



The Saint Raphael's News

Easter Newsletter 2024 / Luke 22

"This is my body which will be given for you. Do this in memory of me"



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach this special time of year in the Church calendar I wanted to update you on the activities that we have planned for Easter and on other events that have taken place in school.



LENT & EASTER: The children continue on their Lenten journey and have been involved in quiet liturgies and collective worship throughout Lent. Year 6 are going to lead key stage 2 in a Stations of the Cross service as part of our Holy Week work. We have a variety of activities planned for our Retreat Week-see below

EASTER RETREAT: During the week commencing 25th March we will be celebrating Holy Week in school and our Easter Retreat will have lots of activities for the children to help them reflect on this special season in the Church year and to continue our Lenten journey.

Day	Activity
Monday, 25 th March	House Day (non-uniform day) to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet reflection • Activities based around the patron house saint • 2.45pm Year 4 Violin concert in the hall - all welcome
Tuesday, 26 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunny Hop in the morning • In class activity day - including preparation for prayer trail • Easter Bingo in the afternoon • Cake sale proceeds for CAFOD
Wednesday, 27 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet reflection • Prayer Trail in chapel open to parents and families from 3.15pm
Thursday, 28 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10am Stations of the Cross led by Year 6 on the school field-parents, carers, families welcome to join us. • School closes 3.15pm

HOUSE DAYS: On Monday 25th March the children will spend the morning sessions in their house groups. The children can wear non-uniform in house colours or simply non-uniform. The children will be taking part in a variety of activities to find out more about their house patron saint while they are in their mixed age house groups. The class teachers will remind the children which house they are in.

WILLOW WOOD BUNNY HOP: Our Lenten Fundraising activity this year will be the Willow Wood 'Bunny Hop.' The details have been given in the letter that the children brought home. If you wish to donate please put your donation in the envelope provided. Please return these to school by Thursday 28th March with any donations in order for Willow Wood to collect them prior to the Easter Holiday. We recognise that families have many financial pressures at this time but if you did want to donate to this local cause it would be much appreciated.

EASTER BINGO: On Tuesday, 26th March in the afternoon the children will play Easter Bingo. We have been fortunate to receive a significant number of donations of Easter Eggs from Barty's Food Bank in Stalybridge and from Morrisons. If anyone would like to give a donation to the Food Bank in support of their efforts then please put the money in an envelope marked Food Bank donation and either hand it in at the office or send it in with your child.



CAKE SALE: On Tuesday, 26th March the Mini-Vinnies group of children in school will be organising a cake sale. The proceeds will go to CAFOD. If you wanted to send in cakes on Monday 25th or Tuesday 26th then the children will have a cake on Tuesday. If you want to donate to CAFOD donations can be sent in with the child on Tuesday 26th March. Thank you for your support with this.

EASTER PRAYER TRAIL: Parents and carers are invited to our Easter Prayer Trail in the chapel on Wednesday 27th March from 3.15pm. This will be an opportunity for parents and carers to see the work that the children have produced during Holy Week. All are welcome.

EASTER HOLIDAY: School will close at 3.15pm on **Thursday 28th March** and re-open for the Summer Term at 8.45am on **Tuesday 9th April 2024**.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME:

We celebrated First Forgiveness with our pupils in March which was a beautiful celebration. The children will celebrate their **First Holy Communion on Saturday 11th May, 2024** at 10.00am in St Peter's and St Raphael's Church, Stalybridge.

I would like to thank Father Philip and Deacon Antony for their help and for the families parishioners who have become prayer sponsors for the children.

YEAR 6 SATS WEEK: SATS week for year 6 commences on **Monday 13th May 2024**.

Year 2 SATS are now not statutory although the children will be completing some tests over the summer 1 half term.

As always please ensure that children are in school during this period and the time leading up to this.

Year1 Phonic Screening will take place week beginning 10th June, 2024

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check will take place week beginning 10th June, 2024

SWIMMING LESSONS: Year 3 and Year 4 will begin swimming lessons during the school day in Summer Term 1 and Year 5 and Year 6 will have swimming lessons during the school day in Summer Term 2.

