

# The Saint Raphael's News

WC 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025/ 22nd Sunday of the year



## Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

We continue on our Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year. We will have various celebrations around this theme during this year.

## WELCOME BACK!

It has been wonderful to welcome all our pupils and families back to school. We have lots of families who are new to us and we send a warm welcome to them. The children have settled into their new classes really well and are enjoying time with their friends. They are already working hard and enjoying their learning.

**RESULTS 2024-25:** The school results from the end of the 2024-25 school year are outlined below and we are really proud of them. Well done to all our children and staff on these wonderful achievements. Results will be on the website when these are validated.

Assessment area	Result 2025	Assessment area	Result 2025 At age related or above
Early Years GLD	77%	KS2 Reading	84%
Phonics Y1	84%	KS2 Writing	80%
Phonics Y2	25%	KS2 Maths	88%
		KS2 RWM Combined	80%

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** The Diocese continue to introduce a new scheme of work for schools in Shrewsbury Diocese called The Vine and the Branches. This school year the scheme has been published for Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6. For EYFS the new scheme will be published in 2025-26 therefore EYFS will continue to use the current scheme The Way, the Truth and the Life for RE.

For assemblies we have a Gospel Assembly each Monday morning and we use the Ten:Ten resources and again links to the parent newsletter outlining the theme of each week is on the school website. Each class also do a class assembly during the year and a list of dates will follow.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME:** This will be a special year for our Year 3 children as they will be able to join our Sacramental Programme. Current Year 3 children who wish to and are eligible will receive their Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the Spring Term of 2026. I will send out a letter for enrolment on the sacramental programme this half term. If any child in year 4,5 or 6 wish to enroll on the Sacramental Programme please let me know. I will send out the dates for next year as soon as possible.

**SCHOOL MASSES:** Our first Mass at school this year will be our St Raphael's Day Mass. This will be at 9.15am in school on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September** which is close to the **feast Day of St Raphael (29<sup>th</sup> September)** Class Masses in the chapel will then resume after this date and will be in the parish newsletter. At the St Raphael's Day Mass our Reception class children will be presented to Father by their Year 6 buddies for a blessing. All are welcome.

For Masses at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church please see the Parish website for details.

**ST RAPHAEL'S DAY CELEBRATIONS:** As well as Mass to celebrate St Raphael's Feast Day the children will be finding out about St Raphael. Also, we will be having a Movie afternoon in school for the children on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint.

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Also as part of our celebration of **National Poetry Day** we have a **Poetry in Motion Theatre** group visiting in the afternoon on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September.



**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:** We will also be holding our annual MacMillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. The Coffee morning and cake sale will take place in the hall after the St Raphael's Day Mass. We appreciate that the economic climate is such that you may not wish to send cakes or buy cakes and please don't feel under any pressure. If you wish to donate cakes please send them into school in the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> September. If you wanted to you could send a donation in with your child to purchase a cake on the Friday.

**FRIDAY PRAISE ASSEMBLY:** It is great to be able to celebrate the children's achievements in our weekly Praise Assembly. The Praise Assembly will **restart on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 9.05am**. During the assembly we will celebrate the children's achievements by presenting Praise certificates. Also, if your child has any achievement from home that they wish to celebrate then they can bring this in to school with a note saying what the achievement is. Similarly, birthdays will be celebrated during the Friday Praise Assembly. Everyone is welcome. The assembly usually finishes around 9.35am.

**MEET THE TEACHER:** You are invited to come to your child's class on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September** at either **3.30pm or 4.00pm**. If you have more than one sibling this will allow you to go to both classes if you wanted to. The session will be about 15 minutes and the teacher will introduce themselves, outline the organisation of their class and what happens on each day. Children are welcome to attend with you.



Please don't worry if you are unable to attend all information will be shared on Tapestry or Seesaw. Also if you are unable to attend but have any questions or if you need to find out anything please contact the teacher or school.

**CLASS ASSEMBLIES:** Each class will lead one assembly during the academic year. These will be on a variety of themes. In the autumn term Years 5 and 6 will lead assemblies on the dates below.

**Year 6 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October on the theme of Harvest 9.05am**

**Year 5 Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November on the theme of Remembrance 9.05am**

**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP – YEAR 6:** As always at this time of year we will be giving our Year 6 pupils the opportunity to take on a leadership role in school. We will be appointing Head Girl and Boy, Worship leaders, House Captains and Sports Captains and other areas of responsibility over the next few weeks. All children in Year 6 will have a role of responsibility.

We will be announcing the successful candidates on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September during the Friday Praise assembly**. They all have a great opportunity to contribute to school in a distinctive way and I am looking forward to seeing what innovative ideas they have.

