

The Saint Raphael's News

W/E 24th October 2025 / Sunday 26th October 30th Sunday, Year c, Luke 18:9-14 'He that humbles himself shall be exalted.'



END OF AUTUMN TERM 1: We have had a great start to the new school year. The children have settled really well into their new classes and are working hard. We are very proud of the way that the children come into school every day ready to learn and ready to fulfil the Gospel values at the heart of our school life.

YEAR 6 LEADERS: Our Year 6 all have their leadership roles now and are approaching these with great enthusiasm. The children have already started some clubs at lunchtime including art and dance and these have been very popular.

ST RAPHAEL'S DAY AND PRESENTATION OF RECEPTION CLASS BY THEIR BUDDIES: Thank you to everyone who made St Raphael's Day such a special celebration. We welcomed the reception children to St Raphael's as they were each presented by their buddies. We also thanked Father Philip and presented him with a book of prayers from the children and a gift from school as he leaves to go to a new parish. We thanked Peter Casey, who had been a dedicated governor here for over 30 years, with a gift to recognise his service to school.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING: We had a MacMillan Coffee morning following Mass. Thank you for your donations of cakes and for attending the MacMillan Coffee Morning. The total raised was an amazing £725. Thank you to everyone for their support. Thank you to Miss Taylor for organising this event.

CATHOLIC LIFE: Thank you for sharing the October Rosary books with the children. The worship leaders in Year 6 have worked with Mrs Shields to plan and lead collective worship on the theme of October the month of the Holy Rosary for all classes.

NEW PARISH PRIEST: We have welcomed our new parish priest Father Paul Shaw into school this week. Father Paul went round each class and met the children and staff. We discussed the dates for the year and for the class Masses which will continue to be on Thursdays at 10am. The first Mass will be a whole school Mass on Thursday 13th November at 10am in school which will be on the theme of All Souls. Year 5 will lead this Mass.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: The Sacramental Programme for the current year 3 children will start after Christmas. The children in Year 3 will receive a letter after half term with an invitation to enrol their child on the Sacramental Programme. If you have a children in years 4-6 and would like to enrol on the Sacramental Programme please contact school.

The dates below are for the current Year 3 children.

Enrolment Meeting Tuesday, 13th January, 2026 @3.20pm in the school hall. This will be a meeting to discuss the Sacramental Programme.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday, 11th February, 2026 @ 6pm
at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church

Sacrament of First Holy Communion Saturday 9th May, 2026 @ 10am
at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church

LITERACY IN SCHOOL: We had a brilliant celebration of National Poetry Day with a theatre group in school who performed a variety of poems. The children had great fun. The children then wrote poems of their own. We also had an author in Year 5 and 6. Ashley Thorpe came in to talk about his books and about what had inspired him to write. It was wonderful for the children to be inspired by a published author. Thanks to Mrs Murphy for organizing this.

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

SCHOOL MEALS: The move to our new provider, Dolce, has gone really well. The feedback from the children is that they are enjoying choosing their meals and are enjoying the range of food provided.

PARENTS' EVENINGS: It was great to see parents at the recent parents' evenings. I'm sure you enjoyed looking at the children's work and talking to their teachers.

HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - FINAL REMINDER: The deadline for submitting your applications for High School for Year 6 children is fast approaching. Applications are done online via the Tameside Admissions portal. The deadline for applications is the **31st October 2025**. All applications must be made online and are managed by Tameside Council - <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions>

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS: The Tameside Admissions Portal will open for applications to Reception for September 2026 on 1st November, 2025. Further information is available at <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/admissions>. We are holding an **open morning on Wednesday 19th November** between 9.15am and 11.00am for prospective parents and their children and all are welcome.

HARVEST: Thank you for your donations for the Harvest collection. We had a wonderful response thank you. Year 6 led our Harvest Assembly beautifully. The food will be given to local Foodbanks.

SPORTS: Well done to all the children who have represented St Raphael's so wonderfully in various sporting events this half term. We had great success at the Catholic Cross Country competition. We also had great success at the Tameside Cross Country. At both events all the children participated really well. Lots of children received medals. The girls won the overall girls trophy at the Tameside Competition. Thank you also to Miss Wilson, Mrs McLeod and all staff and parents who have helped with these events.

ASSEMBLIES 2025-26:

The dates for class assemblies during this academic year are below. All are welcome.

Class	Date of Assembly	Theme
Reception	15 th May, 2026	TBC
Class 1	26 th June, 2026	TBC
Class 2	13 th March, 2026	TBC
Class 3	24 th April, 2026	TBC
Class 4	6 th February, 2026	TBC
Class 5	7 th November, 2025	Remembrance
Class 6	17 th October, 2025	Harvest



POPPY APPEAL: We will be selling Poppies after half term on behalf of the Royal British Legion Annual Poppy Appeal. The children will be able to purchase a poppy for a small donation if they wish to.

EARRINGS: Please could we remind parents that in line with our Uniform policy earrings and retainers are not permitted in school. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

FRUIT AT BREAKTIMES: Children in classes Reception, 1 and 2 receive free fruit daily from the Government scheme. Children in any class can bring a snack for breaktime but this needs to be fruit please not a cereal bar or fruit winder. Thank you for your help with this.

PARKING: Please could we ask that parents do not park in the Millbrook Apartments car park in front of school. We have had complaints again from the residents. Please can we also ask that cars are not parked on the zig-zag lines as we have had a few near misses of accidents recently.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS: More details about Christmas activities for the children will follow in the Christmas Newsletter which will be sent home after half term. However, dates for nativities and other events are in the diary list below.

Thank you for all your support during this half term. Have a lovely half term break. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact school.

With best wishes and prayers,

Mrs L. Lakner

Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)

head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk / 0161 338 4095

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 2025		
Thursday 23 rd	School Closes for Half Term	3.15pm
Friday 24 th	Staff INSET Day	All day
NOVEMBER 2025		
Monday 3 rd	School Opens	8.45am
Friday 7 th	Remembrance Assembly led by Year 5 (All welcome)	9.05
Monday 10 th	Anti-bullying Week Theme 'Power for good'	All week
Wednesday 19 th	Open morning for prospective Nursery/ Reception parents	9.15am
Monday 24 th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations in school	AM
Sunday 30 th	First Sunday of Advent (<i>Quiet Liturgies will be held in school during Advent</i>)	
DECEMBER 2025 CHRISTMAS DATES		
Monday 1 st	Christmas Crib Bags -class rota begins	
Tuesday 2 nd	Non-Uniform Day - Chocolate Donations for Fair - Thank You	All Day
Thursday 4 th	Beginning of Advent Mass Whole School (Year 4 lead)	9.15am
Tuesday 9 th	Non-Uniform Day - Bottle Donations for Fair - Thank You Christmas Dinner	All Day Lunchtime
Wednesday 10 th	EYFS - Nursery & Reception Nativity KS1 - Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance	9.15am 1.45pm & 6.00pm
Friday 12 th	KS2 - Years 3-6 Carols in Assembly All welcome Christmas Fair in school	9.15am 3.30pm
Tuesday 16 th	Christmas Party Day - Non-Uniform Day Party Dinner	All day Lunchtime
Thursday 18 th	Advent Mass Whole School (Year 6 lead)	9.15am
Thursday 18 th	EYFS/KS1 Disco KS2 Disco	4-5pm 5.15-6.15pm
Friday 19 th	School closes for Christmas	3.15pm
January 2026		
Monday 5 th	School opens	8.45am
Tuesday 6 th	Freddy Fit Day in School	All day