Year 3 and 4 start their lessons on Tuesday 16th April 2024 in the afternoon and will be travelling by coach to Copley Swimming Pool. They will be accompanied by St Raphael's 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 shampoo, shower gel, deodorant etc.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES:

Our class assemblies will continue in the summer term with the classes who have not yet done their class assembly. (See the dates below) They are all on a Friday at 9.05 when we have our usual weekly Praise Assembly. All are welcome. On these dates we do not have class certificates or the sharing of trophies, medals etc from home due to time constraints.

Class	Date of Assembly
Class 3	Friday, 3 rd May, 2024
Class 1	Friday 24 th May, 2024
Reception	Friday 21 st June 2024

UNIFORM: The children continue to look very smart- thank you for your support with this. After Easter the summer uniform can be worn as follows;

Year 6 leavers: The key dates for the events around the Year 6 leavers are in the diary section at the end of the newsletter.

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)
Ties are not worn with the polo shirts.
- Footwear - Only sensible, black footwear may be worn. Boots and trainers are not allowed.

Jewellery: is not permitted at any time., this covers earrings and includes those covered by plasters. Children may wear a watch but not a smartwatch which can connect to the internet or accepts messages etc.

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 and suppliers can be found on our 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.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION: Bookings for the summer term are now live with our new system via Magicbooking. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

SCHOOL TRIPS: We are currently planning class trips in Summer 2024. More details will follow after Easter.

Once again we are aware of the current financial restraints and to ensure all children have the opportunity to participate in a trip, we have agreed to support each class with a one off donation of £200.00 per trip from the School's Voluntary Fund which is in place to support enrichment throughout the school. This donation will make a direct impact on the cost of the trip and will reduce the contribution for all children.

ROCK & RIVER: We are delighted to have secured a one day experience for the Year 6 children at Rock & River on Friday 12th July 2024. A letter has been emailed to parents/carers and payments for the trip are live on SchoolMoney. More details including consent forms will be shared in the summer term.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS' HOODIES: Information will be sent home about Leavers' hoodies after Easter.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS - SEPTEMBER 2024: We will be processing applications for Nursery admissions for children who will be 3 prior to 1st September 2024. The closing date for applications is 31st March, 2024. The Admissions Committee of Governors will then meet after Easter and letters will be sent out to parents by the end of April.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I would like to wish you all a happy and holy Easter. I hope that you enjoy this special time with your families and friends. Times for Masses and services at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church are available on the parish website and there is a link to this on our school website.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)

head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk

0161 338 4095

Next Newsletter: Summer Term 1 2024

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

DIARY DATES:

MARCH 2024		
Monday 25 th - Thursday 28 th	Retreat Week	All week
Thursday 28 th March	School Closes	3.15pm
APRIL 2024		
Tuesday 9 th April	School opens for Summer 1 term	8.45am
Monday 15 th April	Little bikers in reception class each Monday for 6 weeks	
Tuesday 16 th & Wednesday 17 th	Parents' Evening	3.30-6pm
Thursday 25 th April	Class Photos	AM
MAY 2024		
Friday 3 rd May	Year 3 Assembly	9.05am
Monday 6 th May	School closed Bank Holiday Monday	All Day
Saturday 11 th May	First Holy Communion @ St Peter's and St Raphael's Church	10am
Monday 13 th - Thursday 16 th May	Year 6 SATS week	All week
Friday 24 th May	Year 1 Assembly	9.05am
Friday 24 th May	School Closes for half term holiday	3.15pm
JUNE 2024		
Monday 10 th June	School opens for Summer Term 2	8.45am
Week commencing 10 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening	All week
Week commencing 10 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check	All week
Wednesday 19 th June	Full Governing Board Meeting	4.30pm
Friday 21 st June	Reception class assembly	9.05am
JULY 2024		
Wednesday 10 th July	Year 6 Production	1.30pm and 6.30pm
Friday 12 th July	Year 6 Rock and River	All day
Wednesday 17 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass in School Chapel	9.15am
Friday 19 th July	Leavers' Assembly	9.05am
Friday 19 th July	School closes for Summer	1.30pm