



# The Saint Raphael's News



Easter Newsletter 2021 / Mark 11:1-10

"Hosanna. God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. It has been wonderful to have all the children back in school since schools re-opened fully on 8<sup>th</sup> March. The children have settled really well back into school life and are working hard. Thank you all for your co-operation on the drive to ensure that the children can enter and leave school in bubbles and with social distancing for everyone on the drive. These measures will remain in place when we return after the Easter break on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and details are available [here](#) on the website.

Please find below a few updates for you:



**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME:** As you are aware, we had to postpone the Sacraments of First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion due to take place last year **for the children who were then in Year 3 and are currently Year 4.** These sacraments will now take place in the Autumn Term when hopefully we will be able to celebrate fully together.

The children will then be in Year 5. The new dates are;

First Forgiveness Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 at 6.30pm in St Peter's and St Raphael's Church.

First Holy Communion Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at 10am in St Peter's and St Raphael's Church.

More details about the preparation of the children and the celebrations will follow. I am sure the celebration of the Sacraments will be even more special.

**For children who are currently Year 3** and who would ordinarily be on the Sacramental journey this year they will receive their Sacraments when they are in Year 4. The dates for their Sacraments are;

First Forgiveness Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at 6.30pm in St Peter's and St Raphael's Church.

First Holy Communion Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 at 10am in St Peter's and St Raphael's Church.

Thank you for your understanding of these changes. If you have any questions please get in touch. I would like to thank Father Philip and Deacon Antony for their help with the changes of arrangements.



**LENT & EASTER:** The children have observed Lent beautifully in school. The weekly Gospel and assemblies have been posted on Seesaw and Tapestry allowing classes to watch them in their own class bubbles. Also, the Year 6 class have recorded the Stations of the Cross for all classes to follow virtually. Thank you to Year 6 and to Mr Matthews and Miss Gavin for producing this meaningful service.

The Year 6 worship leaders have been busy during Lent. They have worked with Mrs Shields to prepare Collective Worship for each week of Lent that classes have then used in their class bubble. Also, our head girl, Poppy, has introduced a Box of Kindness in each class. The children nominate other children who have done kind deeds during Lent.

**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH:** Throughout this year the children are looking at the qualities of St Joseph and the events in the Bible involving St Joseph. During Lent the children have been producing work in each class and these will be shared with you virtually.

**PARENTS' EVENING:** As you are aware due to the closure of schools during this term we decided to postpone Parents' Evening until the summer term. This will allow us to have a period of time with all the children back in school and to complete assessments so that we can discuss progress and targets with you. The new date for Parent's Evening will be the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. More details on how this will take place will follow in the Summer Term.

May God's love shine in our lives as we care, share and learn together

**SUMMER TERM EVENTS:** We are hoping to be able to do many of our usual end of year events for the children in school and for our Year 6 leavers but obviously at the moment the details for these will depend on any restrictions that are in place at the time. We will keep you informed of events.

**YORK 2021:** We have contacted Year 5 and 6 parents to advise them that the York trip will not take place. We are currently working to provide a day visit to Rock & River for our Year 6 class.

**CLASS PHOTOS:** The children will be having class photos on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**SWIMMING LESSONS:** School swimming lessons are now allowed to take place and we have the Risk Assessment from Active Tameside to cover this activity. Year 3 and Year 4 will begin swimming lessons in Summer Term 1 and Year 5 and Year 6 will begin swimming lessons in Summer Term 2.

Year 3 and 4 start their lessons on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 in the afternoon and will be travelling on a school bus in their class bubble accompanied by school staff. All children will require a one-piece swimming costume or swim shorts and a towel. If your child wears goggles to swim, please provide a note for the swimming instructor. The children do not need to shower gel, deodorant etc. If you have any questions, please contact your class teacher via seesaw.

