



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Newsletter – December 2019

It's the most wonderful time of the year! A season of celebration as we look back on the year and a season of anticipation for good things to come. For Christians, Advent is a time to reflect on the period of waiting for Jesus' arrival into the world as the light that was promised. I personally am encouraged every year by the human capacity to show love, kindness, hope, joy and peace in this season and wish you and your family those in abundance this Christmas time.

Celebrations:

Zoe's Place 100 Mile Ramble

On 15th November, the school community took part in a combined ramble to raise funds for Zoe's Place baby hospice. The children did a wonderful job wading through mud, puddles and walking a whopping 180 miles! We raised a fantastic **£310.57** for this wonderful cause.



World Kindness Day



On 13th November, we were honoured to welcome Jahmani Swanson 'Mani Love' Harlem Globe Trotter basketball superstar to help us celebrate World Kindness day. His message of kindness and never giving up on your dreams was inspirational, and the event was featured in BBC news. A big thank you to Mrs Gray for organising the event and helping us to promote the value of kindness.

Autumn Trips

Gutenberg class enjoyed a fantastic day in Stratford-Upon-Avon learning about William Shakespeare and life in Tudor and Elizabethan times. Bell and Braille classes appreciated a great trip to Rugby school, library and hall of fame, learning about the history of the sport named after our town, creating their own rugby ball and touring the famous school. All the classes conducted themselves beautifully and were a credit to St Gabriel's.

Christmas Fayre

On Friday 6th December, the school community came together for an afternoon of fun, food, games; crafts and competitions, not to mention a visit from Father Christmas! A huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes, helped serve on the stalls, decorated the school and gave up their time to make the event go with a swing. It was a delight to see the children having such a great time! The Fayre has raised over **£900** for the school, a fantastic achievement.

Congratulations!

Our love and best wishes go out to Mrs Roberts and family at the birth of Baby Jack and Miss Roberts for the birth of Baby Carter! Both mothers and babies are doing well and we look forward to seeing them in 2020.

Homework

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend our homework workshops in November, the feedback was really useful. Following responses from pupils, staff and parents, we have decided to switch our Maths home learning platform from Mathletics to Mathshed for the remainder of the year. The logins are the same as Spellingshed. If you have any difficulties with logging on, please speak to your class teacher.

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.

Cold Weather

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. Give yourself an extra few minutes in the morning to get to school safely and take care on the paths and approaches to the school.

Attendance and Punctuality

Your child's consistent attendance is so important to their education. At this time of year, illnesses may seem more prevalent but we ask that you make every effort to bring your child in to school unless you deem them too unwell to take part in normal school activities. If your child has a sickness and diarrhoea bug, we ask that you keep them off for 48 hours after the last episode before returning to school. Thank you for the concerted efforts to be punctual over the past few weeks. In winter, journeys inevitably take longer so leave yourselves plenty of time to arrive at or just before **8:45am** so that everyone can be safely inside on time by **9am**.

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. This can be prescribed medicine, for example antibiotics or non-prescribed i.e. Calpol, 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' extends 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.

Car Parking

At this time of year, the car park is busier than ever at drop off and pick up time. Please take extra special care not to rush, be patient with all users and especially watch out for children moving towards the gate. A slow walking pace should be the maximum speed of any car. If you can park safely off-site and walk the rest of your journey, please do so.

Campfire Carols

On Thursday 12th December the school community is invited to join together at 5pm for Christmas Carols sung around a campfire in our grounds. Please come wrapped up to meet on the playground before the signing begins. A hot drink and mince pie will be available! If the weather is poor, the event will take place in the school.

Upcoming Dates

12/12/19 – Whole School Christmas Theatre Trip 10am-12:30pm

12/12/19 – Campfire Carols 5pm

13/12/19 – Christmas Jumper Day supporting Save the Children

18/12/19 – St Gabriel's Christmas Production 2pm and 6pm

19/12/19 – Christmas Lunch 12:30pm

20/12/19 – School breaks up for Christmas– **2pm**

"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."

"God bless us, every one!"

– Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor
Headteacher



St Gabriel's CofE Academy, Houlton Way, Houlton, Rugby, CV23 1AN

✉ office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎ 01788 222405