Raphael's and our community if you are able to.



STAFFING NEWS: Congratulations to Miss Wilson who is expecting a baby later this year. This is exciting news and we wish Miss Wilson and her family all the very best for this special time of preparation to come.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS: The Christmas productions were fantastic, and I am sure that you were as proud of the children as we were. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the performances in any way.

CHRISTMAS FAIR & DISCO: Thank you for all your support of the Christmas Fair which raised over £1,000 for School Fund. School Fund is used to support in the provision of enrichment activities and retreat days for the children in school including Christmas Party Day, Pantomime and Summer Start Here.

Thank you also for your support of the FOSR Christmas Disco, the children had a great evening and we raised £1,000 in support of our FOSR fundraising. Thank you also to our many volunteers and school staff for chaperoning the children on the night.

KINDNESS WEEK: In the last few weeks of the Autumn Term our children participated in Kindness week. The Nursery and Year 1 and 2 children visited the Millbrook Care Centre to deliver some festive treats. After a long walk our Nursery children visited the residents and took gifts of biscuits which they had made in class. Later in the week our Year 1 and 2 children performed a selection of songs from their Christmas play in the residents' lounge. It was lovely to see our children spend time with the older residents.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: This month is an exciting time for our children as we will be starting their journey on the Sacramental Programme. On Wednesday, 16th January at 6.00pm in school we will have our first meeting for the parents of those children in Year 3, or in any year above this, who want to take the Sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion this year. On the evening Father Phillip, Miss Taylor, Miss Kirkpatrick and myself will outline the timetable for preparation for the Sacraments. At the meeting you will also have the opportunity to view the workbooks that the children will be using through the year.

If your child has not been baptised and you wish to discuss baptism, please telephone Father Philip on 0161 338 2575. We also remind you to make a note of Sunday 27th January 2019; this is the date for the enrolment mass for the children at 11.00am at St Peter's Church. Thank you to Miss Taylor, Mrs Kirkpatrick and Father Philip for leading the programme.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES: Dates for the Sacramental Programme this year are as follows:

Sacramental Programme	Date	Sacramental Programme	Date
Parent Meeting (School)	Wednesday 16.01.2019 @ 6.00pm	First Forgiveness Service (Church)	Tuesday 19.03.2019 @ 6.30pm
Mass of Presentation (Church)	Sunday 27.01.2019 @ 11.00am	First Holy Communion Mass (Church)	Saturday 11.05.2019 @ 10.00am

KEEPING FIT IN 2019: We continue the tradition of sport and activity at St Raphael's into the New Year. We start with a Freddie Fit day that kicks off our term on Wednesday 16th January. Also we have a packed program of sports fixtures and festivals, with the highlight being the Tameside Catholic Swimming Gala on the 8th March. Thank you to the children who represent the school so well and the adults who help organize the events.

KEY DATES ARE IN THE SCHOOL DIARY - ALSO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR KEY INFORMATION



THUMBS UP TUESDAY: Next Thumbs Up Tuesday will be on 29th January at 9.00am. You are all welcome to come into school on this morning until 9.30am to see the great work that the children do.

YOUNG VOICES: The children are working really hard to prepare for the Young Voices Concert on Wednesday 13th February at the Manchester Evening News Arena. Thank you Miss Gavin and Mrs Fletcher for organising this great event for the children. There is a special preview assembly on Friday 25th January at 9.10am All are welcome!



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 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.

Twitter: School has a private twitter account. If you use Twitter and wish to follow us, please find the school account on Twitter @StRaphsRC and send a follower request.

SchoolMoney - We introduced SchoolMoney to support moving to a cashless environment and added Breakfast Club to the service in Autumn Term 2. All payments apart from School Dinner Money 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. From January 2019 we will start to solely use the email system for certain things including this newsletter (which will also be on the school website) to save paper and be more environmentally friendly!

Communication Board - As we increasingly embed use of the email service we will be installing a communication board in the main entrance where parents will be able to see the latest newsletter etc. on display and collect paper copies of any key letters.

CONTACT DETAILS: All of our communication 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 you need to 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.

PARENTS' EVENING: On Tuesday, March 12th and Wednesday, 13th March you can meet with the teachers to discuss your child's progress at our second Parents' Evenings of the year. In November we launched a new online booking system for Parents Evening. All the appointments will again be made online and we will send a text message to your primary contact when the appointment schedule is open for bookings.

Please try to 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. 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 receive information about your child's progress and attainment as well as their attendance.

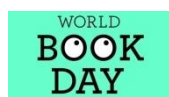
CLASS ASSEMBLIES: Please put the following Friday morning dates in your diary now regarding assemblies.

Year Group	Date	Year Group	Date
EYFS	21/06/2019	Year 4	15/02/2019
Year 1	03/05/2019	Year 5	WELL DONE
Year 2	15/03/2019	Year 6	WELL DONE
Year 3	01/02/2019		

CURRICULUM AT ST RAPHAEL'S: This week you will receive a letter from the class teacher and an outline of the half term overview. This will also be available on the website.

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FRIENDS OF ST RAPHAEL'S MEETING: Thank you to everyone who worked so hard last year to raise funds for school and to organise social events for our community. Our next meeting will be Thursday, 7th February at 6pm in school. We are hoping to plan arrange of events for the New Year. Please come along and share ideas in our friendly and informal environment... all are welcome!



