



# The Saint Raphael's News



April Newsletter 2024/ John 20:19-31

**"Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families had a lovely Easter break. The children have settled into the summer term really well.

Thank you for all your support during our Holy Week celebrations. This was a beautiful and special week in school as we prepared for Easter. The children prepared a wonderful prayer trail and took part in reflections and Stations of the Cross during the week.

**WILLOW WOOD BUNNY HOP:** A huge thank you for your generous donations in support of Our Lenten fundraising activities this year. Thank you for donations for Willow Wood from our bunny hop. When we know the total raised I will let you know.

We also raised money for CAFOD during the week. Thank you for your contributions to the cake sale which the Mini-vinnies organized and which raised £266 for CAFOD.

**STAFFING NEWS:** Gary Page, our school caretaker, has decided to retire. Gary has worked at St Raphael's for over 30 years and I would like to offer my thanks to him for his service to school over this long period of time. The governors would also like to extend their thanks. I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing Gary a happy retirement.

We are in the process of recruiting a new caretaker and I will keep you updated on the progress of this.

**EID MUBARAK:** We hope that our families who have celebrated Eid recently have enjoyed this special time together as a family.



**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME:** We will celebrate First Holy Communion with our children on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May @ 10.00am. The service will be at St Peter's and St Raphael's Church and all are welcome. I would like to thank Father Philip and Deacon Antony for their help with everything. Thank you to parents and families for their support and the parish and the prayer sponsors. I'm sure that this will be a lovely celebration for the children, their families and school and a day they will always remember. More details about the day will be sent to parents in Year 3.

**PARENTS' EVENING:** On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April you will have the opportunity to talk to your child's teacher about their progress and attainment. Also you will be able to look at your child's books.

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION:** Bookings for the summer term are now live with our new system via Magicbooking. Thank you for your co-operation with this. If you have any questions regarding booking please contact the office who will be glad to help or visit the [school website](#).

**SATS WEEK:** Year 6 SATS week commences Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May and ends on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Year 2 will complete their optional SATS tests this half term too. The children are working hard to prepare.

*May God's love shine in our lives as we care, share and learn together*

**PHONIC SCREENING:** for Year 1 will take place the week beginning 10th June. The children are working hard and any reading that they can do at home will help too.

**TIMES TABLES TEST:** for Year 4 will take place the week beginning 10th June. Again the children are working hard and any Times Tables Rockstars or other practice that they can do at home will help too.

**ASSESSMENTS:** All other classes are completing their class assessments this term.

You will be made aware of your child's progress and attainment in their end of year reports which will go out in July. Results from SATS and other national tests will also be on the reports.

**YEAR 6 LEAVERS:** The key dates for the events around the Year 6 leavers are in the diary section at the end of the newsletter.

**YEAR 6 LEAVERS' HOODIES:** Information will be sent home about Leavers' hoodies this half term.

**SCHOOL TRIPS:** We are currently planning class trips in Summer 2024. More information will be shared by the class teacher. Once again, we are aware of the current financial restraints and we will again be supporting each class with a donation of £200.00 per trip from the School's Voluntary Fund which is in place to support enrichment throughout the school. This donation will make a direct impact on the cost of the trip and will reduce the contribution for all children.

**CLASS ASSEMBLIES:** Our class assemblies will continue in the summer term with the classes who have not yet done their class assembly. (See the dates below) They are all on a Friday at 9.05 when we have our usual weekly Praise Assembly. All are welcome. On these dates we do not have class certificates or the sharing of trophies, medals etc from home due to time constraints.

Class	Date of Assembly
Class 3	Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2024
Class 1	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May, 2024
Reception	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024

**CLASS MASSES:** Father Philip regularly comes to school to celebrate Mass on Thursday at 10.00am. The classes in KS 2 attend on a rota. All are welcome. Please see the Parish newsletter or ask staff if there is a Mass on a particular week.

