



## St. Gabriel's C. E. Primary School

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November 2017

### Newsletter No. 3

Dear Parents,

**Primary School Applications – September 2018** – We warmly invite you to attend our visit and information meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November. The meeting will begin at 9.30 a.m. The deadline date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January. Parents are encouraged to apply online at [www.blackburn.gov.uk/pages/school-admissions.aspx](http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/pages/school-admissions.aspx).



#### **Update on Safe Travel to School Week 16 – 20<sup>th</sup> October –**

St. Gabriel's School took part in the BwD Healthy Travel to School Promotion week before half term. Cheryl Sandford, from the BwD Connect Safety Team came into school to speak to the children about safer travel and car safety. As part of the safer travel week children were encouraged to travel in a safer and healthier way to school.

Children were given a passport which was stamped every time they walked or cycled into school, even part of the way. There was a presentation assembly when certificates were given to those children who had taken part followed by a prize draw with all the completed passports. We hope that some families may consider safer travel options more regularly.



**Life Education Van** will be visiting school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. You are very welcome to visit at the parent session on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 8.55 a.m. until 9.10 a.m. This will enable you to find out a little more about what your child will be doing during the day and to ask any questions you may have. All classes will have a session in the van learning about all aspects of healthy lifestyles. Life Education is a charity providing unique health and drug education programmes which teach children about the wonder of their bodies and how to take care of themselves.



**Children's Christmas Raffle** – Please support this Christmas fund raising event which is being run by the School Council. You can purchase raffle tickets: £1 for a strip, £3 for 5 strips or £5 for 10 strips. There are some wonderful prizes!



**Friends' AGM – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** – Thank you to everyone who attended the Friends' Meeting on Tuesday night. Please come along and support the Friends meetings and help out at the fund raising events. The date of the next meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 p.m.

**Fun Day** – Huge thanks to the Friends and all of you who supported this superb event. **So far we have raised an amazing £2,343.26!**

**The Nasal Flu Vaccination** is being offered to all children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 this term. Forms with information about the procedure have been sent out to these classes. **Please can all forms be returned to school as soon as possible. We are still waiting for a date to be confirmed when the vaccinations will take place.**



#### **Well done to the Football Team who took part in the Jubilee Shield on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Team and Report** – On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Owen Walton, Nathan Butt, Ismaheel Amjad, Isa Azad, Ubaydah Muhammad-Zeeshan, Aariz Jeffrey, Jude King, Umar Thava and Dillon Topping went to the Jubilee Cup Football Tournament. In our first game we didn't score any goals but Nathan made many amazing saves. In our second game Jude scored our first goal and Ismaheel scored our second goal, but Griffin Park had an amazing hat trick hero. The third game was against St. Anne's – Nathan made amazing saves

but they still beat us. The final game was against St. Francis who had an amazing team – we lost but it was fun!  
**By Owen Walton and Nathan Butt.**



**On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October the Cross Country Teams** were supposed to run in a local competition. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to high winds! The team continue to train waiting for a new date.

**Good luck to the Netball Team** as they start to play in the local league on 16<sup>th</sup> November.



**Children in Need on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** – Non-uniform day with a suggested donation of £1.00. All donations of money will go to Children in Need.

**The Annual Book Fair was held in school in October** raising a total of £450.11. School is able to claim back 40% in books for school. Thank you to everyone who supported this event in school.



**Holiday List October 2017 – July 2019** – Please note that a holiday list showing holidays to July 2019 is attached to this Newsletter. This list is also available from the school office and on the school website. Please do not refer to any other online holiday lists other than those published by school.

#### **Snowy Weather:**



I would like to clearly state that it is always my intention to keep school open as far as is reasonably possible. Unfortunately, achieving required staffing levels by 9.00 a.m. is always a concern and is a major reason for school closures throughout the country. As traffic delays are the obvious issues, we feel that a full closure could be avoided by arranging a delayed opening. In the event of snow and the likelihood of disruption, we will aim to **text all parents at approximately 8.15 am** to advise that school is either:

**Closed** (in the case of severe snow) or

**Delaying opening until a given time e.g. 10.30 a.m.** (in the case of light snow, but severe traffic issues)

**If no text assume school is open**

This message will also be given on the school's **Twitter feed** (@stgabrielssch) – which can be viewed on the **home page of the school website: [www.stgabrielssch.co.uk](http://www.stgabrielssch.co.uk)**

Note: we will **NOT be using the local radio services** to advise of a closure or delayed opening.

