

The Saint Raphael's News

WE 25th May 2018/ "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven."



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: The children, their families and the whole community had a lovely celebration of First Holy Communion last Saturday. We were very proud of all of the children. A big thank you to everyone who helped to prepare the children for the celebration especially Fr Philip, Mrs Lee, Mrs Rankin and Mrs Brennan from the parish. Also thank you to everyone who helped with the breakfast afterwards including parents and children from last year's First Communion class.

SATS: Well done to the children in Year 2 and Year 6 who have completed their SATS tests this half term. They all worked really hard and approached the tests with a great attitude. Results will be reported in the School Reports being sent home in July

FRIENDS OF ST RAPHAEL'S: Thank you to everyone who supported our Easter activities and fundraising. The various activities raised £250.00, which will go to the purchase of new iPads for the children to use in school. Thank you to parents who attended the Friends of St Raphael meeting in May. Topics discussed included events for the Autumn Term including possibly a Lucy Cobb Fashion Show and a Christmas Disco. The next meeting is Tuesday 19th September at 6.00pm in school. All parents are welcome.

PHONICS SCREENING: The Year 1 children will complete their Phonics Screening test during the week beginning Monday 11th June. The test is statutory and involved each child sitting with Mrs Neale and reading 40 words, some of which are real words and some are nonsense. The test checks their ability to 'decode' words - to break words down into the sounds that make them up and say the word. Nonsense words are included to ensure that the children have to decode the words to be able to read them and not simply recognise or remember them. The results will be reported to parents when the children's reports are sent home in July.

SAFER INTERNET DAY: As part of our work to keep children safe when they are online we will be having a Safer Internet Day on June 12th. The children will take part in a variety of activities designed to raise their awareness of Internet Safety.

GARDENING: Thank you to everyone who attended our planting afternoon during Eco Week. We had a great turn out and planted many of the trees. The children are continuing to plant trees during their Gardening sessions. We hope that every child will be able to plant a tree which will create a beautiful legacy. If you have any spades, forks, wheel barrows etc that you no longer use and would like to donate them to school we would be very grateful.

SUMMER RAMBLE: On Friday 13th July, the children will be taking part in our annual Summer Ramble. The Year 6 children plan this and we ask that all children will be sponsored. All funds raised will be split between Willow Wood and The Christie Hospital. Thank you for your support with this. Foundation Stage ramble around school, Year 1 and 2 do a short morning walk, while Key Stage 2 go on a longer route in the afternoon. If you are free in the day, why not come and join us.

SWIMMING LESSONS: The children in Years 3-6 attend Swimming Lessons at the Copley Centre in the Summer Term on a Tuesday afternoon. In the first half term this was for Year 3 and 4, while in this half term it is for Year 5 and 6. 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 (please contact Copley Centre with any questions **NOT** school)
- goggles where required with a letter from the parents given to school for the swimming instructors (please contact Copley Centre with any questions **NOT** school)

SEESAW and TAPESTRY: We have received good feedback from parents on our use of Seesaw and Tapestry to share some of the things that the children are doing in school. May I politely remind parents that these are not designed for parents to send direct communications or questions to teachers. If you need to contact the teacher directly they are available each night after school, or please pass a message through Miss Southworth in the morning. Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

HALF-TERM OVERVIEWS: The half term overviews for the final half term which outline the work that the children will be doing will be sent home with the children after the half -term break.

KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR KEY DATES IN THE SCHOOL DIARY, VISIT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE & FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

OTHER FAITHS' WEEK: Each year the children have three weeks set aside to learn about specific, non-Christian, world faiths. It is imperative in the 21st Century that we all learn to value and celebrate the diversity within our world. This, as I am sure you will agree, is an important aspect of growing up to be a responsible citizen. Next half term the children will be learning about Islam.

NEW CHILDREN MEETING: The meeting for parents of the new Nursery and Reception children who will join our school in September will take place on Tuesday 3rd July at 6.00pm. This is an exciting time when our children embark on their first steps in full time education and the foundation stage team will be available to discuss any questions you may have. Funtasia Kids Club will also be in school and will be offering a play session for the children during the meeting.

Following this - on Thursday 5th July - there will be an opportunity for the new Reception children to spend a morning in class and have lunch in school (no charge). The details for the induction of the Nursery pupils will be discussed at the new parents meeting.

SPORTS DAY: This year we have planned for the event at school on Thursday 12th July with Nursery and Reception in the morning and Years 1 to 6 in the afternoon. If weather is inclement, we have a reserve day of Wednesday 18th July.

