

The Saint Raphael's News

22nd July 2026 / 16th Sunday of the year 'Gather the wheat into my barn' Matthew 13:24-43



In the final newsletter of this academic year, and my final newsletter, I wanted to thank our whole community for their support and help this year.

I also wanted to say a huge thank you for the wonderful, generous presents that I have received and the beautiful messages. I will miss everyone but I know that the school is in safe hands with Mr Matthews.

The final term has been a very busy and successful one at St Raphael's. There have been lots of things to celebrate and to be proud of.

Our children have been amazing in their attitude, behaviour and hard work this year. The children live the values of St Raphael's every day. I am sure you are as proud of the children as we are.

I would also like to thank all our parents, carers and extended families for their support this year in everything that we do at school.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to thank Father Owen and Deacon Antony for their continued prayers, support and help this year.

Also, the Governors for their support and commitment both to myself over many years and to St Raphael's.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Matthews for all his help, support and expertise and all the staff who work tirelessly to make St Raphael's the special place that it is. I know that the school is in wonderful hands with Mr Matthews and Mrs Murphy as deputy head next year.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS: The Year 6 and Year 5 Play was a wonderful night of entertainment and showcased the talents of our pupils wonderfully. We were all so proud of them as I am sure you were. Well done to all involved in making this such a success.

The whole community sends love, prayers and best wishes to our Year 6 pupils as they leave us and begin life at their secondary schools. They have been an amazing set of pupils that it has been our privilege to teach and to see grow into the brilliant young people they are today. We are immensely proud of you and know that you will continue to flourish and succeed at your new schools. We will miss you and thank you for everything that you have done at St Raphael's.

We also say goodbye to a number of families this year as our Year 6 pupils leave. These families have been part of St Raphael's school for many years and have contributed to life at St Raphael's in a variety of ways. I would like to thank you for all that you have done. You will always be a part of the St Raphael's family.

END OF YEAR RESULTS: The children have worked tremendously hard this year and we are delighted with the excellent results that they have achieved. Well done to everyone, staff and pupils, for these tremendous results. We are so proud of their achievements and full details on our results will follow once verified by the DFE in the Autumn Term and will be displayed on the school website.

READING BOOKS: Please could we ask that any school reading books are returned to school before the summer holidays.

INSPIRE SUMMER CAMPS: Inspire Active who work with our children at lunchtimes in school have Summer Camps available. These are being held at St Raphael's and bookings can be made via the link below.

They will be offering a range of sports, fun games, activities, treasure hunts and much more.

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

<https://inspire-sports-coaching.classforkids.io/>



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE: The librarian from Tameside libraries came into school last week to talk about the Summer reading challenge. This encourages children to read books during the summer holiday and is run by Tameside libraries. I know that lots of our pupils have enjoyed taking part in this in previous years. The theme this year is 'Read to the beat' and there are lots of activities planned at Tameside libraries. Please follow the link below for more details.

Click on the link and see the attached information: [Summer Reading Challenge - Tameside MBC](#)

STAFFING NEWS:

As you know Miss Southworth retired this week. I want to extend my thanks to her for all her hard work and dedication over many years at St Raphael's. We wish her health and happiness in her retirement. Miss Unsworth is also leaving St Raphael's this summer. I want to thank her for all her hard work at St Raphael's

The staffing arrangements for each class next year are in the table below:

Class	Teachers	TAs
FS1	Mrs S McLeod	Mrs Z Wells
FS2	Mrs C Shields and Mrs K Neale	Mrs C Melville-Terry
Y1	Miss C Taylor	Mrs J Stevenson
Y2	Mrs S Murphy	TBC
Y3	Mrs J Lee	Mrs M Rankin
Y4	Mr R Hills	Mrs N Reed
Y5	Miss G Pollitt	Mrs K Stoddard
Y6	Miss L Wilson	Miss L Gavin
SEND/CO Mrs Murphy and Mrs Lee		

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION: Our Before and After School Club continues to grow. Bookings can be made via Magicbooking. The club is run by staff from St Raphael's and is held in the school hall. If you have any questions please ask. All information is also available on the school website.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: We know that parents will be purchasing school uniform during the summer holidays ahead of the Autumn Term. Our children always look smart in their uniform. The list of school uniform is below, and I would like to draw your attention in particular to the following;

- Our uniform is black school shoes not trainers or trainer style shoes, not boots please- thank you for your support with this
- In PE children will need plain, navy blue PE shorts not cycling shorts or skorts please.
- Black pumps will be worn for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE only.
- Extreme hairstyles, tram lines and dyed hair are not permitted.
- Jewellery, apart from watches, is also not permitted this includes no ear piercings even if covered with plasters or retainers.

Winter Uniform - Autumn Term

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- Grey Skirt / Pinafore / Trousers.
- Y1-Y6 - Plain Blue Shirt.
- Y1-Y6 - Blue and Yellow Tie - Rip Tape / Clip or Traditional.
- EYFS - Plain Blue Polo Shirt / School Branded Polo Shirt.
- School Branded Blue Jumper / Cardigan

Footwear

- Sensible, closed toe, black shoes only.
- Boots /Trainers /Heels are not allowed.

PE Kit - Reception to Year 6

- Indoor - Navy Blue PE Shorts, School Branded Blue PE T-Shirt and Black Pumps.
- Outdoor - Years 1-6 - Navy Tracksuit/Sweatshirt/Jogging Bottoms, School Branded Blue PE T-shirt and Trainers.
- Children also need a PE bag which is clearly marked with their name.

School Bags

- Reception Class and Year's 1-4 use a school book bag as their schoolbag.
- Years 5 and 6 may use their own schoolbag.

Details of the full uniform and stockists can be found on the school website.

Finally, thank you again for all the support that you have given to your children and to myself and school this year. I hope that you and your families stay safe and well during the summer holidays and enjoy lots of special family time. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school on the email address below.

School closes at 1.30pm on Wednesday 22nd July 2026.
All children to be collected by an adult please.
School re-opens on Wednesday 2nd September 2026.

With thanks, best wishes and prayers,
Mrs Lynn Lakner
(Headteacher)

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