**School Health Needs Assessment** – This year the school will be taking part again in the School Health Needs Assessment (SHNA) in partnership with the school nurse teams from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust. This helps us to better understand and respond to the health and well-being needs of children in the school and also for extra support to be given if needed. If your child is in Reception or Year 6 you will be asked to complete a questionnaire. Children in Year 6 will also complete one in class. The majority of schools in Lancashire are involved in this and last year over 30,000 children and parents took part! If you would like to know more about this the school nurse will be happy to tell you more.

#### **Regular Extra Curricular Activities in School**

Monday	Ukulele Group 3.30 – 4.15 p.m. – ongoing Netball Practice – Y6/Y5 girls – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing
Tuesday	Gym Club – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing
Wednesday	Y6 Maths Club – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. Orchestra Practice 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing
Thursday	Choir Practice for Juniors – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing Y6 Maths Club – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – from 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Friday	Lunchtime Football – Y5 and Y6 Boys and Girls Absolute Sports (Various) – 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – ongoing

## Dates for Diaries/Activities in School

Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Netball Tournament
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need – Non-uniform day
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	Open Morning for Primary Admissions September 2018 – 9.30 a.m.
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Friends' Quiz Night – details sent out earlier
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	Governors' Curriculum Committee Meeting – 2.30 p.m. Governors' Finance Committee Meeting – 4.00 p.m. Fire Brigade to visit Y2 and Y6 in the afternoon
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	Fire Brigade to visit Y2 and Y6 in the afternoon
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Lunchtime Carols in the Cathedral – Choir to sing at 1.00 p.m.
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lancashire Fire & Rescue Christmas Carol Service – 7.00 p.m. in Blackburn Cathedral
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	Life Education Bus in School
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Nativity – 2.15 p.m.
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Nativity – 2.15 p.m.
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Infant Nativity – 2.15 p.m.
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Carol Service in Church – 7 p.m.
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pocket Money Stall – 1.00 p.m.
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas Lunch Talent Show
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>School closes at 3.30 p.m. for the Christmas Holidays</b>
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>School reopens</b>



## Christmas Celebrations



**Posada Nativity figures** will be sent out week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> November. This is a lovely Mexican tradition whereby your child will receive a figure from the nativity tableau to take home for the evening, along with a special book to write your special thoughts or prayers. Please take special care of the figures you receive as you welcome the true meaning of Christmas into your home.



**Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be performing 'It's A Party' on:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15 p.m. Mince pies and coffee will be served by the Friends. **A separate infant class letter will be sent home with more details.**



**The Junior Children, Choir and Orchestra will be leading our Candlelit Carol Service on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.** Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are not required to attend. Those wishing to bring Infant children may do so, but must sit together in the main congregation. This is an extra special occasion, full of Christmas cheer and excitement. We warmly invite all parents, friends and families to join us. The service will last under an hour. It is an important service, and it is anticipated **that all Junior children will attend.** It is hugely disappointing, to all those involved, when children do not attend key school events.



**Pocket Money Stall, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – afternoon. This is a magical event. Please support the Friends and come and 'wrap' if you are able! Please contact the office if you are able to help. Additional details to follow.



**Party Day** – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> will combine our special Christmas lunch with the Junior talent show (always a favourite with staff) and a special visitor for the infants! **This is a non-uniform day – party clothes instead.**

Yours sincerely,  
**B. Haigh**  
Headteacher



# St. Gabriel's C.E. Primary School – Holiday List October 2017 – July 2019

## Autumn Term 2017

Half Term	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
<u>Closure</u>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas	Closure after school on Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December

## Spring Term 2018

Re-open	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Half Term	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
<u>Closure</u>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Easter	Closure after school on Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March

## Summer Term 2018

Re-open	(Y6 SATs week: 14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> May) Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day Holiday	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May
Half Term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
<u>Closure</u>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June
Summer	Closure after school on Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July

## Autumn Term 2018

<u>Closure</u>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Half Term	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October – Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
<u>Closure</u>	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October (Staff Training Day)
Re-open	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Christmas	Closure after school on Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December

## Spring Term 2019

Re-open	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
Half Term	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
Re-open	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February
Easter	Closure after school on Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April
<u>Closure</u>	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April (Staff Training Day)

## Summer Term 2019

Re-open	(Y6 SATs week: Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May) Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day Holiday	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
Half Term	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May
Re-open	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
Summer	Closure after school on Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July