



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Newsletter – November 2019

I hope everyone enjoyed a lovely half-term break together last week. With the clocks going back and the evenings getting darker, I like to pause to enjoy autumn, making the most of firework displays, beautiful late autumn landscapes and wrapping up a little warmer. I also look towards the winter season with great anticipation, thinking of all we shall achieve between now and Christmas. Thank you for your support as always in helping our children make the most of their time at school.

Celebrations:

Harvest

Thank you so much for your generosity in donating items to our local foodbank, together we collected over **100kg** for those in need! Special thanks to Reverend Gold for leading our Harvest assembly.

Kenyan Visitor

We were honoured to welcome Canon Peter and his family from Kapsabet, who taught us about life in his country and the way Kenyan's celebrate harvest. We were able to exchange gifts, a beautiful map of Africa and a pupil-drawn image of the Angel Gabriel. The children really engaged with the opportunity to explore another culture and were a credit to the school.

Autumn Discos

Our Autumn Discos were a great success raising over **£300** for school activities. Thank you to our helpers and DJ Bailie!

Mr Taylor's Half Marathon

A massive thank you to all who supported my Birmingham Half Marathon attempt. In total, **£261** was raised for The Ambulance Staff Charity, a group which supports paramedics and ambulance service staff.

New Faces

Our love and best wishes go out to Mrs Dowler and family at the birth of Baby Oliver in October! We say goodbye for now to Miss Roberts and Mrs Roberts this month as they prepare for their own new arrivals and we welcome Miss Kasia who will be working in Jackson class.

Homework

As I'm sure you are aware, we launched our homework approach back in September ([news](#)). In this document we detail what our pupils need to do each week in terms of the content and timing of home learning. We recognise that some families would like more information about how to access the resources and how best to support at home. Therefore, we are running two short parent workshops on **12th and 15th November at 3:30-3:45pm** for anyone seeking support in this area.

Celebration Assembly

Every Friday at 10:20am families are welcome to join us for an assembly to celebrate the week and to reflect on our community's achievements. Children are recognised for showing our values and for their efforts with homework. We also enjoy celebrating our children's achievements outside of school so please do send any medals, certificates etc. in.

Events Calendar

Can be found at: <http://stgabrielshoulton.org.uk/events/> you can export this list or relevant events to your calendars at home by following the links.

Home School agreement

Please ensure you are familiar with this simple but important document which can be found at: <http://stgabrielshoulton.org.uk/home-school-agreement/>

Cold Weather Clothing

Please ensure that children are well protected against the cold and any coats, hats, gloves, scarves are clearly named so that they don't get lost.

Parent and Carer Online Safety Toolkit (Childnet)

Childnet have updated their parent and carer toolkit that helps families have conversations about online safety. Their booklet 'Let's talk about life online' includes ten key messages that should be shared with children:

1. "You can always come to me if you need help."
2. "What would you do if this happened...?"
3. "Remember that not everyone is who they say they are online."
4. "Keep your personal information safe, and other people's too."
5. "Be respectful to others online."
6. "Think before you post."
7. "Remember to ask if it's okay."
8. "Remember not everything is true online."
9. "The things other people post online might not always show what their life is really like."
10. "Recognise how going online makes you feel and take a break when you need to."

The Parent and Carer Toolkit can be found here: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit>

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for the improvements seen in punctuality over the past few weeks. We are getting more children than ever through the main gate on time before 9am. Please aim to arrive at or just before **8:45am** so that unforeseen delays / traffic will not result in your child being late (**from 9am**). We have also seen a drop in unauthorised holidays. Please be mindful of term dates when booking holidays for 2020 to ensure school time isn't missed. We are delighted that **100** pupils currently have **100%** attendance; thank you for your support in making this happen!

Medicine administration

We would always prefer children to be in school if they are well enough and occasionally, they may need a bit of medicine to get them through the day, i.e. Calpol, cough medicine, antibiotics, eye drops etc. If your child needs any medication, as far as possible, parents/guardians should come in to give their child the medication at the time required. We appreciate that this is not always feasible and in **exceptional circumstances** our 'duty of care' would extend to administering medication on your behalf when possible. Whilst there is no legal duty for school staff to administer any medication, this is down to our discretion and we will endeavour to help as much as we can with prescribed medication taking priority. Thank you for your support and co-operation in this regard.

Remembrance Day Parade and Service

On Remembrance Sunday, 10th November, there will be a parade and short service at the Memorial on Hillmorton High street. Pupils and their families are very welcome to attend this event which is usually very well supported by the local community. I am looking for a pair of pupil volunteers to wear their St Gabriel's uniform and lay a posy of poppies at the Memorial, if you know you will be attending as a family, can you please let the office know. Thank you.

Choosing Meals

If your child has a school lunch, particularly for our younger children, it would be really helpful if you could go through the menu with your child and pre-select the menu options through ParentPay. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, they are entitled to free school lunches.

NSPCC

Staff from NSPCC will be visiting us on 12th November to deliver their **Speak out. Stay safe.** Programme. All children will take part in an assembly and there will be workshops for Year 5 and 6. The programme gives our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. If you would like any more information about the **NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe.** programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website nspcc.org.uk/schools.

Zoe's Place 100 Mile Ramble

On **15th November** people all over the country will aim to raise millions of pounds to change the lives of young people. In honour of this, St Gabriel's would like to raise money to specifically support Zoe's Place baby hospice; <https://www.zoes-place.org.uk/> a local charity providing specialist care for babies and infants in extremely difficult circumstances. Taking inspiration from the Children in Need Ramble, we will aim to collectively 'Ramble' **100 miles** around our school grounds and wild school area. Children can be sponsored by family and friends to complete this and donations will be collected on the day.

In addition to this, our resident dancing champion Mr Healey will be taking part in a 'Strictly Come Dancing' charity competition on 13th and 14th December also in aid of Zoe's place. He is working hard on his dancing skills and if you would like to sponsor him, there will be a collection box in the school office. Please watch this link to see the amazing work that Zoe's place do. https://youtu.be/8b_LtNDGVvM

Topics

Pupils are learning about the following topics at the moment and for the coming weeks.

Autumn Term		Autumn Trips
King Class	Bears	
Bell Class	Rugby: Our Famous Town	Rugby Library, Hall of Fame and School Tour
Braille Class	Here and There	
Hopper Class	Food and Farming	
Jackson Class	Groovy Greeks	
Gutenberg Class	Shakespeare's Stratford	Stratford and Tudor World

* Classes without Autumn Trips will have them in the Spring Term

Upcoming Dates

10/11/19 – Remembrance Day parade and service in Hillmorton 10:40-11:30am

12/11/19 15/11/19 – Parent/Carer Homework workshops 3:30-3:45pm

13/11/19 – World Kindness Day event at St Gabriel's

15/11/19 – 100 Mile Ramble for Zoe's Place Baby Hospice

28/11/19 – Parent Autumn Term Meetings – 1:00-6:30pm

29/11/19 – Houlton Christmas Lights switch on 2:30pm

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor
Headteacher

