



The Saint Raphael's News



Spring 2 February 2020 / Matthew 5:38-48

"Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow do not turn away."



The Year of the Word: The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales have designated 2020 as **A Year of the Word 'The God Who Speaks'**

Therefore, 2020 will be a year of **celebrating**, **living** and **sharing** God's word. We will be celebrating this at St Raphael's through a range of events and activities. Our Worship leaders will be leading the school in a variety of activities.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: The children on the Sacramental Programme celebrated a beautiful Enrolment Mass in January. The next celebration on their journey is the Sacrament of First Forgiveness on Wednesday 18th March at 6.30pm.

Please note that due to the building works that are taking place in St Peter's and St Raphael's Church we will be having the First Forgiveness service in the Chapel at St Raphael's School.

We are then hoping that for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in May the building work will be completed, and we will be able to hold this celebration in Church. We will of course keep you informed. Thank you to Father Philip and Deacon Antony for their help. If you have any questions, please contact either Miss Taylor or Mrs Lakner.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES:

Dates for the Sacramental Programme this year are as follows;

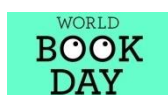
Sacramental Programme	Date
First Forgiveness Service (In the School Chapel)	Wednesday 18.03.2020 @ 6.30pm in the school chapel
First Holy Communion Mass (Church)	Saturday 09.05.2020 @ 10.00am

LENT: Wednesday 26th February is Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent. We have whole school Mass at 10.45 and all are welcome.

Again, we have much planned this year as Lent is a key time for prayer, abstinence and service as we prepare to celebrate Easter. The Year 6 Worship 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.

We will be observing a special Lenten quiet reflection session each week where there will be time for readings and silent prayer - all parents are welcome to join us for each session which will last approximately 10-15 minutes. (see diary for dates and times.)

The children will also be taking part in a variety of Lenten and Easter activities including working with the artist Julie Taylor during Retreat Week. More details will follow in a separate Easter newsletter.



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 6th March** the children can wear their own clothes themed on their favorite 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.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS: The TMBC Reception Admissions Portal closed to applications on 17th January 2020. Any parents who have not yet applied for a Reception place should contact the TMBC admissions team on 0161 342 3204. If you have stated that your child is baptised Catholic on your application, please ensure a copy of their baptism certificate is brought to school for evidence.

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

RECENT ROADWORKS: Cadent and TMBC are in communication with the school regarding works to the gas supply along Huddersfield Road. We will aim to provide parents with any information we receive. Please be extra careful around the entrance to school during any road closures/temporary traffic lights.

CASHLESS SCHOOL - THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

SCHOOL MEALS: Please ensure for children in nursery and years 3-6 school meals are paid for regularly on the Tameside website. A half termly letter will be emailed home with details on how to pay for school meals with costs for the half term.

SCHOOLMONEY: Please ensure you are up to date with payments on SchoolMoney - particularly breakfast club and wraparound fees. Again, a half termly letter will be emailed home with details on how you pay using SchoolMoney. Please make a note of your school money password.

CONTACT DETAILS: All 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 please inform us as soon as possible to ensure we have the correct contact information on our systems and also in case we need to speak to you during the school day.

WINTER WEATHER: This term is often when we see some of the worst winter weather. As a school we always endeavor to remain open make everyone effort to ensure our site and premises are safe for the children. Should this not be possible, and it be decided that the school will have to remain closed, we will notify you by text message and the school website, updates will also be given via text and website. Please be mindful that in such occasions whilst we aim to make sure you know of any closure as early as possible, we do have to risk assess the site and premises before making this decision.



THUMBS UP TUESDAY: Next Thumbs Up Tuesday will be on 28th April 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: Well done to all the children who performed in the Young Voices Concert in January at the Manchester Evening News Arena. The children were amazing and as always, we were very proud of them as you must have been as parents. Thank you, Miss Gavin and Mrs Fletcher for organising this great event for the children.