#### **EYFS OUTDOOR PROVISION:**

We have begun redeveloping the outdoor provision for EYFS. We have already had astro turf installed. We are installing a reading shed, a play shop and a pirate reading barge to enhance our provision. This will be a wonderful area for the children to play and learn. We are grateful for the funding that we have received from the Shrewsbury Diocese Building Fund for this project.

#### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:**

During the year we offer a variety of extra curriculum after school clubs. For this term the clubs are as follows:

Club	Day/Time	Start/end date
Cross Country	Monday 3.15-4.15pm	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September-until Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Young Voices	Monday 3.15-4.15pm	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September - Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2026
Football	Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September (All year)
Dance	Friday 3.15-4.15pm	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September (All year)

**SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS & CONTACT FORMS:** All communication sent by the school is done so electronically by text message or email and we often signpost to documents posted on the school website.

To ensure you receive communications from school please ensure that you notify us with any changes in details eg. contact numbers, email address and home address. Our system allows each pupil to have 1 parent/carer nominated to receive text messages and 2 parents/carers nominated to receive emails. These details will also be used for contacts on the online SchoolMoney, Schoolgrid and Parents' Evening service.

**SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS & SEPARATED PARENTS:** Where children live between 2 households we ask that the pupil's home address be the address at which they legally reside, additionally we ask the pupils' parents to determine which parent will receive the text messages and agree a method of communicating with each other outside of school. Both parents will be listed as contacts on the school's database and can both receive emails.

The parent nominated to receive text messages will be the one used for your child's SchoolMoney account but pay point barcodes can be issued to other parents who wish to make payments. Both parents can hold a MagicBooking Account to book before and after school provision.

We signpost parents to the separated parent's policy in relation to school matters and ask that parents contact school if they do need to inform us of any information or wish to request separate parents' evening appointments and progress reports.

**WATER BOTTLES:** Please could you send the children into school with a filled water bottle labelled with their name, so that the children can keep well hydrated throughout the day. We ask that this is water not juice, as recommended by dentists, to help prevent tooth decay. The children can take these home at night and return them back into school the following day, re-filled with fresh water. Many thanks for your support with this.

**SNACKS:** The children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 receive daily fruit as part of the Government Fruit for schools scheme. Key stage 2 children can bring a piece of fruit to eat at break time.

**LUNCHES:** Just a reminder that we are a nut free premises to help support children and staff with nut allergies. Please don't send your child to school with a nut based snack or with nuts in their packed lunch. Thank you for your support to ensure that we keep all our children and staff safe.

**PARENTS' MEETINGS:** We want to give as much notice as possible for Parents' evening. The dates in the autumn term for all year groups will be: **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 3.30-6pm and Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 3.30-6pm.** Appointments will be made online and we will send more detailed information soon.

**HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS:** Letters have been sent home this week to parents of Year 6 children and include details of how parents make their applications via the Tameside Admissions portal. The deadline for admissions is the **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.**

All applications must be made online at <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions> and are managed by Tameside Council. The Portal is now open. High schools will be advertising their open nights soon, please check the high school websites for details.

**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION:** The before and after school provision is provided in school and staffed by St Raphael's staff taking place in the school hall. Full details on provision, fees and how to book using our MagicBooking platform are available [here](#) on the school website.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM:** The children have come back to school looking very smart in their uniforms including their PE kits. The PE kit is a St Raphael's T-shirt and navy shorts (not cycle shorts or skorts please) and black pumps for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. If PE is outdoor and the weather is cooler the children can wear blue jogging bottoms and a blue sweatshirt.

Please could I remind parents that earrings or stoppers or plasters covering earrings are not allowed in school as outlined in our Uniform Policy.

**NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS:** Intrahealth will again be carrying out the Nasal Flu Vaccination programme at St Raphael's on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025** for any child whose parents give consent for this. This covers all school age

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children from Reception to Year 6. Nursery age children are not included in the programme and you should consult with your own GP should you wish your child to receive a vaccine if they are nursery age. Further information and consent forms will be sent home when we receive them.

**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS:** Individual School Photographs will take place in School on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025**. Siblings in school will be photographed together.

**BIKEABILITY:** Year 6 will have the opportunity to take part in the Tameside Bikeability scheme on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** and **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**. More details and consent forms will be sent home soon.

**SCHOOL MEALS:** As you are aware we have changed providers for school catering this year. We now have Dolce as our provider. Parents and children can choose and pay for meals in advance online via Schoolgrid. School Meals are priced at £3.50 per day.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to receive a free meal under the UIFSM initiative.

Children in Nursery, Year 3,4,5 and 6 who pay for school meals will make payments through Schoolgrid.

