



The Saint Raphael's News



Spring 1 January 2026/ Matthew 3:13-17
"This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased"

Welcome back to everyone for the Spring term. The children have settled back to school really well. They all look very smart and as always, their behaviour has been fantastic.

ADVENT: We had a wonderful Advent season in school with many activities and events. Thank you to all parents, carers, families and staff who made it such a special time for the children.

The Christmas Fair raised an amazing £1,432. Thank you for all your support. The money will be used to enhance the children's environment and learning.

CATHOLIC LIFE: We celebrated the feast of the Epiphany in school with a beautiful whole school Mass. Parish Masses - Please see the parish website for the most up to date information on services at St Peter's and Raphael's Church. If you wish to contact Father Philip his phone number is 0161 338 2575.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: 2026 will be a special year in the lives of our children who are on the Sacramental Programme. The children will this make their Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Thank you to Father and Deacon Antony for their constant help and support with this.

The children who are currently who have registered for the Sacramental programme are beginning their preparation. The key dates are below.

The key dates for the Sacramental Programme this year are below;

We had an enrolment meeting to outline the programme last week. This week we have our Enrolment Mass on **Thursday 22nd January** at 10am in school. All are welcome to this Mass.

The dates for the Sacraments in 2026 are:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation - **Wednesday, 25th February**, 2026 at 6pm at St Peter's and St Raphael's Catholic Church
- First Holy Communion - **Saturday 9th May**, 2026 at 10am at St. Peter's and St Raphael's Catholic Church.

We are looking forward to celebrating these special occasions in the life of our children, families, parish and school.

FREDDY FIT DAY: On Tuesday, 6th January we had Freddy Fit in school as part of our Healthy School initiative.

UNIFORM: The children have returned to school looking really smart. Please could we ask that PE kits are in school each day. Also can we ask that in line with our Uniform Policy **earrings or retainers are not worn in school.**

PARENTS' EVENING: The spring Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday, 24th March and Wednesday, 25th March, 2026. Further details and booking procedures will be sent out nearer to the date.

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

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES: We currently have vacancies for 2 parent governors. An email has been sent to all parents outlining the role and the voting process. Please ask if you have any questions.

CURRICULUM AT ST RAPHAEL'S: The half term overviews will be sent home via Seesaw and Tapestry this week outlining the areas of learning for your child this half term. These will also be available on the website.

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

PARKING: Please could we ask that cars do not come on the school drive at any time. We all want to keep our children safe and we know how busy the school drive is at the start and end of the school day with children and adults walking up and down the drive – this also applied to before and after school provision. Parking is available on the church car park and we ask that people park with consideration for others. We also ask that parents respect private car parks that are situated around school and do not use these to park as we have had complaints from residents.

WINTER WEATHER: This term can be when we see some of the worst winter weather. As a school we always endeavour to remain open and make everyone effort to ensure our site and premises are safe for the children. If it is not possible for the school to remain open we will send a notice of closure to you by text message. We will send information as early as possible following a risk assessment of the school site.

CONTACT DETAILS: Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for your children in school. 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.

If you have any questions please contact school. Thank you for your continued support as we 'care, share and learn together.'

Mrs L. Lakner

Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)
head@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk
0161 338 4095

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

SCHOOL DIARY

JANUARY 2026		
Monday, 5th	School opens	
Tuesday 6th	Freddy Fit Day	All day
Thursday 8th	Whole School Mass-EpiphanY	10.00am
Tuesday 13th	Enrolment Meeting Sacramental Programme	3.30pm
Thursday 22nd	Enrolment Mass Sacramental Programme - All welcome	10.00am
FEBRUARY 2026		
Thursday 5th	Whole School Mass-Candlemas	10.00am
Friday 6th	Year 4 Assembly NSPCC Number Day	9.05am
Tuesday 10th	Internet Safety Day	
Thursday 12th	Young Voices @ Co-op Arena	
Friday 13th	School closes half term	3.15pm
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	Half term w/c Monday 16 th February LENT begins ASH WEDNESDAY 18 th February	
Monday 23rd	INSET Day 3 All staff	School closed for children
Tuesday 24th	School opens for Spring 2	8.45am
Wednesday 25th	Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Forgiveness) @ St Peter's and St Raphael's Church	6pm
MARCH 2026		
Wednesday 4th	Full Governing Board Meeting in school	4.30pm
Friday 6th	World Book Day and Assembly	9.05am
Friday 13th	Class 2 Assembly Catholic Swimming Gala	9.05am Evening
Tuesday 24th	Parents' Evening	3.30-6pm
Wednesday 25th	Parents' Evening	3.30-6pm
WB Monday 30th	Easter Retreat Week in school	All week
APRIL 2026		
Wednesday 1st	School Closes for Easter	3.15pm
Wednesday 15th	School opens for Summer 1 Term	8.45am