

Dear parents and carers,

We've had a great few weeks at St Gabriel's, the children have been working hard in their learning and fully engaging in the life of the school. A special thank you to our fantastic staff for working so diligently and flexibly to cover absences where necessary over this time. Christmas is fast approaching and is a special time of year for us as we celebrate together and reflect on the themes of love, hope, faith and joy. You'll find below advance notice of our Christmas events so please take the time to read carefully, put in your diaries and plan accordingly.

Light festival

Last week saw the conclusion of our light festival. This kicked off on 4th November with members of our local community teaching us about Diwali. We subsequently reflected on the theme of light and how we can be a light in our community and world by being a force for good. We based our learning on John 1:5 *'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'* Every child in the school made a Diya lamp from clay which we then put together to make a beautiful light display outside our school. I'm delighted so many of our families got to see it and reflect on the hope light brings to us all no matter our beliefs. There were some beautiful prayers written by children and families; here is one from a Year 2 pupil:

I pray that we can be a light to the world and shine bright, Amen



Twitter

We are pleased to say that we have a new twitter account for St Gabriel's. Mr Grafton and Mrs Black will be working hard with our Year 4 media team to collect items to share with our community each week. You can search twitter for **@GabrielCofe** to follow us.



Zoe's Place

A reminder that tomorrow, Friday 19th November, our whole school will be undertaking a Sponsored Walk and Non Uniform Day in aid of Zoe's place baby hospice. During their walk, children will be able to get a selfie with Zoe's place bear! There are four hospices in the UK that support families of babies with life limiting or life threatening illnesses. We are aiming to collectively walk the distance between these. Donations can be made on ParentPay.



Remembrance

On Sunday, it was wonderful to see so many members of our community representing different uniformed groups at the Remembrance service in Hillmorton. Well done to all the children who took part in the parade and to Evelyn who laid poppies on behalf of our school at the memorial.





Christmas

Listed here are many of the events that will be happening in and around school over the next 4 weeks. *Please note that whilst we are in a fortunate position regarding COVID at present, the events may be subject to change or postponement if the situation dictates.* If you are upgrading your Christmas decorations this year and have good quality older ones you're not sure what to do with, we would appreciate your donations!

30th November - Beauty & The Beast Pantomime

We are asking for a £4 voluntary contribution towards the cost of this performance, payable on ParentPay.

10th December - Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children.

Our community is invited wear a Christmas jumper over their usual school uniform in return for a £2 donation to help the wonderful work of this charity at Christmas.

13th-17th December - Christmas Week

There will be no school-run after-school clubs this week. Angels will run as normal.

13th and 15th December - Christmas Performances

13th December - Years 4,5,6 Performance at **5:30pm** in the large hall

15th December - Early Years (Rec & Nursery) Performance at **10am** in the large hall

15th December - Years 1,2,3 Performance at **5:30pm** in the large hall

Each family will be allocated two tickets for loved ones to come and watch, although small children are welcome to sit on laps. Please contact the office if you do not need two tickets so that these can be redistributed.

14th December - Christmas Lunch

If you have not ordered a Christmas meal, please provide a packed lunch for your child as we are unable to amend our food order now.

16th December - Class Christmas Parties

Children will be invited to bring party clothes into school for their events involving games and music.

16th December - Christmas Fair

In the School hall & classrooms from **3:30-5:00pm** our whole school community is invited to what promises to be a fantastic event. Staff, pupil and parent volunteers will be running stalls and games, there will be an opportunity for children to visit Santa's grotto and there will be plenty of festive refreshments on offer. This is a great opportunity to have fun, celebrate, eat goodies and raise money for the school. Please let us know if you are keen to help. This year we are aiming to raise money for school iPads. We will be holding a raffle with the prizes being hampers of goodies. To help us organise this, we are asking for donations of bottles, sweets, biscuits, chocolates and toiletries or any other treats you would be happy to donate. There will also be a second hand toy stall so if you are cleaning out for Christmas and find good-quality toys you no longer need, please donate them to the school.

17th December - End of Term

School will finish at **2:00pm** for the holidays. Angels will run until **4:30pm**

19th December - St Gabriel's Church Carol Service

You are invited to this beautiful outdoor service for the local community with traditional carols and refreshments, wrap up warm!

Tuesday 4th January - Teacher Training Day

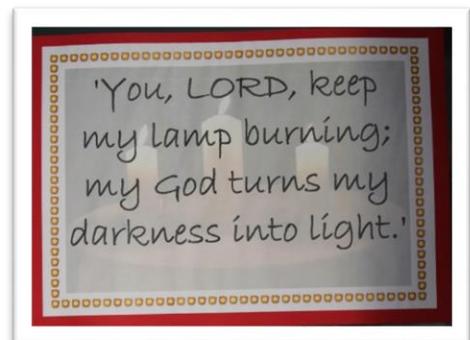
Wednesday 5th January - Spring Term starts.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor

Headteacher



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

✉ office@stgabrielscofeacademy.org ☎ 01788 222405