Should you feel you are eligible for a benefit related free school meal, information and a link to the applications for this can be found on the school website or contact the school office if you would like any help or advice.

**SCHOOL MONEY:** St Raphael's School is cashless and uses an online payment portal to collect payment from parents. Should you have any problems accessing your SchoolMoney account please email [admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk) stating 'SchoolMoney' in the subject.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:** Thank you for your support in relation to school attendance. This year's attendance target for the whole school is 97%. The term dates for 2025-26 are sent with this newsletter as well as the Local Authority notice we are required to make you aware of.

We monitor attendance closely and check registers each day for absences following up where necessary. We ask that any appointments be made outside school hours or where this isn't possible after morning or afternoon registration allowing your child to receive their mark in the registers. If your child is off due to an appointment this is classed as an authorised medical absence, but only where evidence has been provided to the office. However, this will still affect their attendance record.

If your child is unwell, please notify school before 9.30am to ensure we have the information to mark in the registers. Please contact the school via telephone emails will no longer be accepted to authorise school absences.

**ABSENCES IN TERM TIME:** Since 2012 being absent from school in term time for any reason other than illness is not allowed by law and the local authority work with schools to fine parents who do so. Therefore, the Governing Board are unable to give permission for term time absences, this includes holidays, family occasions etc. In exceptional circumstances, requests for absence will be further considered and may be authorized at the discretion of the Governing Board.

Parents can see the full legal statement regarding absences from Tameside local authority on the school website under Term dates. Any requests for leave of absence need to be made using the form available from the school office and any decision is made by the Governing Board. As a school we are required to report any absences to the LA.

**MESSAGES:** In the morning Miss Southworth, Mrs Lakner and Mr Matthews will be available at the school gate. This is the first port of call for any enquiries and to resolve most of your concerns very quickly. In Nursery and Reception, you will always be greeted at the door by the class teacher or teaching assistant. You may also contact the school office by phone on 0161 338 4095 or email to [admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk) to pass on any messages.

If you do need to speak to a teacher, please try to catch them at the end of the day, or if this is inconvenient, contact Miss Southworth or the office who will be able to arrange suitable a time for this. If you wish to speak to Mrs Lakner or Mr Matthews about any matter, please contact the school.

**TAPESTRY AND SEESAW:** Tapestry and Seesaw are used in school to show and celebrate the children's achievements. We ask that messages etc. are not put on here. All parents will be asked to sign an acceptable use

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agreement for the new academic year and return this to school. Sign up details for your child's new class will be sent home in the next week.

#### OPEN MORNING FOR PROSPECTIVE NURSERY AND RECEPTION CHILDREN:

On **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 at 9.15am** we will be holding an open morning for prospective parents and children for the Nursery and Reception classes. This is open to all parents and families who may be considering St Raphael's for their Nursery or Reception age child.

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE - PARKING:** Thank you for your co-operation with parking and for not parking on the school drive when dropping off or picking up children including from before and after school clubs. Parking is available on the church car park. Please could we ask that you park using consideration for all drivers and take care when crossing the road. Please could we also ask that you do not park using the residents parking in the apartments of the former Millbrook pub or across the drive for Reach church.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact school or ask a member of staff on the school gate in the morning.

I look forward to seeing you all over the next few weeks as we begin another exciting year at St Raphael's.

With best wishes and prayers,

*Mrs L. Lakner*

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

#### Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER 2025		
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Meet the Teacher in class	3.30pm and 4.00pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Praise Assembly including Leadership Roles Presentation	9.05am
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> & Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bikeability for Year 6 pupils	9.30am-3.00pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	St Raphael's Day Mass followed by MacMillan Coffee morning	9.15am
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Poetry in motion Theatre group in school	1.45pm
OCTOBER 2025		
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	National Poetry Day	All day
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Individual School Photographs	AM
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Safe squad in school Year 6	AM
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Board Meeting in school	4.30pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Assembly led by Year 6 (All welcome)	9.05am
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening All year groups	3.30-6.00pm
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Parents' Evening All year groups	3.30-6.00pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	School Closes for Half Term	3.15pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Staff INSET Day	All day
NOVEMBER 2025		
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School Opens	8.45am
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Assembly led by Year 5 (All welcome)	9.05
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-bullying Week Theme 'Power for good'	All week
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Open morning for prospective Nursery/ Reception parents	9.15am
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Nasal Flu Vaccinations in school (Consent forms will be sent out)	AM
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	First Sunday of Advent ( <i>Quiet Liturgies will be held in school during Advent</i> )	
DECEMBER 2025		
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	School Closes for Christmas Holidays	3.15pm
CHRISTMAS DATES TO FOLLOW		

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