CAFOD OWN CLOTHES - WORLD BOOK DAY AT ST RAPHAEL'S: We will combine our Lenten fundraising for CAFOD with World Book Day. Therefore, on **Friday 8th March** the children can wear their own clothes themed on 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.

PARISH MASSES: Masses in school will recommence this week and the timetable for this half term is above. Please note the Thursday school mass will be at 10.00am.

Date	Mass Class	Date	Mass Class
Thursday 10 th January	WHOLE SCHOOL Epiphany Mass	Thursday 31st January	Year 5
Thursday 17 th January	No Mass	Thursday 7 th February	Year 4
Thursday 24 th January	Year 6	Thursday 14 th February	Year 3

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.

PARKING: Please take care when dropping children off or collecting children from school. Parking is available on the church car-park and at Revive Church, please take care when crossing. Parking is not permitted on the school driveway and we ask you to park safely on the main road. I'm certain we all agree that the safety of our children is paramount.

SCHOOL MEALS: 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 paid using the SchoolMoney portal due to the income being receivable by TMBC and not St Raphael's.

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.

It is your responsibility as parent/carer to ensure you are paying dinner money regularly, it is not the school's responsibility to prompt you to make payments. 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.

ATTENDANCE: Please continue to maintain the children's good attendance at school. Good attendance is essential for all children so that they make their expected progress. The government expects the level of school attendance for all primary aged pupils to be no lower than 95%. For your information the following is a useful guide:

Good+ Attendance	Attendance In Need of Improvement
100% = Excellent attendance	Below 95%
97% = School Target	90% = 4 weeks missed over the year = ½ day every week
96%. = Good attendance	85% = 6 weeks missed over the year

ATTENDANCE 2018/19: On a 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 FROM 5 TH NOVEMBER - 21 ST DECEMBER 2018								
	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance %	94.36	95.51	97.52	95.87	97.09	98.06	97.81	96.07
Unauthorised Absence %	0.53	2.40	0.29	1.07	1.27	0.37	0.19	0.61

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ATTENDANCE FIGURES FROM 3 RD SEPTEMBER TO 21 ST DECEMBER 2018								
	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance %	93.88	95.91	92.22	96.68	96.96	97.66	98.36	96.95
Unauthorised Absence %	0.54	1.47	0.50	0.87	1.04	1.26	0.48	0.63

100% ATTENDANCE: We are continuing in our efforts to improve our attendance figures with our attendance prizes. Well done to Year 4 who had the best overall attendance in Autumn Term 2. 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 2 will be treated to an extra playtime, they will also get an attendance badge.

FINALLY, WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT ST RAPHAEL'S IS LISTED IN THE MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS TOP TEN BEST PERFORMING SCHOOLS IN GREATER MANCHESTER WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER!

Reflection Prayer by Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

God has created me to do him some definite service; he has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission - I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good. I shall do his work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it - if I do but keep his Commandments.



SCHOOL DIARY

PLEASE USE THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER AS DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT ALTERATIONS.

JANUARY 2019		
Wednesday 16 th	Freddie Fit Day Sacramental Programme Meeting in school	All Day 6.00pm
Friday 25 th	Young Voices Assembly	9.10am
Sunday 27 th	Mass of Enrolment for Sacramental Programme @St Peter's Church	11.00am
Tuesday 29 th	Thumbs Up Tuesday	9.00am-9.30am
FEBRUARY 2019		
Friday 1 st	Year 3 Assembly	9.10am
Monday 4 th	Assessment Week Other Faiths Week - Islam	All Week All Week
Tuesday 5 th	Safer Internet Day	All Day
Thursday 7 th	Friends of St Raphael's Meeting - All welcome!	6.00pm
Friday 8 th	Safer Internet Assembly	9.10am
Tuesday 12 th	Full Governing Board Meeting	5.00pm
Wednesday 13 th	Young Voices Performance @ Manchester Arena	Evening
Friday 15 th	Year 4 Assembly School Closes for Half Term	9.10am 3.15pm
Monday 25 th	INSET DAY - School Closed	All Day
Tuesday 26 th	School Opens	8.55am
MARCH 2019		
Wednesday 6 th	Ash Wednesday Mass in School	10.45am
Friday 8 th	World Book Day and CAFOD Fundraiser Swimming Gala	All day 6.00pm
Monday 11 th	Quiet Liturgy Temptation in the Desert	9.30am
Tuesday 12 th	Parents' Evening 1	3.30pm - 6.10pm
Wednesday 13 th	Parents' Evening 2	3.30pm - 6.10pm
Friday 15 th	Year 2 Assembly	9.10 am
Monday 18 th	Quiet Liturgy - The Woman at The Well	9.30am
Tuesday 19 th	Penitential Service - Y4 to 6 in school First Forgiveness @ St Peter's Church	1.30pm 6.30pm
Monday 25 th	Quiet Liturgy - Woman who Touched Jesus' Cloak	9.30am

Next Newsletter: February 2019

Lynn Lakner (Acting Headteacher)

admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk / 0161 338 4095

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