YORK RESIDENTIAL TRIP 2018: The York trip for Year 5 and 6 is fast approaching on 19th and 20th July and we have a meeting set to share the final arrangements on Thursday 12th July at 5.00pm. In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact school. Please also be reminded the trip must be paid in full by Friday 22nd June 2018.

OTHER TRIP NEWS: It is a busy time with the children participating in school trips. This term Foundation Stage visited Blue Planet Aquarium and Year 4 were evacuees for the day at the East Lancs Railway. Next half term Year 1 and 2 will be visiting Dunham Massey, while Year 3 will be visiting Chester.

YEAR 6 PRODUCTION! The children of Year 5 & 6 are busily getting ready for their production in the final week of term. Keep Tuesday 17th July in your diary when the children will perform 'Rock Bottom' in the afternoon at 1.45pm and in the evening at 6.30pm. It is sure to be a fantastic production!

YEAR 6 LEAVERS' DAY: On Monday 23rd July the children in Year 6 will be out of school enjoying a day of fun with their friends and teachers as they prepare to move on from St Raphael's. This has become an annual celebration in the school's calendar of events and will be followed in the evening with a Leavers' Mass for the children in the School Chapel at 6.00pm. The day will be non-uniform but we ask that the children wear their uniform for the evening Mass.

SUMMER STARTS HERE: On the same day - Monday 23rd July - we also have our now legendary Summer Starts Here Day for all the children from Nursery to Year 5. This will be a non-uniform day with the children in House colors, we celebrate this to reward the children for their hard work, great behavior and dedication to school over the past year.

REPORTS: School Reports will be out on Monday 16th July. Following this, there will be a drop in session for parents on Wednesday 18th July from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. You will not need an appointment at these sessions as they are designed to be an informal meeting should you wish to discuss anything on the report. We will be reporting whether your child has reached Age Related Expectations in the new, harder National Curriculum.

WARM WEATHER: Should the warm weather continue (fingers crossed!) please send your child in with a sunhat to wear at lunchtime. Please also ensure your child has sun protection lotion on in the mornings before they come into school.

WATER BOTTLE: Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle into school in warm weather. The bottle should be a reusable one with a sports lid for drinking that they take home to be refilled each night. Please ensure the bottle contains water (no juice or cordial) and that it clearly has your child's name on it.

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.

SPORTS TEAMS: Well Done to our Football Team who reached the Finals of the Catholic Cup and to our KS 1 Children who won the Tameside Catholic School Sports Festival this week! Also lots of our children have represented school in various sporting events and Chess matches and have been a credit to themselves and to school.

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CARRBROOK SUMMER FETE - Saturday 14th July, Noon-4pm: Is a great day out for the local community on Woodview in Carrbrook Village. Children from St Raphael's are entering the art and poetry competition for the Fete.

PARISH MASSES: A parish mass is held in school on Thursday morning at 10.00am. All other masses and services are held at St Peter's & St Raphael's Church, Stalybridge. Weekend masses are, Saturday at 6.30pm and Sunday at 11.00am. Father Phillip can be contacted on 0161 338 2575.

Date	Mass Class
Thursday 14 th June	Year 4
Thursday 21 st June	No Mass
Thursday 28 th June	Year 6
Thursday 5 th July	Year 5
Thursday 12 th July	Year 3
Thursday 19 th July	Year 2

CLASS ASSEMBLY: Please put the following dates in your diary now regarding assemblies. All dates are for Friday morning.

Year Group	Date	Year Group	Date
EYFS	22/06/2017	Year 4	06/07/2018
Year 1	Well Done!	Year 5	Well Done!
Year 2	Well Done!	Year 6	Well Done!
Year 3	Well Done!		

Please note that on Class Assembly days we will not be having show and tell and certificates. This is to ensure that we keep the assembly time to an appropriate length.



NEW ATTENDANCE PRIZE: To incentivise the children we are again having an end of year Circus Day which will take place on Tuesday 10th July, 2018. The children are very excited about this and want to be there. Please remember, Primary Education is a right that all children have.