PARENTS' EVENING: On Tuesday, March 24th and Wednesday, 25th March you can meet with the teachers to discuss your child's progress at our second Parents' Evenings of the year. We will again use the 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	19/06/2020	Year 4	WELL DONE
Year 1	01/05/2020	Year 5	WELL DONE
Year 2	13/03/2020	Year 6	WELL DONE
Year 3	WELL DONE		

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES: As a UK school we are sent communications from the DFE in relation to the Coronavirus. Guidance specifically for educational establishments was issued over the half term holiday, a link to this can be found below;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

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

FRIENDS OF ST RAPHAEL'S MEETING: Thank you to everyone who worked so hard last year to raise funds for school and to organize and support events for our community. Our next meeting will be Thursday, 5th March at 6pm in school. We are hoping to plan a range of events for the New Year. Please come along and share ideas in our friendly and informal environment... all are welcome!



NSPCC NUMBER DAY: Thank you for your support for the NSPCC Number Day. The children had a great day dressing in clothes with a number on them and completed some fun maths activities. We raised £150 which will be donated to the NSPCC to help them to support children.

CURRICULUM AT ST RAPHAEL'S: The half term overviews will be sent home this week outlining the areas of learning for your child this half term. This will also be available on the website.

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.

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

Date	Mass Class	Date	Mass Class
Wednesday 26 th February	Ash Wednesday Mass Whole School	Thursday 26 th March	Year 3
Thursday 5 th March	Year 6	Thursday 2 nd April	Year 6
Thursday 12 th March	Year 5	Wednesday 8 th April	Whole School Easter Mass
Thursday 19 th March	Year 4		

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.

SATS WEEK: Please be reminded that SATS week for Year 6 is the week commencing 11th May 2020. Good attendance and punctuality from now until SATS will help best prepare the children, a more detailed timetable will follow for the week.

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%. Our School target is 97%. Miss Southworth presents Class attendance awards on Friday at the Praise Assembly.

Year of the Word Prayer

Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and mind so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world.

Amen



SCHOOL DIARY - PLEASE USE THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER AS DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FEBRUARY 2020		
Monday 24th	INSET DAY - School Closed	All Day
Tuesday 25th	School Opens	8.55am
Wednesday 26th	Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass	10.45am
MARCH 2020		
Monday 2nd	Staybridge Celtic in Assembly	
Tuesday 3rd	Full Governing Board Meeting	5.00pm
Wednesday 4th	Quiet Liturgy in school (All welcome)	9.30am
Thursday 5th	Friends of St Raphael's Meeting - All welcome!	6.00pm
Friday 6th	World Book Day and CAFOD Fundraiser Swimming Gala (Denton Baths)	All day 6.00pm
Tuesday 10th	Quiet Liturgy in school (All welcome)	9.30am
Friday 13th	Year 2 Assembly	9.10 am
Tuesday 17th	Quiet Liturgy (All welcome)	9.30am
Wednesday 18th	Penitential Service - Y4 to 6 in school First Forgiveness in the Chapel at St Raphael's School	1.30pm 6.30pm
Tuesday 24th	Quiet Liturgy (All welcome) Parents' Evening	9.30am 3.30pm - 6.10pm
Wednesday 25th	Parents' Evening	3.30pm - 6.10pm
Tuesday 31st	Quiet Liturgy in school (All welcome) Prayer Sponsors Tea Party in the chapel at St Raphael's School	9.30am 2.15pm
APRIL 2020		
Thursday 2nd	Autism Awareness Day	All day
Monday 6th	Retreat week including House Day	All week
Tuesday 7th	Stations of the Cross at school (All welcome)	9.10am
Wednesday 8th	Whole School Mass (All welcome) School closes	10am 1.30pm
Tuesday 21st	School opens for Summer Term	8.55am

Thank you for your continued support as we 'care, share and learn together.'
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Next Newsletter: March 2020

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