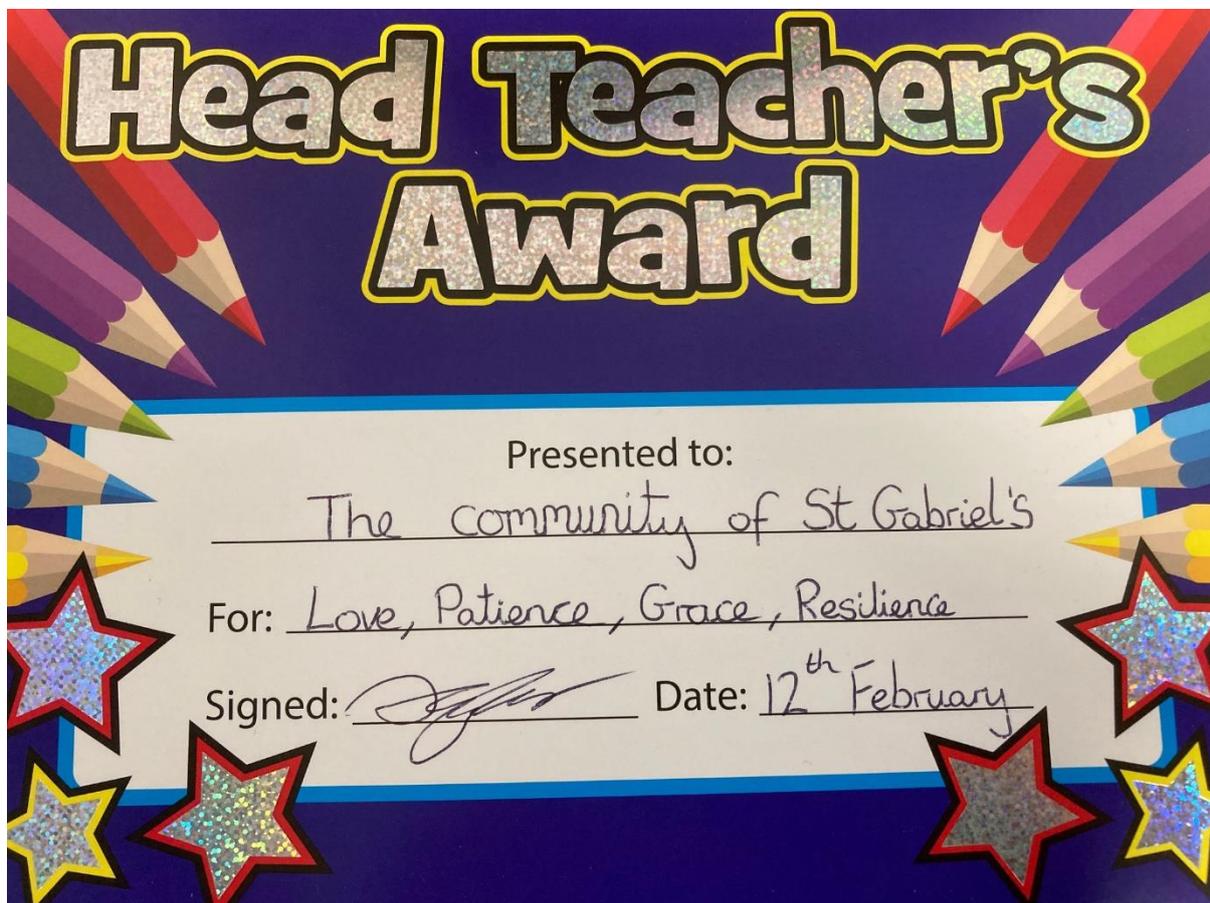


Dear parents and carers,

The first six school weeks of 2021 have undoubtedly been some of the toughest we have faced as a community and as a country at large. I am immensely grateful for the dedication and hard work of everyone in our community to see us through this period. For the staff rising to meet new challenges; the parents balancing multiple demands at home; the children applying themselves to new styles of lessons and work, you have all done such an amazing job of keeping things moving. Well done! This is for all of you!



Half term holiday

You have all worked so incredibly hard over the past few weeks and everyone is ready for a break. This week, there will be no remote lessons set or specific work to be completed. A reminder that **Monday 22nd February is an INSET day** with no pupils in school. Remote learning will begin again on **Tuesday 23rd February** and we will also welcome back those pupils who require a key worker place on that date. We expect to hear directly after half-term when a wider opening will be possible.

Family support

In my last letter, I highlighted [The family information service](#) as a great resource for help and guidance on a range of aspects of family life and I would again encourage you to take a look. There are resources on: family relationships; finance; housing; parenting support; special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); childcare; health and wellbeing. The Family Support line [01926 412412](tel:01926412412) is a free service which puts callers through to an experienced family support worker who can help with information, advice and guidance on a range of parenting support issues, including: sleeping, toileting, eating, behaviour management, routines and boundaries, relationships, conflict, self-care and more. The service is for everyone and anyone who needs it.

Community Stations of the Cross

St Gabriel's Church are planning to run a community 'stations of the cross' trail around Houlton, consisting of 15 pieces of art work which tell the Easter story and which are displayed at different locations around the community. The installation is designed to run from Passion Sunday until Easter Sunday, **21st March – 4th April**. Each piece of art work will be linked to a 'find out more' website by QR code. **For each station there will be music, readings, prayers and family activities.** The Church are hoping that members of our community will offer to 'host' a station (e.g. on a boundary fence of their property). The community is then invited to follow the trail and engage with the Easter story at the same time. If you're in Houlton, and would be interested in hosting one of the pieces of art work, please let us know, or contact Steve Gold at steve@stgabrielschurchhoulton.org.uk

HEaRT

You may be aware that 2 local community groups 'Friends of East Rugby Group' and 'Hillmorton and Abbots Farm Community Group' have decided to merge into one new group, called 'Hillmorton and East Rugby Together Community Group' or HEaRT for short. The new group covers the areas of Hillmorton, Paddock, Southfields, Dunsmore, Eastlands, Lower Hillmorton, Abbots Farm and **Houlton**. The vision of the group is to develop a community network and to protect and enhance the use of public spaces for the benefit of all residents. More information can be found on their website www.heartcg.org. HEaRT would like to invite all **primary children in the area to enter a competition to design a logo for the new group**. All details for the competition are in the flyer attached. The deadline for entries is **20th February**, the

thought being to provide an opportunity for children to do something creative over half term, and not to interfere with home learning in the meantime. As well as the winner and 2 runners up receiving prizes, **HEaRT will also donate £100 of books to the winning entry's school library.** Good luck!

I leave you with a photo of this morning's glorious sunrise, reminding us that we share a beautiful world, despite the challenges within and each morning brings fresh hope. Have a wonderful break, take care and I look forward to seeing you soon.



*'Sing to the Lord, O you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness. For His anger endures but a moment, in His favour is life; weeping may endure for a night, but **joy comes in the morning.**' Psalm 30: 4-5*

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Taylor".

Mr. A. Taylor

Headteacher



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