NOTICE REGARDING TIME OFF FOR HOLIDAYS: Please check the website for the holiday lists for this year and next year. Please be aware that we cannot legally authorise holidays in term time and that failure to comply with this may lead to a fine being imposed by the LA. Therefore, if you are off at the beginning/end of term and the absence coincides with a holiday, I will be unable to authorise that absence. The legal principle in this situation is for the parent to provide evidence that their child was in the country to support the absence. Evidence would include a letter from the doctor about the illness or a copy of booking forms confirming that any holiday took place outside of term time

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 MAY - 24 TH MAY 2018									
	Nursery	Rec - Y6	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance %	96.31	96.70	96.89	97.61	93.92	96.05	98.27	95.91	98.57
Unauthorised Absence %	0.34	1.40	0.33	1.19	3.10	3.43	0.58	1.51	0.24

YEAR TO DATE: ATTENDANCE FIGURES FROM 5 TH SEPTEMBER 2017 TO 24 TH MAY 2018									
	Nursery	Rec - Y6	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance %	95.56	96.23	96.22	95.68	95.43	96.60	96.34	95.79	97.98
Unauthorised Absence %	0.22	0.97	1.35	1.09	1.59	0.84	0.67	1.28	0.51

SCHOOL MONEY: We now only have Year 3 to launch the SchoolMoney online payment portal to in school. Thank you to all parents/carers for your support as we have launched this new service. We have had positive feedback from many of you however, some users have encountered difficulties with accessing the system for the first time. A help page is now available on the school website to support the use of the system and you are always welcome to speak to/call into the office for support. We are also able to provide PayPoint bar codes where necessary. Please be reminded that from September 2018 we will be a Cashless School therefore all parents/carers will need to be able to use the system. An added bonus is that you are able to receive receipts and check your payment history on the portal.

At present, dinner monies are still payable to Tameside and therefore cannot be done via SchoolMoney. Online payments can be done online at www.tameside.gov.uk. We are aware that changes are being made to the delivery School Meals in Tameside. After the collapse of Carillion a new provider will be taking over the service and we will ensure we notify you of any changes to payment methods etc. as soon as we have been notified by Tameside Council.

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MONEY INTO SCHOOL: As we near the end of this academic year please ensure you are up to date with any payments to school. Please be reminded that any arrears on school meals will be handed over to Tameside. In addition, from September 2018 the cost of school meals will be £2.25. I also remind you that school requires 2 weeks written notice to change from school dinners to packed lunches and vice versa - failure to give notice could result in parents having to pay for an additional 2 weeks dinners.

LEAVERS' HOODIES: We have had notice that they are on the way and we will be giving these out at the start of July after the secondary school transition days, the children will be able to wear them for the York trip, Leavers Day and in school for all the final week of term.

GDPR: From 25th May there are new Data Protection regulations governing what data we collect from you and how we use it. As part of the new guidance and regulation the School's Privacy Notice for Pupils is being sent home with this newsletter for your information. Please ensure you read this.

REFLECTION: We too are called to be **witnesses** like the apostles and martyrs.

May the Heart of Jesus inflame our hearts so that we may be worthy of our Baptismal call to holiness.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

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

June 2017		
Monday 11 th June	School re-opens Phonic screening week	8.55am
Tuesday 12 th	Safer Internet Day	ALL DAY
Tuesday 19 th	Full Governing Board Meeting	5.00pm
Thursday 21 st	Year 5 attending Deanery Mass @ St Peter's, Stalybridge	10.00am
Friday 22 nd	EYFS Assembly	9.15am
Wednesday 27 th	Year 1 and 2 @ Dunham Massey	ALL DAY
July 2017		
Tuesday 3 rd	New Parents' Meeting	6.00pm
Thursday 5 th	New Reception Children Morning Year 6 Transition Day	AM ALL DAY
Friday 6 th	Year 4 Assembly Year 6 Transition Day	9.15am ALL DAY
Monday 9 th	Healthy Schools' Week Freddie Fit Day	ALL WEEK ALL DAY
Tuesday 10 th	Circus Attendance Day Strategic Curriculum GB Meeting	All Day 4.00pm
Wednesday 11 th	Year 5 Experience Day @ All Saints Catholic College, Dukinfield	ALL DAY
Thursday 12 th	Sports Day - EYFS morning Sports Day - Key Stage 1 & 2 afternoon Year 5/6 York Meeting	9.30am (FS) 1.30pm (KS1 & 2) 5.00pm
Friday 13 th	Summer Ramble Day	All Day
Monday 16 th	Reports Out	
Tuesday 17 th	Year 5 and 6 Production 'Rock Bottom'	1.45pm and 6.30pm
Wednesday 18 th	Parents' Reports Drop In	3.30pm to 6pm
Thursday 19 th	York Residential Trip	ALL DAY
Friday 20 th	York Residential Trip	ALL DAY
Monday 23 rd	Year 6 Leavers' Day & Summer Starts Here Year 6 Leavers' Mass in St Raphael's School Chapel	ALL DAY 6.00pm
Tuesday 24 th	School Closes for Summer Term	1.30pm

As this is the last newsletter for this school year we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support this year. An end of Year Letter will be sent in July

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