



The Saint Raphael's News



May Newsletter 2026/ John 20:22
Jesus said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have had a wonderful half term and there has been lots to celebrate.

STAFFING NEWS: As you are aware the recruitment process for a new headteacher is now completed and we are delighted that Mr Matthews will be the headteacher at St Raphael's from September 2026. I know that like myself you will want to congratulate him on his appointment to this exciting role.

The school, the diocese and the governors can now look at other staffing plans for September and we will let you know in the summer 2 term of any other changes.



PENTECOST: This Sunday 24th May is Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples.

WILLOW WOOD BUNNY HOP: A huge thank you for your generous donations in support of Our Lenten fundraising activities this year. Thank you for donations for Willow Wood from our bunny hop. When we have a total from Willow Wood we will let you know.

We also raised money for Mary's Meals during Holy week. Thank you for your contributions to the cake sale which the Mini-vinnies organized and which raised £195.63 for Mary's Meals. Mr White asked me to pass on thanks to the children and their families.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME: The children celebrated First Holy Communion two weeks ago. It was a beautiful celebration and a day that I am sure they will always remember. I would like to thank Father Owen for his help. Thank you to parents and families for their support.



MAY THE MONTH OF MARY: During May we have lots of activities to show our dedication to Mary. The worship leaders are leading each class in a Celebration of the Word. The Mary bags are going home, thank you for the beautiful contributions you have done with your children. The Nursery children crowned the statue of Our Lady and along with Year 3 made flowers to put around the Statue.

NEW PRAYER GARDEN: We are developing a Prayer Garden on the top field. We are delighted with the progress so far and a big thank you to Mr Matthews and Mr Higham who have worked so hard to develop this area. The celebration newsletter will have photos of the Prayer Garden for you to look at.

TOAST: Our mini-vinnies are going to sell toast on Thursday, 21st May at break time. They did this during Lent and it was very popular. This time we are going to ask for 10p or any donation and we are going to use this money to buy flowers and plants for our new Prayer Garden which is on the top field.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION: Bookings for the second half of the summer term are now live.

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

SATS WEEK: Well done to our Year 6 children who completed their SATS last week. They all stayed calm and focused and we were very proud of them.

Year 2 will complete their optional SATS tests next half term too. The children are working hard to prepare.

PHONIC SCREENING: for Year 1 will take place the week beginning 8th June. The children are working hard and any reading or practicing that they can do at home will help too.

TIMES TABLES TEST: for Year 4 will take place the week beginning 8th June. Again, the children are working hard and any Times Tables Rockstars or other practice that they can do at home will help too.

ASSESSMENTS: All other classes are completing their class assessments next half term.

You will be made aware of your child's progress and attainment in their end of year reports which will go out in July. Results from SATS and other national tests will also be on the reports.

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.

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 9.05am 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 1	Friday 26 th June, 2026

CLASS MASSES: Father Owen comes to school each week to celebrate Mass on Thursday at 10.00am. The classes in KS 2 attend on a rota. All are welcome. Please see the Parish newsletter or ask staff if there is a Mass on a particular week.

PARENTS' MEETING for new Reception and Nursery children: On Wednesday 1st July at 6.00pm we are inviting parents and carers who have children starting in Nursery or Reception in September 2026 to a meeting. The purpose of this is to provide the opportunity for parents to meet the staff, share information and ask questions and to look around the setting. The children can also attend this meeting.

SWIMMING LESSONS: Year 5 and Year 6 will begin swimming lessons in Summer Term 2 after the half term break.

UNIFORM: The children are looking very smart, thank you for your support with this. During summer term the uniform is;

Summer Uniform

- Grey skirt/pinafore/trousers or grey shorts
- Dress - Gingham Blue
- Blue short-sleeved polo shirt or light blue polo shirt
- Footwear - Only sensible, black footwear may be worn. Boots and trainers are not allowed.

We have had lots of uniform donated thank you and there is a rail near the school entrance with uniform on- please help yourself.

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

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

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

CONTACT DETAILS: 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 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 stating 'SchoolMoney' in the subject. School meals are ordered through your Schoolgrid account and payments for meals are on Schoolgrid too.

SCHOOL MEALS; We have been informed that the cost of school meals will increase from 1st September, 2026 to £3.66

I hope you all have a restful two week break. School reopens on Monday 8th June at 8.45am.
Thank you, as always for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Mrs L. Lakner

Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)

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

Next Newsletter: June 2026

Dates for the Diary:

MAY 2026		
Monday 11 th - Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATS week	All week
Friday 15 th May	Reception Class Assembly	9.05am
Friday 22 nd May	School Closes for half term holiday	3.15pm
JUNE 2026		
Monday 8 th June	School opens for Summer term 2	8.45am
Week commencing 8 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening	All week
Week commencing 8 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check	All week
Wednesday 15 th June	EYFS Sports Day	9:15am
Tuesday 16 th June	KS1 and KS2 Sports Day	9.15am
Wednesday 17 th June	Full Governing Board Meeting	4.30pm
Friday 26 th June	Year 1 Class Assembly	9.05am
Monday 29 th June	Freddy Fit Day	All day
JULY 2026		
Wednesday 1 st July	Reception new starters Meeting in school	6pm
Friday 10 th July	Reports out (Year N to Year 5, Year 6 to follow after SATS results)	3:15pm
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 5 and 6 Production	1.45pm and 6pm
Thursday 16 th July	Leaving Mass Mrs Lakner in school	10am
Friday 17 th July	Year 6 Rock and River	All day
Tuesday 21 st July	Year 6 Leavers' Mass and whole school Mass in School Chapel	9.15am
Wednesday 22 nd July	Leavers' Assembly	9.05am
Wednesday 22 nd July	School closes for Summer	1.30pm
SEPTEMBER 2026		
Tuesday 1 st September	School opens for Autumn Term 1	8.45am