**PARENTS' MEETING for new Reception and Nursery children:** On Wednesday July 3rd at 6.00pm we are inviting parents and carers who have children starting in Nursery or Reception in September 2024 to a meeting. The purpose of this is to provide the opportunity for parents to meet the staff, share information and ask questions and to look around the setting. The children can also attend this meeting.

The **Reception** children who are starting in September 2024 will then attend from 9.00am on the morning of **Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>** and will stay for lunch at school and be collected at 1.15pm. If your child is in nursery and stays in the afternoon then they will stay as normal for the afternoon session. Further details will be sent in a letter to parents. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone into school.

**SWIMMING LESSONS:** Year 3 and Year 4 begin their swimming lessons each Tuesday afternoon during Summer Term 1 and Year 5 and Year 6 will begin swimming lessons in Summer Term 2 after the half term break. This is an important life skill for our pupils.

**UNIFORM:** The children have returned to school looking very smart, thank you for your support with this. During summer term the uniform is;

**Summer Uniform**

- Grey skirt/pinafore/trousers or grey shorts
- Dress - Gingham Blue
- Blue short-sleeved polo shirt or light blue polo shirt
- Footwear - Only sensible, black footwear may be worn. Boots and trainers are not allowed.

We have had lots of uniform donated thank you and there is a rail near the school entrance with uniform on- please help yourself.

**Jewellery:** is not permitted at any time. (except a watch-not a smartwatch), this covers earrings or retainers and includes those covered by plasters.

**Hair:** Long hair should be tied up, no extreme hairstyles are allowed, e.g., bleach, tramlines, highlights, spikes etc.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** Please ensure that school has the correct contact details for you at all times. If there are any changes to your mobile numbers and/or email addresses, please inform us as soon as possible to ensure we have the correct contact information on our systems and we can keep in touch with you.

**SCHOOL MONEY:** St Raphael's School is cashless uses an online payment portal to collect payment from parents. Further information is available in the half termly letter [here](#). Should you have any problems accessing your SchoolMoney account please email [admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-raphaels.tameside.sch.uk) stating 'SchoolMoney' in the subject. Payments for SchoolMeals are not collected via SchoolMoney as the income is collected by Tameside Council.

Thank you, as always for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.



**Mrs Lynn Lakner (Headteacher)**  
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Next Newsletter: May 2024

## Dates for the Diary:

APRIL 2024		
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	School opens for Summer Term 1	8.45am
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Walk to Black Rock	AM
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Little Bikers in reception class for six sessions each Monday	AM
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> + Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening	3.30-6pm
MAY 2024		
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 3 assembly All welcome	9.05am
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday School Closed	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 Trip to Kenyon Hall Farm. Details to follow	All day
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Feast of the Ascension	
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	First Holy Communion @ 10am St Peter's and St Raphael's Church, Stalybridge	10.00am
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> -Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATS week	All week
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 assembly All welcome	9.05am
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	School closes for half term	3.15pm
JUNE 2024		
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	School opens for Summer Term 2	8.45am
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Multiplication Tests this week	All week
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Phonic screening tests begin Year 1	All week
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governing Board Meeting	4.30pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Reception assembly All welcome	9.05am
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Trip to Cockfields Farm	All day
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Feast of St Peter and St Paul	
JULY 2024		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Freddy Fit Day	All day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	KS 1 and KS2 Sports Day	9.30am
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nursery and Reception (Admissions Sept 2024) Parents' Meeting in school	6.00pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Reception children for Sept 2024 Taster morning	9.00am-1.15pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> + Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Transition Days at their high schools	All day
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	EYFS Sports Day	9.15am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production	1.45pm and 6.30pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Rock and River Trip	All Day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Leavers' Mass in school All welcome	9.15am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Summer starts here - Details to follow	All day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Leavers' Assembly All welcome	9.05am
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	School closes for Summer	1.30pm
SEPTEMBER 2024		
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School opens Autumn Term	8.45am