**UNIFORM:** The children have returned to school looking very smart. After Easter the summer uniform can be worn.

#### Summer Uniform

- Grey skirt/pinafore/trousers or grey shorts
- Dress - Gingham Blue
- Blue short-sleeved polo shirt or school polo shirt (available from uniform suppliers with school badge)
- Footwear - Only sensible, black footwear may be worn. Boots and trainers are not allowed.

**Jewellery:** is not permitted at any time. (except a watch-not a smartwatch), this covers earrings and includes those covered by plasters.

**Hair:** Long hair should be tied up, no extreme hairstyles are allowed, e.g., bleach, tramlines, highlights, spikes etc.

Thank you for your co-operation with this. - full details of the uniform can be found [here](#).

**COVID LATERAL FLOW TESTING** As parents or families of children at school the Government has announced that you can order 1 pack of home test kits containing 7 tests for home delivery or these can be collected from the Darnton Road Test Centre in Ashton. The online link is [here](#).

**COVID TRACK AND TRACE** During the Easter holiday please continue to inform school of any positive cases or isolation periods for the pupils or their families.

The email address to contact is [head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk)

Information and links to Covid 19 guidance is available [here](#) on the school website.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** We are continuing to send newsletters and other information through our text and email services. Please ensure that school has the correct contact details for you at all times. 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 we can keep in touch with you.

**SCHOOL MEALS:** Please ensure you are keeping up to date with payments for school meals for children in Nursery and Year 3-6. Payments are made online at [Tameside](#).

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATES:** Please see our website for communications from the DFE in relation to the Coronavirus. Guidance specifically for educational establishments can be found [here](#).

**CURRICULUM AT ST RAPHAEL'S:** The new Summer 1 half term overviews will be sent home after Easter outlining the areas of learning for your child during the half term. This will also be available on the website.

There remains lots of links to websites and work on the school website and through Tapestry (for EYFS) and Seesaw.

**SATS WEEK:** As you know SATS tests for Year 6 and Year 2 have been cancelled again this year as have phonic screening for Year 1. Please be assured though that we are still tracking the children's progress and attainment very closely.

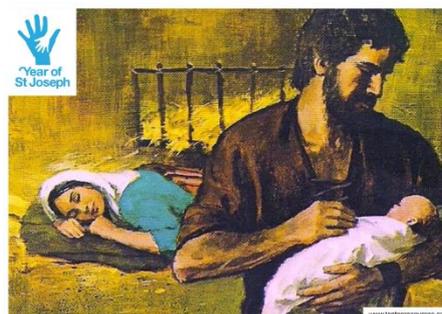
**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION:** Information about the before and after school provision and the booking form for Summer Term 1 is available on the School website [here](#). Should you have any questions about this service please contact [admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk). We ask parents to ensure all outstanding balances in relation to Spring Term 2 are settled before we return to school after the Easter break.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

I would like to wish you all a happy and holy Easter. Many celebrations during Holy Week and Easter are online including Masses from Shrewsbury Cathedral. Times for Masses and services at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church are available on the [parish website](#).

### Year of St Joseph Prayer

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
 Show yourself a father  
 And guide us in the path of life.  
 Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage  
 And defend us from every evil.  
 St Joseph Pray for us.



Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Take care and stay well.

*Mrs L. Lakner*

Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher) [head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk/](mailto:head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk/) 0161 338 4095

Next Newsletter: April 2021

### DIARY DATES:

<b>MARCH 2021</b>		
Monday 29th	Retreat Week	All week
<b>APRIL 2021</b>		
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	School Closes	Usual bubble times
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	School opens for Summer Term	Usual bubble times
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photos	AM
<b>MAY 2021</b>		
W/C 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening	Details to follow
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	School Closes	Usual bubble times
<b>JUNE 2021</b>		
Monday 7th	School opens	Usual bubble times
<b>JULY 2021</b>		
Monday 19th	Summer starts here-details to follow	All day
Tuesday 20th	School closes for summer	Usual bubble times